

August, 2008

Dear Parents,

Our year is off to a great start! We are getting acquainted and I really enjoy your children. As each grade is different and each teacher has certain routines and expectations, this note is intended to help answer questions you might have about our classroom. You will want to keep this handout all year and refer to it, as you may need to.

**ABSENCES-** If your child will be absent from school, please contact the school at 451-3137 (attendance hotline). Homework can be picked up that day for the student, or can usually be made up at school when the student returns. If you wish for the homework to be picked up, please let the office know when you report the absence. If you know that your child is going to be absent ahead of time, please let me know before the absence so that I can gather the work that your child will miss. Please also call the office to inform them of the absence.

**BIRTHDAYS-** Birthdays are important to first graders. I am always very happy if students want to celebrate with treats. We will do this at 2:30 P.M. Please send cups if you are bringing a drink. I would be happy to put cold things in the refrigerator for you. Please do not send cakes or anything that needs to be cut since it is time-consuming. Cupcakes, cookies, and brownies are welcome. I appreciate knowing at least a day in advance when you plan to send something. If you have a summer birthday, we will celebrate it towards the end of the year. We have 26 students in our class at this time.

**BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT-** Students are encouraged to make good choices each and every day. Students who follow the classroom rules will receive "Gator cards". There is no limit on how many of these they can earn. At the end of the week, our class has a drawing from all of the gator cards with the winners getting a prize from our shopping list. It's clear that the better a student behaves, the more cards they receive, and the better their chance of winning will be.

As another reward for good behavior, each student will earn a "Touchdown Day" for each day they follow all the expectations. The goal of my system is for each child to earn his/her name in to the "Hall of Fame" by exhibiting good behavior over an extended period of time (a total of 15 or more days). Daily, each student will have the chance to earn another touchdown day. They will be rewarded every

5<sup>th</sup> day by being able to have Friday fun time. At the end of each month, any student who has earned 15 or more "Touchdown Days" will get to vote on a reward. The reward could include treats, movie, extra recess, or games. My goal is to provide a caring, safe, and positive learning environment for my students. Thank you for everything you do for your child and supporting this behavior program.

**BLUE READING BOOKS-** Each child will take home their blue reading book on Friday to read their story of the week. All books must be returned on Monday.

**BOOK ORDERS-** I will send home book orders every month. If you need to plan on when they will come in, I usually received them no later than 2 weeks after we placed the order. Please make payments in check form written to that specific company. Let me know if you do not want your child to see the order, otherwise I will send them home. Book orders that you make create bonus points that I can use to purchase class library books, guided reading books, and computer software for our classroom.

**CENTERS** - Centers are important in the first grade classroom setting. Each day will do learning centers to help us focus on the skill of the week. Students will learn the importance of student-learning as well as getting along with other students.

**D.L.R. (Daily Language Review)-** We will practice D.L.R. nearly everyday in class, and quizzes will be given on Friday. Each quiz is worth 5 points.

**DONATIONS-** This year we will go through an extraordinary amount of disposable or consumable items. I have included a list of these items of which we could always use more. If you wish to donate one or two of these items any time during the year. I would be very appreciative.

-fruit cups - colored tissue paper - Clorox wipes - any old craft materials - cloth - buttons - pipe cleaners

**GRADING-** Some work at school is done with guided practice from the teacher. Some work is checked immediately by the students. Some work is done with partners or in groups. Other work is done independently and graded by the teacher for evaluation. This work may be in the form of in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, tests, or projects.

**EMAIL-** A great way to communicate with me throughout this year is through email. I check this several times a day and can respond quickly to questions or

concerns that you may have. I always welcome you to stop by the classroom with these same concerns also. My door is always open.

**HOMEWORK**-Homework is given as appropriate. Please look for an assignment in your child's folder marked homework. All homework is due the following day.

**LUNCH**-First grade students will eat lunch from 11:10-11:35. They will have lunch recess from 11:35-12:00. Lunch tickets are \$1.60. Please purchase these tickets on Monday morning.

