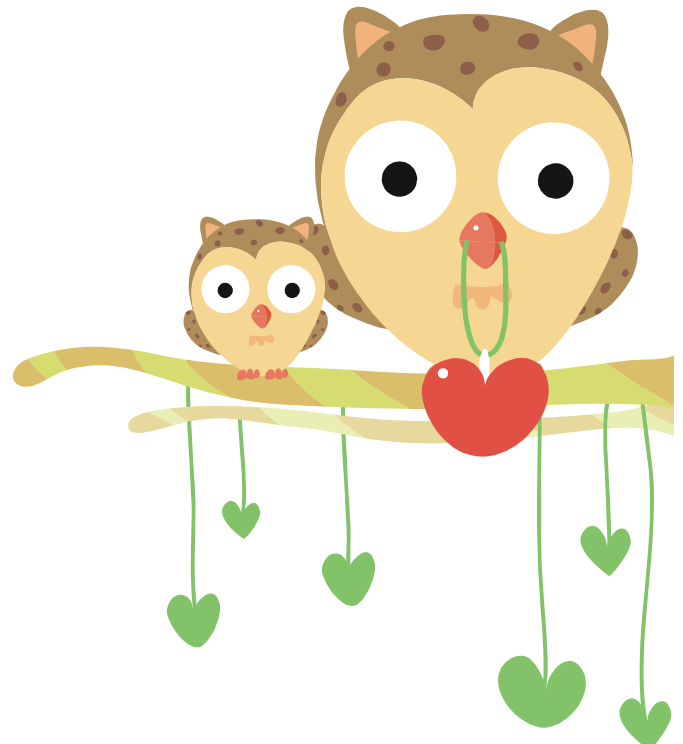


Welcome To First Grade!



August 2016

Dear First Grade Families,

Welcome to room 8! To start off the year right, I'm sending you this Parent Survival Handbook that has been assembled to help you understand some important information that will enable us to make this a very positive and rewarding year. I feel as though open lines of communication between the parent, student, and teacher are the key to promoting an educational climate that is conducive to learning. I'm looking forward to working with you and your child. Together we can accomplish great growth! Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is a question or situation you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,
Kayla Short

Important dates:

- Open House 8/31 drop by anytime from 2:00-3:00
- First Day of School 9/1@ 8:15
- Curriculum Night 9/20 @ 6:00-7:00

School Times and Routines

- **Regular day:** 8:15-2:45
- **Early dismissal:** 8:15-11:10
- **Tardy/ Late to school:** If your child is tardy (arrives at school after 8:15) they must check in at the office before coming to class.
- **Lunch:** First grade lunch usually begins at 11:20. You are ALWAYS welcome to join your child for lunch, just call the office ahead of time to place your lunch order (if you intend on having school lunch).

Daily Routines

What does my child do when they arrive at school? If your child arrives before 8:00 he/she must wait by the front of the school by the main doors until they are unlocked, at this time, adults will begin supervising the playground. When the bell rings at 8:15 all students line up. In first grade we line up in the back of the school. Each morning I will meet the children outside and walk them into the building.

How does my child purchase school lunch or milk? The lunch or milk money (cash or check) should be placed in an envelope **with your child's name on it** then placed in the "Lunch Box" on the wall on your right, as you enter the school by the office. Another option is to pay online.

Where do I pick my child up at the end of the day? Please establish an outside meeting place that your child will remember. First graders will exit out the back doors (where they enter in the morning).

What does my child do if they ride the bus? Please be ready to tell me your child's bus number and stop they get off at, during our Open House or on the first day of school. For the first few weeks I will walk each group of bus riders to their bus where they will line up and wait for instructions from the driver.

What if my child's usual going home plan changes? Please make sure your child knows their going home plan before they come to school each day. If it changes **DURING** the day, please **call the office**, since I may not be able to check my e-mail or phone messages until after 2:45. If it is a **prearranged** going home plan change, please **send a note** with your child to school so we can help!

Curriculum Night

September, 20th, 2016

6:00-7:00

Childcare will be provided

All parents and staff start in the cafeteria and then meet in classrooms. This is a time for parents to learn about expectations, homework and our daily routines. It's a great way to start the year, get a sense of how our classroom will work and ask any questions you may have.

Homework

TOTAL homework time each night should never take more than 30 minutes, for everything. We realize that children need time to play, spend time with their families, and get to bed to be well-rested.

Reading—We strongly recommend that you take the time to read at least 15 minutes with your child each night.

Math – Around late September, your child will start bringing home a blue piece of paper most days. It is called *Home Links*. It is not intended for the child to complete alone. Please help your child read the “Family Note” each night, and guide their progress. The math homework is due the following day, and is part of your child’s grade. It is the student’s responsibility to complete and turn it in.

High Frequency Words – Your child will bring home a little Ziploc bag each week with words. Use these as flash cards. Please *keep* these words and practice at least 3-4 times each week for a couple of minutes. With regular practice, this will significantly help your child’s reading progress.

Spelling words – Your child will bring home a spelling list on most Mondays. Practice the words with your child each night for a couple minutes. Spelling tests are on Fridays.

Absences

Regular, prompt attendance is essential for your child's success in first grade. When your child must be absent, please call the school (360-378-5209) or send an e-mail that morning to both jillpeacock@sjisd.wednet.edu **AND** kaylashort@sjisd.wednet.edu

Volunteers

We love our volunteers! We will start using volunteers around the beginning of October. Before committing to volunteering regularly in the classroom, please carefully consider your schedule. We understand that parents have very different schedules and may not be able to help in the classroom regularly, but hope most can help at a class party, on an occasional field trip, or by doing at-home support work. *We are grateful for **all** of our parent volunteers!*

Morning Snack

Many kids get hungry mid-morning. Please send a healthy snack such as fruit, cheese and crackers, a granola bar or fresh vegetables that your child can enjoy during the morning recess.

Birthdays

When your child is celebrating his/her birthday you are welcome to send in a treat for the class. You can drop it by in the morning or send it with your child. You are welcome to also send a healthy snack as an alternative. **PLEASE, do not send party invitations to school or distribute them at school** (this can help us avoid hurt feelings of children who aren't invited).

Personal Items

All jackets, hats, and lunch boxes should be clearly labeled with your child's name. Please leave toys, trading cards, and hand-held devices at home. Here at school we have many materials for children to use, including balls, jump ropes, the field, and the "big toy".

Recommendations

5 simple strategies that can significantly improve a child's school experience:

1. Establish a regular, predictable routine before and after school, allowing time for homework, play, and family time each day
2. Allow for 10 + hours of sleep each night
3. Consider carefully how much/what kind of "screen time" your child is allowed
4. Ensure your child arrives to school promptly each day
5. Check your child's take-home folder each and every night

Always feel free to e-mail or call if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to a wonderful year together!

Warm regards,
Kayla Short

Contact information:

kaylashort@sjisd.wednet.edu