



**Welcome to First
Grade!
2021-2022
Parent Handbook**



Goals for First Grade

- To provide a safe environment where children can learn and discover
- For students to view mistakes as an important part of the learning process
- That each child will know they are unique and will have a healthy sense of self-confidence and self-worth
- To foster an atmosphere where respect, caring, and friendships occur as we learn to work together
- To provide learning experiences that meet and challenge each child
- To foster higher-level thinking and exploration
- For students to enjoy reading for a variety of reasons

Policies and Procedures

Communication Folders

The blue folders are a link of communication between Parent and Teacher. The folder should be signed (initial) and returned daily to school. The pockets may contain notes from the teacher/parent, flyers, and/or homework assignments. There is a calendar for school event reminders and to report school behavior. Also, a reading log is included for you or your

child to write the title of a book read that evening.

Behavior

First Grade follows the PAWS guidelines

- Prepared to learn
- Always respectful
- Wise choices
- Stay focused

Our school encourages good behavior with a variety of rewards. If a student chooses to make a wrong choice, it will be communicated to you in the daily take-home folder. If there is a serious offense, (damage to property, violent/aggressive behavior, extreme disrespect, out of control behavior or injury to a child) the administration and parent will be contacted as necessary.

Reading Homework



How do we get better at anything we do? It takes lots of practice. Therefore, it is necessary that your first grader practices reading at home at least 10 minutes a night. Rereading familiar books helps develop fluency and reading expression. You or your child may record the title of the book read on the reading log in the communication folder. This is an important part of your child's learning process.



Absence Notes & Tardiness

If your child is absent for any reason, please send a note to explain the absence on the day returning to school. Absences without notes are unexcused.

The doors of the school will be open at 7:30. First graders will go straight to their classroom. The tardy bell rings at 7:45. School hours are from 7:45 to 2:55.

Going Home from School Notes

If your first grader is going home a different way than usual, we must have a note or email from home. If you need to make a change the day of, please email by 1:00. If it is after 1:00 please call the office or I may not see your email.

Car Pooling

In order to make our carpool line go quickly, you will need to have a Kerr carpool sign in the window of your vehicle stating your child's name that is to be picked up. Your child will be helped into the car; therefore, you will not have to leave your vehicle.

Snacks

Please send a healthy snack to school each day that does not require a utensil to eat. Water only, please! To help reduce spills please make sure all water bottles have a sports top.

Library Books

Each week, your first grader may check out a library book (if the previous book is returned). We encourage that a "Good Fit" book be checked out to encourage independent reading. However, if a book is too challenging, you may read the book to your child. If a book is lost, there is a replacement fee.

Grading

First grade has five areas of focus: reading, writing, math, social studies and science.

Students at this age have different levels of development. Therefore, they do not receive typical marks of A, B, C, etc. The grading marks below will be given on report cards that demonstrate level of expectation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Demonstrates high achievement of grade level expectations |
| 3 | Meeting grade level expectations |
| 2 | Progressing toward grade level expectations |
| 1 | Not yet demonstrating grade level expectations |

How Will Your Child Learn?

Writing



Children will be instructed in small and large groups and have individual conferences for writing. They will participate in Writer's Workshop where there will be a mini-lesson and students will write on self-selected topics. Children will select work to be published in small books and will be shared with the class. There will also be whole class writing activities.

Reading

Reading consists of guided (small groups), shared (large group), independent reading (reading-to-self) and one-on-one conferences. Our structure includes: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Word Works, Listening to Reading, and Writing. Mini-lessons will be presented followed by practice.

Word Works

Children will learn a variety of phonetic, spelling, and decoding strategies through the use of games, songs, poetry, word chunks, word patterns and creative processes. There will be word stations for independent practice of these skills.

Math

Hands-on lessons, which foster higher level thinking skills, will be practiced. Students will also work in various

guided math groups participating in activities that cross a variety of skills.

Science and Social Studies

Science learning is filled with investigations, observations and student creations. The social studies curriculum explores important events (past and present), giving insight to the world around us.

The use of computers, Ipads, science, math and reading manipulatives in work stations are an essential part of our learning process.



Websites /Newsletters

Be sure to frequently view the Kerr websites for information concerning our district and school. Pictures and pertinent information will be posted. Newsletters will be emailed keeping you informed of school and classroom happenings.

Birthdays



We love to celebrate your child's birthday. However; due to school policy and state nutritional guidelines, we do not celebrate with food items. Birthdays may be celebrated by passing out pencils, stickers, or other appropriate favors. Your first grader will have recognition in the classroom and will help with the morning pledge on school announcements. You may want to consider donating a copy of your

child's favorite book to the class or library with their name in it. We would dedicate this book to your child. Please do not feel obligated to send items. This is a choice that you may or may not wish to do. Also, if you are planning a birthday party for your child at home and would like to send out invitations at school, please remember that every child in the class must be invited, or every student of your child's gender should be invited. If you are not going to invite everyone, please mail your invitations, or pass them out after school. This will help to keep students' feelings from being hurt.

Toys at School

Toys should not be brought to school. We will have special days when games or stuffed animals may be brought as a class reward or special learning activity.

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

Research shows that repeated reading of familiar texts will enhance reading. Reading to your child at home is the single most important thing you can do to help him or her succeed in first grade.

Your child may count items in sets of twos, fives, tens, make patterns, sort

and group items. Playing games with counting, money, using logic skills help build confidence in math skills.

Talking with your child about cultural and historical events, holidays and customs will enhance the Social Studies curriculum.

Encourage your child to do his/her best in his/her endeavors.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning. We are excited to meet you and to work with you and your first grader. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