**NEWSLETTERS**- I will be sending home a newsletter every Friday. This will be a record of different lessons covered during the week, birthdays, projects, and parent information. It will also contain important information on the upcoming week. This will keep you updated every week. The newsletter will be an important communication link between parent and teacher.

**PICTURES**- Pictures of 1Wi can be found at [www.snapfish.com](http://www.snapfish.com). This link is also found on our classroom website. All parents must have a username and password to view pictures. The username for this account is **williamc@unit5.org**. The password for this account is **williams**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**READING**: Your first grader is required to read every night for 15-20 minutes. Every month your child will bring home a reading record with the number of minutes required for that month. You, as the parent must initial that your child read for that day. The reading records will be due at the end of each month. When they reach their goal for the month, he/she will receive a Book-It coupon from Pizza Hut for a personal pan pizza. The students may read more than that month's goal.

**Scholastic News**: Scholastic news is a great magazine for children. It discusses several themes that we have in first grade. Students will need to purchase the scholastic news this year for \$5. Please make your checks payable to Grove Elementary School.

## SCHEDULE

<b>P. E.</b>	<b>Monday-Friday</b>	<b>1:50-2:10</b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1:00-1:40</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>12:30-12:55</b>
	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12:55-1:20</b>
<b>Tech</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8:20-9:00</b>
<b>IMC-Checkout</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>12:55-1:35</b>

**SHOW AND TELL**- This is a listening and learning activity. Each week your child will have an assigned day that they can bring in 1 item to share. I would like educational items rather than toys. Please see the attached schedule.

**SPELLING**-Lists come home on Friday and tests will be given on Thursday. A pretest will be given on Friday for the next week. Our original list consists of 10 words. If your child correctly spells all the words on the pretest, he/she will not be tested on the regular list. He/She will be given a list of harder words that follow the same spelling pattern or "extra tough" words. He/She will be tested on only the new list or the extra tough words. I encourage your child to start studying early for the test. It is too much to wait until Wednesday and then have to learn all of the words.

**STAR OF THE WEEK**- We have a bulletin board called "Star of the Week." We will feature a different student each week. There is a schedule in this packet. On the Friday before their "Star of the Week" moment, they will be able to take home our class gator. Students must write about their adventure that they had over the weekend with our gator in our class journal. The gator and class journal must be returned to class no later than Wednesday. On Friday, they may bring pictures of themselves, family, pets, etc. to help us get to know them better. Along with pictures, the children are to bring a sack filled with items to tell about them. They will pull the items out of the sack as they talk about them. When I take a turn I will pull out a roll of film because I like to take pictures. I put in a coffee mug because I like to drink coffee, a map because I like to travel and a measuring cup because I like to cook. These are just a few examples. No more than 5 items are necessary for your turn.

**SUPPLIES-** If your child hasn't brought all of their supplies, please make an effort to have them here as soon as possible. Don't forget the importance of labeling. The school supply list is attached.

**TAKE-HOME FOLDERS-** All papers that were done that week will be passed out and put in a folder. I need you to look at your child's papers when he or she brings them home. Since your child has worked hard on these, I encourage you not to throw them away before making a comment about them. Let them know that you are proud of their work and understand when they have problems. Talk in a positive way about areas that have caused difficulty. Please return the folder on Monday with all completed papers taken out. It is very important to me that you are seeing your child's papers and the progress they are making.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES-** Throughout the year 1Wi is involved in many fun activities. I will often send notes home asking for parents to send in something or come into class to be involved. I am extremely thankful for all the help and support I receive during the year. You can help make all of these days and activities successful. Thank You! I am in need of volunteers for Wednesday centers. Our L.A. centers are 9:30-10:30 and Math centers are 1:00-2:00. I can also use a parent helper to help with copying, cutting, laminating, etc. I welcome all volunteers.

**WEBPAGE-** 1Wi has a webpage! Check here to find information in this packet, star of the week schedule, show & tell schedule, newsletters, classroom pictures, etc. Visit our classroom at [www.unit5.org/1Wi](http://www.unit5.org/1Wi)