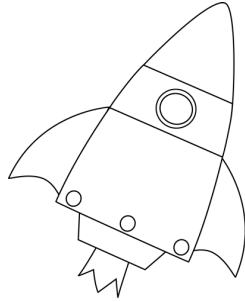


3, 2, 1, Blast Off!



Welcome to your child's first grade class! This is going to be a very exciting year for both your student and myself. First grade is an important year of transition and learning for your student. I am privileged to share this special time with you and your child. I hope to make your child's learning experience a fun and exciting one, and I hope to instill a love of learning that will last throughout your child's school career.

Thank you for your participation in Open House. Please review this packet for classroom procedures, expectations, and routines for your child, as well as answering any questions. Put this information in a safe place for future reference. If questions or concerns should come up at any time during the school year, please contact me by calling (440) 268-5891, by sending e-mail to jyonkof@scsmustangs.org, a ClassDojo message or by sending a note to school.

Student ID Numbers

Please help your child practice and memorize his/her student ID number. This is the six-digit number associated with his/her PASS account. Your child will keep the same number throughout his/her school career, so the sooner it is learned, the better. These numbers are used for making purchases in the cafeteria as well as logging on to computers and Chromebooks at school.

Cafeteria

Students are able to buy lunch, milk, and treats Monday - Friday. Lunch is \$3.00 and milk is \$.60. Each student has a lunch account. If he/she is buying lunch on a consistent basis I highly recommend putting the money into that account. Money can be added online via your child's "Pay For It" account. A link to the account can be found on the school website. You may also choose to send a check made out to **Strongsville City Schools** (please be sure to indicate that the check is for lunch). Please talk to your child about what they are buying for lunch, so he/she knows when we do lunch count in the morning. Also, tell him/her if he/she has permission to buy treats, what kind, and how much he/she can spend. If you are sending cash for lunch in the morning, **please put it in an envelope or baggie clearly labeled with their name and if it is for lunch, treats, etc.**

Drop Off/ Dismissal

Students enter the building independently each morning. They are monitored outside the classroom by teachers and teacher's aides. They enter their classroom at 9:00 and are considered tardy after 9:05.

At 3:25 the office announces pick-ups, walkers, and buses. The students will follow the directions given on the announcements as to where they are to report to. If there is a change in pick up for your child on a specific day, **you must notify the office**. I can not send a child home with a friend because the child told me they were allowed. Please call the office or send a note in their school folder.

Attendance

Please call the **office** each day your child is absent. If you would like your child's homework sent home, notify the office **as early as possible**, and I will have it sent there by the end of the day to be picked up. It is difficult to gather work if I am not notified until later in the day.

Classroom Behavior

We want our school and classroom to be a warm, safe, and happy place. In order to do that, we all need to follow our school and classroom rules. These rules are based on the **P.R.I.D.E** acronym (Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Determined, and Engaged). I expect good behavior to be shown not only in the classroom but anywhere that we go. We will spend a great deal of time the first several weeks of school talking about rules, manners, appropriate behavior and citizenship. We will work together to create rules that we all agree to follow. Consequences will be clearly posted along with the class pledge. Students who follow the classroom pledge will earn points towards rewards. Behavior will be managed and can be monitored through the ClassDojo app or website. This is a system to track your child's behavior and for both parents and students to see how many points are being earned or lost. Please download the ClassDojo App on your phone or other device and follow the directions included to register. This will also be a convenient way to communicate with me. I receive messages straight to my computer or phone. I am also able to post pictures and videos of what is happening in our classroom. Please **check** your child's ClassDojo account each day. If you do not want to download the app, you can simply visit the website to log in. By staying up to date on your child's points, you can provide positive reinforcement for good days or take a moment to discuss any struggles your child had.

Supplies

Thank you for supplying your child with all he/she need to do his/her best learning. I have a few notes on supplies for future reference:

- Pencils will be combined and shared among our classroom community. Therefore, I prefer to use only **plain #2 pencils**. Pencils with designs/characters on them are difficult to sharpen as they have an extra coating on them. I would prefer not to have these in the classroom (sorry). Pencils will be replaced and sharpened as needed. There is no need to write your child's name on pencils and please **do not send personal pencil sharpeners** to school.
- Students should have an **extra eraser**. These can be the pink beveled style erasers or a similar plain eraser. The erasers on our pencils wear out much quicker than the actual pencils do and we usually have a lot of erasing! Please do not send erasers that are toys.
- Please send **only black dry erase markers**. I have learned that the colored markers are difficult to erase and make our dry erase boards very messy!
- I know it is not fun, but please put your child's name on as many of his/her supplies (glue, markers, scissors, crayons, dry erase marker, etc.) as possible (**except for pencils**). First graders drop/lose/misplace their supplies often. Having things labeled will help me find their owner quickly and prevent unnecessary arguing over whose is whose!
- If you have not already done so, please send an old sock for your child to use on his/her dry erase board. I have erasers that can be used if needed, but socks do a much better job!
- Students will have the opportunity to use the classroom computers as well as a listening center. It is necessary for students to have headphones. When able, please send a pair of headphones in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. Headphones worn over the ears are much easier for the students to manage (rather than earbuds).
- I will send home a note if your child is in need of something. Keep in mind that around the mid-year point, it is a good time for a new box of crayons, a new eraser, and new pencils for the classroom supply.

