

Welcome to Room 1H

Mrs. Hull



All your questions answered about room 1H

August, 2016

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to be apart of this class. I know that the beginning of the year can get confusing as you adjust to a new grade and a new teacher. I have put the information you need to know all year long here in this packet. This will be valuable to you throughout the school year. I know it is an overwhelming amount of information but please read through it carefully. Please contact me whenever you have a question.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The start of the school day is 7:45. It is very important to have your student here on time. We line up each morning in the back of the school. This is right outside my fire-door. The students are asked to sit on their line during this time. It is not a time to play on the playground.

Every Friday, on rainy/cold days and during the months of October – March, we will line up in the large gym. The students are asked to bring a book and silently read at this time. We also ask that parents say good-bye before their child enters the school to prevent over-crowding. A note with more details will go home in October.

School ends at 2:30. All students, except those going to after school program, will be let out the fire-door of our classroom, which faces the playground/back of school. Please let your child know if you will pick them up in back or if they need to walk around front. It is important to discuss this procedure each day until everyone is in a routine. If you need to get your child at any time prior to 2:30, please stop in the office to sign him/her out. It is also appreciated if you could send a note or email me that morning so I can prepare your child to go home early.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are important to first graders and I am always excited to celebrate their day with the class. As a way to promote healthy eating and keep those with allergies safe we are not going to celebrate with treats. We will celebrate here at school with free time, game time or a class game of their choice. They will also get a special present from me that they will be able to share with the class and then bring home (shhh, it's a book). I know that this will make their day very special! Thank you for your support.

SNACKS

We will not be doing a snack time during the school day.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Our library check out day is on **Wednesday**. Please help your child remember to bring their book back to school on Tuesday or any time before that. The students may not check out a new book until the previous week's book has been returned.

LUNCH

Our lunch is from 10:50 – 11:40. **Our class eats from about 11:15 – 11:40.** You are also welcome to come join your child for lunch or check them out during this time for a special lunch. Each day hot lunch is available to all students. Every student has a lunch card and lunch account. They will use their lunch card to purchase lunch/milk and then the account will be charged. It is asked that you put money into the account to be taken out when the card is used. This can be done in the office or you can send a check to school with your child, **in the memo please put 'lunch money'**. You can check your balance at unit5.org under parent access. If you feel your family qualifies for free or reduced lunch and breakfast prices please contact the office for additional information.

BOOK ORDERS

Every few months I will send home book orders. You are not obligated by any means to order. If you pay by check, please make it out to the book company Scholastic and not to me. Place the order if you can in a sealed envelope or plastic baggie labeled with your child's name and room code, 1H. I want to be sure your books are delivered to the right class and this will help ease any confusion. You can also order books through Scholastic at any time. The parent code for my room is If you'd like to order online please follow these steps:

- **SIGN UP** at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. On the parent page, click the "Register" button in the "First Time Here?" section. Register for your own user name and password.
- When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation Code **HJCT8**. This unique code ensures that your order is sent to me.
- **SELECT** the books you'd like to order—choose from thousands of titles—many more than in our monthly flyers.
- **SEND** your order online by the due date and your child's books will be delivered directly to my classroom. Thank you!

READING POUCHES

Each day your student will bring home a reading pouch with books to read at their tested reading level. **Please return this pouch everyday!** As their reading level changes so will the level of books that come home. As the school year starts please understand it will take a few weeks to get each student set with the correct level, you may jot me a note if it seems as though the books in the pouch seem too hard or too easy.

It is very important for first graders to have a reading routine at home. Having your child read for at least **15 minutes** a day can make a huge difference in their reading progress. Please help your child establish a reading routine and find a cozy and quiet spot to enjoy this daily time!! Don't forget it is equally important for you to read to your child as it is for your child to read to you!

Spelling Tests/Word Work

Traditional spelling tests involve a list of words given to study for the week. The words follow a specific sound pattern. In years past I have felt there was a disconnect in this format of teaching spelling and transferring the knowledge into their writing and decoding of reading. With some research I found that this is a common problem that many educators have studied. A solution to the problem was to take away the traditional spelling test and focus on patterns using word work.

During word work, students are given a set of words to sort. When they sort they have to compare the sound made with the different ways that sound is formed by various pairs of letters (ex: long a is made by a_e, ai, and ay). By comparing all the ways at once that a sound is made students are able to better learn and store those patterns in their memory. We are using a program titled Words Their Way.

Through Words Their Way students are tested on their developmental level of spelling and their weekly word sorts are based on that. This program has been tested and highly acclaimed for about 10 years. Teachers have seen a difference in how students transfer their word study knowledge into their writing and reading. Students will be formally assessed periodically to see if they can apply the pattern/sound to an unknown word (a word that may not have been in their sort) and through their writing.

Each week please take the time to sort your child's word cards with them. Talk about the different ways the patterns make the sound. Try to find other words with this pattern or sound in books and around the home/community. A great activity is to keep an ongoing list! After your child has studied a pattern they should be able to start applying that pattern when writing (ex: I know I hear long a so I'm going to try to write it with a_e, ai, ay and see what looks right).

I hope that this letter has answered many of the questions you may have had. Please be looking for newsletters and notes. I am available for you to contact at school, 557-4421 or I am also available to answer emails throughout the day, so please feel free to email me at hullsc@unit5.org. I am looking forward to an exciting, productive, fun, and wonderful year with your children!

Mrs. Hull

Let's have a great year!

