

Mrs. Lonergan's

ABC's of First Grade

I am looking forward to working with your child and their family this year! Starting first grade can be overwhelming and hope this information will help you and your child have an easy transition into First Grade. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with you and your child! We are here whenever you need us and we're looking forward to a fabulous year! Please keep and refer to this packet throughout the year to answer your questions. If you have any questions that are not answered in the following, please feel free to contact me by e-mail, note or telephone!

A

Absences: Please make sure that your child makes every effort to attend school every day except in cases of illness or emergency. If your child will not be in school, please call the office.



B

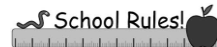
Birthdays: We will celebrate your child's birthday on his/her day by making a class book. If you wish to bring in a snack to celebrate your child's birthday, please be sure that the snack is NOT homemade and is 100% peanut free. Summer birthdays will be recognized on the child's half birthday.

Book orders (Scholastic): Each month I will be sending home book orders in your child's folder. If you wish to place an order, please send back the order form and the payment (if you send cash you will receive the books sooner!). I also encourage you to order online! Just visit www.scholastic.com. Our class code is MF2TW. Keep in mind, the more books we order through our scholastic account (especially online), the more points our classroom will earn! As we earn points, we are rewarded with new FREE books to add to our classroom library! ☺

C

Check-Out Procedures: If you need to check your child out of school early, please stop by the office to sign your child out.

Cafeteria: Your child may have hot lunch, cold lunch, or bring a sack lunch from home. Please check the Schneider Cafeteria Monthly Schedule to help your child decide what they would like for lunch, before they come to school.



D

Discipline: Schneider Elementary is a PBIS school. Our four main rules are to respect others, respect authority, respect property, and respect ourselves. In my classroom, we will be using a color themed behavior plan. All students will start on the color green at the beginning of the day, which stands for, "ready to go!" Throughout the day, students may move up to blue, purple or pink for working hard or showing kindness to others. Or they may move down to yellow, orange, or red, when a poor choice is made. Hitting, bullying, or purposely hurting others will automatically move students to red. When a child lands on red, home will be contacted. There are also several other positive behavior plans in our classroom. Please check the classroom behavior plan for more details.

E

E-mail: klonergan@blueridge18.org
This is an excellent way to communicate with me. I check my e-mail on a daily basis.

F

Fun: We are going to have so much fun learning together in First Grade! I want to make sure that your child has an enjoyable and memorable First Grade experience. The students will be making friends, learning together, and having fun as a whole class!

Finish Folders: Each student will keep a "finish folder". If they do not finish their work during the time given, they'll put their work into their finish folder. At the end of each day students will be given 10-15 minutes to finish any remaining work in their "finish folder". If the work is still not finished, the folder will be sent home to be done as homework that night. Please help your child complete the work and send the folder back the next day.

G

GREAT YEAR! It is my personal goal to make sure that your child has a great year and an unforgettable First Grade experience!

H



Homework: Homework will be sent home each Monday. Don't worry, the work is very simple! It includes the weekly reading log (look under R), the weekly spelling words to study at home, and a short writing prompt that will be completed on the back of the homework sheet. All homework looks the same. It is my hope that students will eventually be able to complete homework independently. Homework will be due each Friday.

I

Injury/Sickness at School: If your child is injured or becomes sick at school, I will contact you or the person you listed on your emergency form. AN EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER MUST BE ON FILE.

Let me know if there are any changes in your phone number or the emergency phone number *as soon as possible*.

J

Junk: Everyone is not able to be directly involved in the classroom, but one way you can help is to send in items to use in our art center; stickers, q-tips, cotton balls, envelopes, and cards. I will let you know if other items are needed.

K

Kindness Counts: One of the most important rules in our classroom is to treat each other with kindness. Your students will often hear me talk about using "kind words". Please continue to encourage this important trait at home as well! ☺

L



Lunch: Our lunch time is from 11:25 to 12:05. This also includes a recess.

Late Arrival: If your child arrives to school later than 8:25, you must check them in at the office. You may not walk your child down to their classroom. Please try to be on time. If your child is tardy they often miss work or important instruction! Don't let them miss all the fun! ☺

M

Money: When sending money to school with your child, please send it in a **sealed envelope or ziplock bag** with the following information written on it:

- Your child first and last name
- Teacher's name
- The amount of money
- Purpose of money



Medication: Please inform the office and me about any medications that your child may need. Check with the office to see the school procedures.

