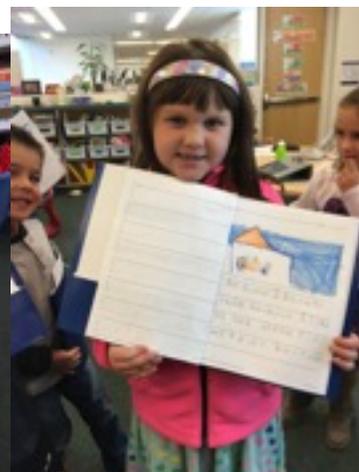
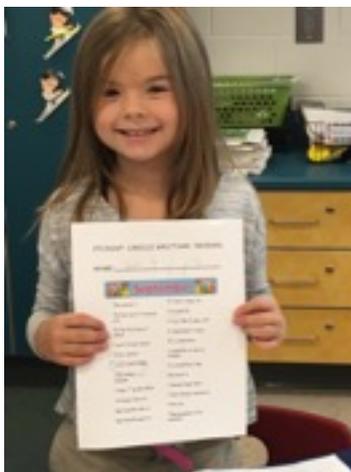


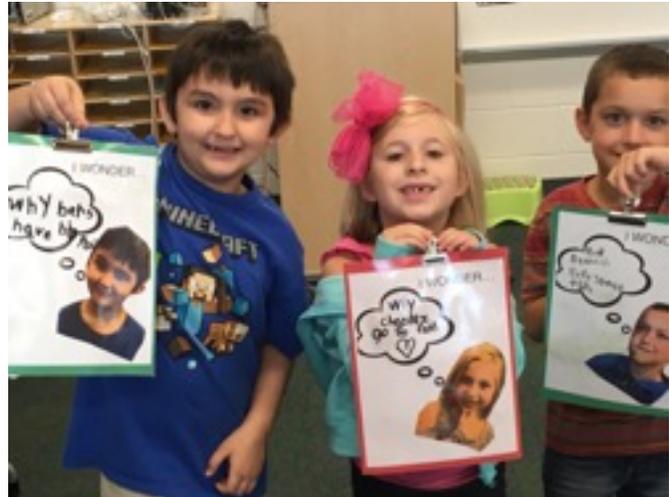
First grade classrooms at Vermilion Elementary are working to create a learning environment that allows all students to learn and grow at their own pace. This personalized approach to learning gives students choice and the opportunity to learn about things that interest them. Students work in small groups to differentiate instruction and rotate through centers. The use of choice cards in some classes allow students to pick the activity that they want to complete and how they choose to complete it. The pictures below show students working with the choice cards.



Students are also given choice in writing with the use of writing journals and a menu of writing prompts. Students are given a list of prompts each month and they may choose to write about whatever topic interests them. The topics range from persuasive, narrative, and opinion. The topics also include some monthly theme choices but offer many other topics to help motivate the most hesitant writers. In September the topics included things like My favorite color is, If I had a magic car, My favorite place to visit is, and The best thing I did this summer was. The pictures show students using the menu and journal in class.



Students also have a choice in what they want to learn about in the first grade friendly version of genius hour. Students get to pick something they wonder about and write it on the Wonder Wall. The students then get an hour each week to just investigate, log, and report on what they have found out. The pictures show how students express what they wonder and the Wonder Wall itself.



Students are also encouraged to learn at their own pace through online content. Teachers utilize a number of student driven programs. This idea of learning at your own pace is also on display with the Math Fact Ninja curriculum being used in one of the classrooms. This new concept allows students to learn addition and subtraction facts at their own pace. This allows students who are ready to be challenged to move on and allows for remediation for those who aren't quite ready. Students practice facts each day in a variety of ways including skill rings, flash cards, online, and worksheets. Then each Friday they can take a test to get their belt and start a new set of cards or skill ring level. The pictures below show students using skill rings, students getting their belt certificates, and the Fact Ninja Wall used for tracking student progress.

