

BACK to SCHOOL!



September 5, 2016

Dear Room 256 First Grade Parents,

Welcome to First Grade! It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to our first grade classroom. I am very excited to meet your child and get to know him or her. I am looking forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a successful year. Above all, my goal is that your child will love school and love learning. My goals for the year are to provide a positive, enriching learning environment that will foster your child's growth and development academically, socially, and emotionally. I will work to create a warm climate where all students feel safe, happy, and respected. I hope this letter will help explain our many classroom routines and procedures. Also, please take a few moments to complete "Getting to Know Your Child" and "Helping Hands" volunteer handouts.

START and DISMISSAL TIMES

Start time- 9:00 a.m.

Dismissal time- 3:30 p.m.

DAILY COMMUNICATION FOLDER

Please find the special folder provided by the school for your child to keep in his/her backpack **every day**. This folder will be designated for daily work that you can keep at home and space for the "Daily Log". The Daily Log contains information about our daily schedule, classroom learning targets, your child's daily behavior record, and what your child learned for each day of the week. Please make it a habit of checking your child's Daily Log each day and cleaning out work collected in the folder. Daily Reading Log will also be stapled to the folder. Please indicate how many minutes your child reads each day with your signature.

HOMEWORK

Students will be responsible for maintaining a monthly reading log, completing math homework that aligns with our daily math lessons, and practicing spelling words. Students should spend at least 100 sacred minutes a week reading. It will be easiest to break this time up into 20 minute blocks. This time can be spent with a parent or older sibling reading to the child. This time could even be spent reading to your child at bedtime or even practicing flash cards. However you choose to use this time, please work to make it a priority in your family. It **WILL** make a difference in how well your child learns to read.

Students receive a homework packet which contains all of the homework for the following week on Friday afternoons. The expectation is that the homework will be returned on the next Friday. Families will find that children will need some assistance at times with homework. This is perfectly normal if your child is not completely independent regarding homework.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT--- CLASS DOJO

It is my goal to assist your child to reach his/her potential both academically and socially. In order to guarantee that your child and all the other children in our classroom are experiencing the best learning environment possible, I am utilizing the following classroom management plan --- Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an interactive online system that promotes positive reinforcement and effective communication between teacher, student, and parents. Additional information on Class Dojo will be sent to you shortly.

Classroom Expectations

1. Show Respect
2. Solve Problems
3. Make Good Choices

DAILY SCHEDULE

Our classroom will have a consistent schedule. Prior to entering the classroom, your child will wait in the multipurpose room where he/she can eat breakfast or talk with friends. Students may enter the classroom at 8:45 each morning and our day will officially begin at 8:55. I begin Language Arts instruction right away, so it is very important that your child arrives to class on time to limit disruption and to make a smooth start to his/her day. Please check your child's Daily Log (inside his/her folder) sent home each Monday for specific topics we are studying, and any changes to our schedule. We are scheduled for library on Thursdays.

9:00 - Morning Procedures

2:10 - Recess

9:30 - Math

2:25 - Science, Social Studies, Thematic Studies

11:55- Recess/Lunch

3:30 - Dismissal

12:35- English Language Arts

TRANSPORTATION

Our school policy requires that students have a parent **call the school** or that they **bring a note** from a parent, when their destination or way of getting home changes. Young children can easily confuse verbal messages so we want to hear directly from the parent when after school arrangements change.

LUNCH

Student lunches are \$3.00, milk is \$0.50, and breakfast is \$1.25. Adding money to your child's lunch account is handy, for situations when your child forgets his or her lunch or if you have a busy morning. Also, he or she does not need to carry around money. In addition,

pre-payments for your child's lunch can be made through the school district's internet site by going to Nutrition Services or sending a check for their lunch account. Children will have recess first from 11:55-12:13 then eat lunch from 12:15-12:35. If your family is in need of free or reduced lunch, please fill out the form enclosed in the Welcome Packet as soon as possible.

BIRTHDAYS

Students are welcome to bring in **store bought** treats on their birthday. If necessary, please send napkins, forks, etc. Birthday celebrations treats are distributed at lunch in the cafeteria as to not interrupt instruction time. If your child has a summer birthday, you may want to send treats on their half birthday or at our end of year/summer birthday party. ***Please do not send party invitations to be distributed at school unless everyone is invited. Feelings can be hurt when a particular child is left out.

VOLUNTEERS

I welcome parent volunteers! Also, a Volunteer Orientation & Training is planned for September 28th from 9:15-10:15. Please fill out the "Helping Hands" handout, if you are interested in volunteering in our classroom. I will contact those that are interested once I have decided on a tentative schedule. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child in the school environment.

PARENT AND TEACHER COMMUNICATION

It is very important to me that we are in communication with each other. Feel free to call, write or email me if you have any concerns or questions. Please take note that during the school day I may not be able to get back to you right away. I appreciate your patience. The adjustment to a new school year can be difficult, especially for First Graders. With the full day schedule and the quantity of new information learned each day it can be overwhelming. Please be sure that your child has plenty of rest and a good breakfast. I encourage you to call or email me with concerns or questions regarding your child at any time. I want to collaborate as a team to ensure that your child grows to be an independent, life-long learner. I can be reached through email at the following address: chole@mukilteo.wednet.edu or by phone at 425-366-3200. I look forward to working together with you in order to make this school year a successful and wonderful experience for you and your child!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauryn Cho

