



Fundations: We have begun working on Unit 1 of *Fundations*. This will be a review for students who attended Kindergarten in Strongsville and a quick introduction for those who did not. You will receive the Unit 1 packet later this week. Please look at the packet for letter sounds, correct handwriting formation, and practice. This packet should be used for reinforcement at home as needed and can be returned when completed. Please do not try to complete the packet all at once. It is meant to be done gradually throughout the unit. The current unit is over two weeks.

Reading: As students prepare for the Daily 5 choices and guided reading groups, we will begin to practice the routines that they are expected to use while they are not working with the teacher. Although it may seem silly, it is important that they complete the routines correctly and independently. This takes practice and time! Students will begin by practicing reading to themselves during reading group time. Students will learn three different ways to read a book **independently**. This includes: reading the pictures (using the pictures to tell the story), reading the words, and retelling (telling a previously read story in your own words). Students will learn to be a successful reader even if he/she cannot read the words.

Writing: We will begin to learn how we can be good writers. Good writers can use words, pictures or both to communicate a thought or idea. The biggest challenge is often coming up with an idea for writing. Students will think about all of the ideas and topics in their hearts!

Math: We will begin to learn routines and activities to work independently or with a math partner. Students will practice using various materials, working with a partner and behavioral expectations for math time. We will also begin some work in our Go Math! program. Our first chapter is Addition Concepts. Students will explore using pictures, models and objects to represent adding more objects to a group as well as putting groups together.

Social Studies: For the beginning of the year we will be working on traits of good citizenship through the PRIDE model so that we can all be successful! This week, we will focus on P for PREPARED. This means coming to school on time and having our materials each day, but it also means being prepared to learn by having a positive attitude about learning and about ourselves! We will read books and complete activities that encourage positive thinking. Growth mindset research shows that we are all capable of growing our intelligence no matter our current ability. It just takes a willingness to challenge ourselves and practice. We won't grow if we don't try. Instead of saying, "I can't do this!", we can say "I can do this. I just need more practice." Think about ways you can encourage a positive attitude at home!

Reminders: (please see the back)

If you need to reach me by email, please contact me at jyonkof@scsmustangs.org or send me a Dojo message.

Reminders:

- We have gym class on White days, please make sure your child has tennis shoes.
- If you have not completed your school forms via your child's PASS account, please log in and do so. It is called the 2019-2020 Update. If you need your PASS account information, please contact the office.
- If you have not yet done so, please sign up to join ClassDojo. This is an important communication tool and will help you stay in tune with your child's behavior at school. While the focus will be on acknowledging positive behavior, it may be necessary to also use the negative points to set boundaries. As students get used to the behavioral expectations, please do not panic if you see negative points. Take a moment to acknowledge and address it with your child and encourage him/her to learn from his/her mistakes.
- Your child should be practicing his/her **student ID** if it is new to him/her. This serves as a lunch number and a computer logon.
- Students will be completing beginning of the year assessment tasks this week. These are mandated by the state and the district. The information on these tests is knowledge that they should know by the *end* of the year. They are meant to provide information about students' growth over their first grade year. Please help to reinforce to your child that he/she is not expected to know or be able to do everything at this time.
- Students will be needing **headphones** for technology lessons. If you have not yet sent a pair, please do so. Headphones that go over the ears seem to work much better than earbuds for our first graders.
- Our classroom can be chilly with the air conditioning on. If your child tends to be cold, you may want to send a zip-up sweatshirt or sweater to keep in his/her backpack. Please make sure he/she can put it on and take it off easily.
- Take some time to practice **shoe tying** with your first grader if needed.
- There is no school next Monday for the Labor Day holiday!