

Welcome to first grade!

Dual immersion Class of 2010-2011

Mrs. Hubac and Mrs. Hodsdon

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to first grade and tell you how excited we are about teaching your child! We are looking forward to having a great year and we know that your child can be successful. This is information we would like you to be aware of, as it will be important throughout the year.



Standard Procedures

Lunch money: Monday is the preferred day to turn in lunch money or pay on line at paypams.com. There is no additional charge to use this site. Please put money in an envelope labeled with your child's name and what the money is for.

Specials

Each student will participate in computer, library, PE and Social Skills. For more information about the scheduled times, please watch your student's Star Book.

Please remember that students need to bring their books back in order to check out new ones. Girls, please wear pants or shorts for P.E. If possible, all children need to wear tennis shoes on that day.

Toys

Please keep toys and other small items **home** that distract from teaching. Do not send balls or other playground equipment.

Arrival

Please do not send your child to school earlier than 15 minutes before school starts because there is no playground supervision until that time unless they are participating in the breakfast program that begins at **8:15**.



Behavior Expectations

Besides the overall school rules, we have 3 classroom rules. They all are based on the idea of showing respect to ourselves, our peers and our teachers. They are: work hard, be nice and be safe. We will role play our class rules and talk about them all year. *Please discuss them with your child at home to ensure that you are both comfortable with the expectations.*

Also, please review your child's STAR Book for the school-wide rules and behavior plan.

Every day the students' planner will be stamped or signed. If the student has a good day, with no major behavior problems, then their planner will be stamped at the end of the day. If there are any problems, we will sign their planner to let you know what is going on.

Positive Consequences

Acknowledging positive behavior is a key part of our philosophy. Some of the ways that students will be acknowledged are: Verbal praise and "Rock-It" Tickets.

Negative Consequences

At one time or another, we all make poor choices. It is important that we learn from our mistakes and then move on. If there are re-occurring or problem behaviors, we will let you know by writing a note in your child's planner. Other negative consequences may include: lost recess time, lost privileges, parent-student-teacher conferences, etc.



STAR Books

"Students Taking **A**wesome **R**esponsibility!"

This year all First Graders will have a STAR Book (**S**tudents **T**aking **A**wesome **R**esponsibility!). This will serve not only as a place for them to keep all their important notes and work organized but also as a wonderful tool for school-home communication.

Because these are an investment for the First Grade and all STAR Books need to be the same. We are requesting a \$5.00 donation to help cover the costs.

Within the STAR Book you will find a range of information. School policies, classroom policies, nightly homework, "Morning Message", homework sign-off sheet, volunteer calendar, and more. Please refer to your child's STAR Book nightly for important information.

Newsletter

We will send you a monthly newsletter by email if available. Otherwise, check for a paper copy in your child's Star Book. The newsletter will include special events, updates, and what's happening in the classrooms.

Homework

In the STAR Book, your child will also have a blue/red homework folder. Please take care of these folders and make sure that they **return to school every day**. The folder will contain your child's homework and when they have finished their assignment, they should return it to the folder so that it will be safely returned to school. There will be homework everyday except on the last day of the week (typically Friday's). Please help your child complete and return the homework in their folder every night. The planner page will be collected the last day of the week. Also, please help them clean out the flyers and other notes that do not need to be brought back to school. We will check every day to see if your child has completed and returned their homework. Check your child's STAR Book for the latest news and assignments. It is very important to stay informed, so please review the homework folder and morning message every day!

Below is a summary of the homework that you can expect daily.

1) Read Every Night

Each student is expected to read or be read to each night for 20 minutes or more. This is extremely important!

Reading Packets

A Reading Packet will be designed specifically for your student in order to give meaningful reading practice at school and at home. This packet will typically contain the following:

- A sight word page: the 5 weekly sight words that should be read quickly and without hesitation
- A sound page: these are sounds that are found in the decodable text and will help not only with reading but with their spelling as well.
- A decodable book: this book will be on your child's level and will focus on a specific skill they need.

After completing the packet, parents are asked to sign off that the work has been completed. This reading packet will not only affect their reading ability but it will also impact their homework grade. These packets will begin in the first few weeks of school.

2) Spelling

We will begin spelling tests towards the end of September. The first 5 of our spelling words will be taken from the *Words Their Way* program. Part of the spelling assignment will be to complete an activity with a word or picture sort each night. More information will be provided later. The other 5 words will be the weekly 5 sight words. The test will be the last day of the week (usually Friday).

3) Blue Homework Paper

In connection with the language arts unit and sight words, a blue homework paper will be sent home. Please help your child complete both sides of the paper (when applicable) and then return it to school the following day. There will be no homework paper on the last day of the week (typically Friday). Nightly blue homework papers will begin the first week of school.

4) Math

In addition to the back of the blue homework paper, please practice the following with your student:

- Counting by 2's to 20 (2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20)
- Counting by 5's to 100
- Counting by 10's to 100
- Days of the week and months of the year
- Help your child learn all the shapes: triangle, circle, rectangle, square, rhombus, hexagons, trapezoid, octagons, parallelograms, etc. As well as 3-dimensional shapes: sphere, prism, cylinder, cubes, etc.
- Penny, nickel, dime, and quarter identification and value
- Reading color words and number words

Additional concepts will be sent home to practice as needed.

5) Other Homework

Other homework such as projects may be given as well. Please work with your child on learning responsibility by completing each assignment and returning it.

