

1M's Good To Know Info



**Ms. Mallory's 1st Grade
2009-2010**

1M's Good to Know Info...

Independence: One of the goals in 1M is to foster the development of independent first graders. Throughout the year I will challenge your first grader in many areas and I think you will be surprised at what your first grader can do! Suggestions...

- Homework: Never do your child's homework. Show your support while encouraging them to think for themselves!
- Responsibility: Make it your child's job to show you his or her take home folder every night, get out the homework, and put the completed homework or notes into the folder for the next day. (A subtle reminder may be needed every now and then)
- Behavior: Have your child explain his or her behavior chart and ask them if and why their car was moved off of green. (You will read more info on this later in the packet)

Take Home Folders: Your student has an orange folder with their name and classroom number placed on the outside of the folder. Each night your child will be bringing papers home in that folder. Not only will the folder contain work completed in school that day, but will also have in it homework, notes from me, graded papers etc. If you have notes to send back or any other materials/information you are welcome to send those back to school in the folder the next day. This folder serves as a great communication tool between school and home. It will also help your first grader stay organized and turn in notes and/or work in a timely manner.

Homework: Your first grader will grow immensely this year! He or she will be asked to complete a variety of tasks in school for learning and practice. Sometimes you will see sheets come home with the letter "H" in a circle. This indicates homework that should be completed and returned to school.

Spelling and Sight Words: Each Monday your student will be given a list of 10 spelling words that may include challenge or bonus words. Our spelling tests will take place on Fridays, but keep in mind that spelling is a small portion of your child's language arts grade. Please help your child practice these words throughout the week as he or she should be able to read and recognize the words and their patterns.

Newsletter: "Miss Mal's Minutes" will come home to you in the orange folder every 2-3 weeks. Expect the newsletter to inform you on classroom happenings, projects, and topics addressed in class. This may also be a source for upcoming information, parent involvement, and topics to be studied next.

Behavior: In 1M we have 2 behavior systems: whole class and individual. The whole class system focuses on the behavior of the entire class. If the class as a whole is behaving great, I will add a letter on the board to contribute to the spelling of "Colene Hoose Hawks." The opposite is also true: if the class is generally not following expectations (be responsible, be ready, be respectful), these letters may be removed. Once the entire phrase is spelled, the whole class will get a reward based on a vote from all the students.

The individual behavior system is centered on the school-wide plan. Each student has a car with his or her name on it. These cars all start on green at the beginning of the day. If a child is not abiding by the school-wide expectations (be responsible, be ready, be respectful), he or she will receive a verbal warning and this will be recorded on the class "clipboard." The child will then move his or her car to yellow. If the student repeats an inappropriate or unacceptable behavior, he or she will receive a check mark. This results in his or her car being moved to red. If the child receives multiple check marks beyond the first, the car will be moved to blue and will result in a loss of privilege and/or a phone call home. Each night I will fill in a chart inside of your student's orange folder that will either have a green, yellow, red, or blue sticker. This will indicate to you what kind of day your student had. I encourage you to ask your student and talk with them about their behavior each day. At the end of each week, I ask that you sign the behavior chart.

I know this is a lot of information but I believe spelling these plans out from the get-go will avoid future confusion and will provide for a smooth transition into the year.

Birthdays: You are welcome to send treats to school for your student's birthday. Please have treats ready to serve (i.e.-pre-cut, individually wrapped, etc.). Also, please include all necessary utensils (forks, napkins, plates, etc.). Please do not send drinks with your treat. For summer birthdays, your first grader may bring treats on his or her ½ birthday. Birthdays that fall on weekends may be celebrated on Friday or Monday but there is no need to let me know ahead of time.

Snacks: We will have a snack break every day at mid-morning. I will provide snacks for the first few weeks of school but ask that you volunteer to bring snacks to feed 25 students a few times throughout the year. You may sign up for this on the golden rod colored sheet at Open House.

Money: If you need to send money to school for any reason, please put the money in a sealed envelope and include your child's name and room code (1M) on the outside of the envelopes.

Getting Home: Please be sure your child knows how he or she is getting home each day. Bus riders will be responsible for getting themselves on the bus at the end of the day. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS HIS OR HER BUS NUMBER!! Any changes in the way your student goes home must be given to me in a written note or by email. Please do not have your child tell me about the change as this is not as official and/or reliable.

Contact Information: The easiest way to get a hold of me is through email. However, if I feel it is necessary to call you and/or ask to set up an appointment, I will not hesitate to do so. I also give that same option to you to call or request an appointment. Also, my classroom website will be up and running soon! Look for more information on that to come later.

Email address: malloryam@unit5.org

School Phone: 862-3440

Let's have a great school year, Hoose Hawks!