N



Names: Please be sure to write your child's name on all belongings brought to school: especially their change of clothes, lunchboxes, backpacks, coats, and paint shirt.

Nurse: We do have a nurse here at the school, but we make it a point to only make visits to the nurse's station if absolutely necessary. If your child has any health issues please make her aware of these.

O

Office: Much of the school's business is handled in our office. Mrs. Russell is our school secretary. Attendance, messages, school picture money, and any number of other business takes place in the office. To report absences, bus changes, or other pertinent matters, please call 309-928-2611. Your child should be checked out through the office if you are picking them up before dismissal.

P

Parent/Teacher Relationship: I feel that we must work closely together as a team to best meet the needs of your child and help him or her reach their maximum potential. **Please feel free to contact me** by note, e-mail, phone or conference at any time. I am more than happy to discuss any comments, concerns or questions you may have at any time during the school year! I will communicate to you through notes, phone calls, newsletters, progress reports, parent teacher conferences, and even mail every now and then! Please refer to our school website for any other information you may need.

Q

Quitting.... No way!: Transitioning into First Grade can be difficult for some students, as the curriculum quickly becomes more challenging. But I believe all students will be successful and learn at their own speed! Always encourage your students to keep working towards their goal, I know they can do it!!

R

Recess: We will have recess each day at lunch and before dismissal at the end of the day. We will be on the playground as weather allows. Otherwise, we will have free choice time in the classroom. Please dress your child accordingly for outdoor weather, and send a coat/jacket, gloves, scarves, snow boots, and hats when necessary.

Reading Logs: On each Monday, your child will bring home a reading log (part of their homework sheet). Please read with your child (or they may read on their own) for 15 min each night. They may read any book they like! Then help them fill out the weekly reading log, and return the log on Friday. When they bring back their reading log, they will add a special bead to their reading necklace!

S

Skills at Home: Your child not only learns at school, but also at home. Please work with your child on the following: homework, reading, spelling/sight word practice, addition and subtraction, and counting to 120.

Spelling Tests: Each week, our class will be focusing on 12 spelling words. During reading, we'll play games, read books, and write these words to practice for our spelling test at the end of the week. Spelling words can be found on the homework sheet, sent home each Monday. Please practice this words with your child at home.

T



Talking: First Graders like to talk and learn through talking. You will notice that our classroom will

be noisy. This does not mean that the children are not working or learning...in fact just the opposite.

U

Unique: The special ages of six and seven are a unique time of curiosity, energy and rapid learning! At this age children soak up information like little sponges and are being introduced to many new concepts and ideas. We use a lot of repetition and re-learning to ensure that these skills are absorbed and understood for lifelong learning.

V

Visits: You are more than welcome to visit our classroom anytime! My only request is that you notify me in advance so that I can let the office know you are coming and to make sure you are aware of our days scheduled activities.

Volunteers: I encourage lots of parent involvement in the classroom. Classroom volunteers will not start right away. We will especially need volunteers for school celebrations (Halloween, 100 Day, Valentine's Day, and Dr. Seuss's Birthday). If you are unable to volunteer in the classroom you may participate by sending items needed and making things at home. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. If you decide to volunteer in the classroom, a larger packet will be sent home. Please send this back as soon as possible. It takes about two weeks for your name to appear on our special district volunteer list!

W

Website:

www.blueridge18.org

This address will connect you to the district website. You can access our school website from this address. We also have a classroom website! Please visit this website for any additional documents you might need,

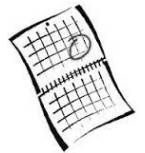
pictures of classroom fun, information on upcoming events, and extra resources for you and your kiddos! (please note, your child's picture will not appear on our classroom website if the permission slip has not been returned)

Classroom Website: mrslonergansclass.weebly.com

X

Exciting: First Grade is a very exciting time! Take time with your child each day to listen to your child talk about his/her day. Ask questions like: What was the best part of your day? Why? What was your story about today? Did you write today...what did you write and draw about?

Y



Yearly Calendar: The calendar is posted on both the district website and school website.

YOUR Input: I want you, as a parent, to be satisfied and feel at ease with every aspect of your child's education. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me by phone, note, or e-mail at any time. I am always open to suggestions and willing to do what I can to best meet the needs of you and your child.

Z

ZZZZZ's: Make sure your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a consistent bedtime is a wonderful idea!

Zip: Before we know it, this year will be over. I hope we have a great year together. I am looking forward to working with each of you to ensure that your child enjoys his or her First Grade experience. Believe it or not, this year will ZIP by!!