*** All homework will be put in the homework folder inside the STAR Books. Please check the STAR Book with your student daily for a) graded work, b) homework, and c) other flyers and information. Unless there is a problem, homework is NOT returned to the student. ***

Sharing Time

Sharing time (show-and-tell) will be related to the unit the class is completing in language arts through the "Question/Concept" bulletin board. For each unit, the class will create questions about the topic, which will be listed on the question side of the board and the students will discuss things they already know, or concepts, on other side of the board. This is the side where students can bring in various items to share about the "concept."

The first unit of the year is titled "Back to School!" For this, students may bring in and tell the class about items that relate to this theme. *Most anything* related to the theme will be accepted. Large items will not be able to be stapled to the bulletin board and can be taken home the same day. The student can choose if they would like to keep the item at school on the bulletin board or take it home. A note will go home at the beginning of each unit to let you know the topic. (Examples of upcoming units include: Where Animals Live, I am Responsible, What's the Weather?, North, South, East, West, I Think I Can, and Home, Sweet Home.)

Watch for more information in our newsletter!!

Reading

First grade is a big year developmentally, especially in the area of reading. Each day during centers, we work with small reading groups to give students more individualized help. Throughout the day, we will read, read, read!

You can support your child at home by reading every night with them. Encouraging your child to read every night (particularly their reading packet) as well as reading to and with them is very important.

Accelerated Reading (AR)

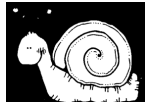
Accelerated reading is an individual reading program. The books used in this program are of good quality and have a computer test of comprehension and recall that corresponds. We will be reading about one AR book a week and, hopefully, will be able to take individual tests on the computer with a volunteer to read the questions.

Your child will be bringing home library books that are on the school AR list. They are marked with an AR sticker on the spine of the book. Please be sure to read and discuss this book with our child several times during the week. A book discussion should include: the name of the book, where the story takes place, and what happened in the story first, second, next, then, and last. This is called a 'retelling.'

When your child can accurately retell to you the story, please fill out the AR chart and send to school. Mrs. Hodsdon will arrange to have your child take the AR quiz. You will receive feedback on each quiz. Most first grade books are worth a half of a point. Points are also earned by achieving your child's individual goal. We will set the goals at the SEPs. The points earned are used to purchase school items at the AR Store.

For more information about AR, please see the yellow forms in your child's STAR Book. You may also check out these books at the public library. You can find out if a book is an AR book by accessing the school site on the internet. To access:

Log on to www.granite.k12.ut.us
Click on "schools" then on "elementary schools."
Next click on "Diamond Ridge"
Finally, click on "AR list"



Attendance

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial! Many learning activities are hands-on and group oriented, involving interaction between teacher and students. Please evaluate your child's health before sending your student to school. If they are not feeling well or they have been ill during the night, please keep him/her home. In general, if your student is well enough to come to school, they will go out for recess. Your child must bring a note to stay in from recess.

If and when your child misses a day of school for any reason, **PLEASE SEND A DATED NOTE EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE.** If no excuse is received, the absence will be marked "unexcused." Several unexcused absences can lead to unpleasant consequences.

If your student is going to miss several days and you know ahead of time, please let me know.

If absent, your child will miss projects, discussions, and group work, etc. that cannot be made up. Any worksheets that your child misses will be placed in his/her desk and sent home when he/she returns to class. Please complete and return those pages to school.

Every student works at a different speed. Each student will keep a folder of work they do not have time to complete in class. During any free time, they will retrieve their unfinished work and work on completing it. However, sometimes unfinished work will be sent home and will need to be completed and returned.



Water

You may send a water bottle with your child. Please label the water bottle with your student's name. They will be allowed to keep their water bottles at school and re-fill them with the drinking fountain.

Donations

There are a few things that we would appreciate every student bringing if possible. They are:

- 1 box of tissues
- an old sock for use in Mrs. Hubac's class.

If you would like to donate more to our class, the following are items that would be GREATLY appreciated: *zip lock bags, disinfecting wipes, craft items/stickers, classroom supplies (glue sticks, pencils, crayons, markers, erasers).*

Volunteers

The class will need help during centers time, giving AR quizzes, helping in the computer lab, tutoring, group work, clerical work, help at home, and on field trips. Your help is always needed and appreciated. Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to be a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering and have not already spoken with us or written your name on the volunteer sheet at back-to-school night, please write a brief note in your student's STAR Book and we will add you to the list. Any time you have to offer is greatly appreciated! Thanks!



Star Student of the Week

Each student will have a spotlight week as the "Star Student". Mrs. Hodsdon will send home more information regarding this special week for your child. When this week approaches, please help your child make a poster that we will display in the classroom. Also, your child may bring his/her favorite book. This book will be read to the class.



Please feel free to contact us anytime with questions, comments or concerns by phone or by email. We can take phone calls before and after school. Also, please utilize your students STAR Book as a form of communication. Please let us know what we can do to make this year a success!

Thanks so much!

Cheryl Hodsdon
chodsdon@graniteschools.org

Caroline Hubac
chubac@graniteschools.org

School: 385-646-4858

We/I _____, the
parent(s)/guardian(s) of

(student name)

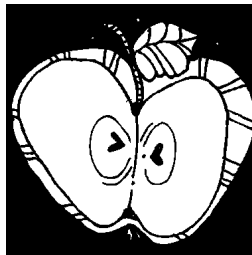
have received and read the First Grade disclosure including homework and discipline policies. I/we understand that students must have a STAR book for use every day and a \$5.00 donation is requested to cover the cost.

Parent Signature

date

Parent Signature

date



Email address for newsletter: _____