

First Grade Newsletter
August/September 2017

I am very excited to begin a new school year here at St. John's! I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child! There are 16 children in the first grade this year! I am very excited to inform you that the first grade has AIR-CONDITIONING this year!!!! No more fans! No more water bottles! Yeeaaahhh!!!

Please read this newsletter carefully, as it will give you some general information about my classroom and an estimate of the material to be covered through September. I will send a newsletter home at the beginning of each month, and it will also be posted on the St. John's website. The weekly newsletter from the office will be emailed to you unless you let me know you would like a paper copy instead.

First grade is an exciting place to be! I am looking forward to seeing your child learn and grow! However, your child will not be successful in school without a good night's sleep. I recommend that all first graders be in bed by 8:00. It is also very important to start the day with breakfast. I know that some kids don't want to eat early in the morning, but try to get them to eat something. If you are running late, let them eat in the car. Breakfast is fuel for the body...it's the most important meal of the day!

It is important for your child to be independent. You may come into the classroom with your child each morning for the first week of school, but after that, they need to be dropped off at a designated point. It is very important that your child is on time for school every day. Students need to be in their desk and ready for class at 7:45.

The students need to bring a healthy snack for 9:30 recess. Please do not send soda or candy to school (they have plenty of energy, thank you very much).

Lunch isn't until 12:00, so they really do need to bring a snack to keep them going.

You can expect your child to have homework every night. Many nights the homework will be the back side of the math worksheet that we did in school that day. All homework is to be done NEATLY and in PENCIL unless otherwise stated. Sometimes the directions may require glue or crayons so you will want to have those items handy. Please do NOT allow your child to use markers on their homework. Homework is due at 7:45 am the day after it is assigned, unless otherwise stated. I expect your child to be responsible and turn in his or her homework, notes and lunch-money. Please DO NOT bring your child's homework to school if he or she forgets it. It is the child's responsibility, not yours.

Please be sure to follow the dress code. If a student is out of uniform twice in one month, they will not participate in jeans day that month. You may want to buy several belts so that it is easier to find one each morning. Socks are required at ALL times.

Changes have been made to the discipline policy. Please note that if your child receives 3 yellow cards or 2 red cards in one month, they will have to serve a detention after school.

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school. I will notify you if anything special needs to be brought to school.

This year we will only use yellow #2 pencils and pink pearl erasers. Some pencils have a plastic coating on them and it messes up the pencil sharpener, so we will stick with yellow #2 pencils. Please do not allow you child to bring any school supplies that are not on the school supply list. These things are a distraction to the children and they are best left at home. Thanks you for your cooperation.

The children will have music class on Mondays and Wednesdays, and P.E. class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tennis shoes must be worn on P.E. days.

Each Wednesday I will send home a “Wednesday Folder.” In it you will find graded papers and tests, a behavior chart, and other important information. All tests will be stamped “please sign” and should be signed by you and returned in the folder. Be sure to go over mistakes with your child on their graded papers, but just return the tests. Please return the Wednesday Folders to me on Thursdays. I will also send a book home each Wednesday for your child to read to you. Please return the book each week in the Wednesday Folder.

You may send a birthday treat on or near your child’s birthday. Remember that you may not bring homemade goodies. All birthday treats and food for school parties must be store-bought. If your child’s birthday falls in the summer months, we celebrate on their half birthday. If your child is having a birthday party, please invite all of the boys, all of the girls, or everyone in the class. I don’t want anyone to have hurt feelings because they were left out.

We will have library on Mondays this year. Books must be returned before a student can check out another book. We will be participating in the Accelerated Reader program again this year. In the next couple of weeks your child will take the STAR test, which is the placement test for AR books. The AR books can sometimes be a little challenging for the students, but your child is supposed to read the book to you. Your child will come home with two library books. At first, neither one will be an AR book, until they take the placement test. You can identify AR books by the little colored sticker on the top of the binding. The students should read the book to you a couple of times to be sure they understand the story. Students may take AR tests Tuesday through Friday. Remember, the more a child reads, the better reader they will be!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON “JEANS DAY” ONLY JEANS OR KHAKIS ARE APPROPRIATE. SEE THE PARENT HANDBOOK FOR WHAT TO WEAR ON JEANS DAYS OR SPECIAL DAYS.

Here is an estimate of what we will cover through September:

Language Arts(Reading,English,Phonics,Spelling): These subjects are taught together because they are closely related. Our spelling words can be found in the stories we are reading. We will review all of the letter sounds, as well as the short vowel sounds. We will also learn about nouns, verbs, adjectives, main idea, sequence of events, story structure, word recognition, punctuation, possessives, and identifying and writing sentences.

Spelling: Each week your child will take a spelling test. Each Monday (or Tuesday if we are off on a Monday) the children will take a pretest. I will grade that test and give it back to them that day to bring home to you. If the child receives a 100% on the test, they are excused from taking it on Friday. If your child misses any words, they will retake the test on Friday. DO NOT sign and return the spelling tests. Keep them so you know what words to for Friday (if needed). THE FIRST SPELLING TEST WILL BE ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28th.

Religion: Unit 1: God is Our Good Father. Chapters 1-4 are Jesus is our Friend, God is Good, God is Our Father, and God Our Father is Holy. Your child will take a test after each chapter. I will send home a study guide and the pages of the chapter for you to go over. Be sure to help your child practice making the sign of the cross correctly. We will say the following prayers at school: The Our Father, The Hail Mary, The Guardian Angel Prayer, and a meal prayer (Bless Us O Lord). Father Foy will have religion class with the first graders every other Monday. We go to mass on Thursdays with our 8th grade church partners, and Fridays without our church partners. Your child will also be reading at mass this year. We read at mass once a month, but only 5 students will read the petitions at first. They will also read the responsorial psalm as the year goes on. I will send the material home for you to practice with your child a week before we read at mass. We will also practice in church and I will stand right by them when they read at mass, in case they forget any words. This is a very good experience for them and they LOVE speaking into the microphone!

Handwriting: basic strokes, writing numbers 0-9, and the letters Ll, Ii, Tt, Oo, Aa, Dd. It is common for first graders to make backwards letters and numbers. When you see this happen, please ask your child to erase and write it correctly.

Math: Our math series is called Saxon and it is a different way of teaching math. It teaches math concepts in small increments instead of large units, and it keeps reviewing former concepts as it introduces new ones. In August and September we will learn about identifying the date, writing numbers, ordering graphs, circle, square, rectangle, triangle, pictographs, right and left, doubles facts and many other concepts.

The students will be participating in the Writing to Read program this year. This program helps children learn about consonant and vowel sounds, blends, and writing complete sentences. Writing to Read will end at Christmas time, and we will have Science and Social Studies classes.

Please do not send any food to school that is made with nuts. A few of the students in our school have severe allergies, and we want them to have a safe and healthy year!

Don't forget to send in your tabs!

I am looking forward to a wonderful year! If you need to contact me, my e-mail address is overschmidtc@sjgschool.org, or you may contact the school office.

2017-2018 Class List

Brady Bliss
Walter Bobo
Roan Callahan
Anderson Collins
Emily Derner
Ryder Duncan
Brayden Farrell
Nicholas Garber
Brenna Gildehaus
Lillian Kuenzel
Elliot Riegel
Emily Straatmann
Ty Umphery
Kiefer Wienstroer
Emoree Williams
Miraim York