Library

In an effort to simplify student responsibilities, your child will be checking out books from the library on an assigned day. Students may check out books from our school library to read at school or to enjoy at home. They are due back the following week on the same day. In the event of an absence, holiday, or other non-school day, I will communicate as to when we will go to library. I will let you know what our day will be once the media center schedule is set.

Curriculum

- **Reading**-First graders learn to read through exposure to a variety of literacy tasks. This includes whole group lessons, read alouds, shared reading, partner reading, poetry and guided reading groups. Students will work to develop reading skills to improve comprehension, accuracy, and fluency. While whole group lessons will include a variety of literature from different genres, small guided reading groups will be based on students' individual reading abilities and needs. The Daily 5 framework will be used to structure our instructional time. This allows students to participate in whole group mini-lessons followed by independent practice time while the teacher works with small groups or individual students. Please look over the Daily 5 information included in this folder for further explanation.
- **Foundations**-This program teaches phonics, reading, spelling, and sight words. It is currently used in grades K-2 in our district. Foundations is a very systematic and sequential phonics program. To some children it may seem basic or slow moving to begin with. I ask for your patience, as students need to learn the introductory skills and routines before we can move forward. We are truly learning the foundational skills your child needs to be a successful reader and writer. As he/she grows, and moves up through the grade levels, her/she will be able to apply these skills and build on them. Students will be assessed on each unit's rules/skills, but there will **not be a weekly spelling test**. You will receive a letter and packet at the beginning of each unit to explain the skills being taught and providing practice activities that can be done at home. These practice activities are an excellent way to reinforce our classroom work. If your child returns his/her packet at the end of the unit, I would love to recognize his/her efforts!
- **Writing**-This year we will be using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study Writer's Workshop Program. This is a new program that teaches writing in a workshop approach. In the workshop style, students are taught a writing tool, skill or strategy. They then have time to practice that tool through lots of independent writing and teacher guidance. The students will learn the fundamentals of writing narrative, informational, and persuasive pieces. We will learn that writing is a process and we can always work to make our pieces better. Therefore, please understand that your child's writing will not be coming home perfect. This program allows students to use inventive spelling, drawings, and diagrams to convey their information, as we are still learning how to read, write, and spell. We will keep a portfolio of how your child's writing progresses throughout the year.
- **Handwriting**-Check how your child is holding a pencil. Letter formation starts at the top and goes down. Please take notice of your child's handwriting and assist him/her in correcting any mistakes. Letter formations guides can be found in the Unit One Foundations packet that you will receive soon.
- **Math**-We will be using the Go Math! series for first grade math. This series addresses common core standards through a combination of technology, hands-on activities, games, and student practice. The skills to be covered include concepts of and strategies for addition and subtraction, problem solving, counting and comparing numbers, place value, telling time, measurement, graphing, fractions, and both two and three-dimensional shapes. Students will bring home workbooks as each chapter is finished. Take notice that not all pages will be completed and can be used for extra practice.
- **Social Studies**-Through reading, discussion and various activities and projects, we will learn about concepts such as being a member of our school community including following rules and our responsibilities; history including past, present and future and how life long

ago differs from today; maps; physical and human features of our land; and economics topics including needs and wants and goods and services.

- **Science**-Through investigations, technology and reading we will explore concepts including what science is, living things in different environments, the earth and sky, matter, and motion.
- **Homework**
 - I strongly encourage you to read to your child every night. Reading is fundamental to all other subjects and this will help your child develop a love of reading. If he/she is able to read, you may have them read to you 10-15 minutes each night. If he/she is not yet able to read there is still a great deal of value in being read to for your child. **Starting in September**, your child will begin using a calendar to log his/her reading minutes each month. I will expect students to read for at least 10 minutes and at least 5 times a week (of course additional minutes are welcome). Your child should accumulate at least 50 minutes per week and around 200 minutes per month (depending on the month). This calendar should stay in your child's folder each night and will be checked on Mondays.
 - Your child may have language or math homework several times per week. This will go home in the **homework pocket** of the **home folder** and be returned in the same pocket of the home folder the next day. If any homework is unclear, please return it with a note, and I will try to give better directions.
 - Poetry binders will come at least one Friday of each month. Please allow your child to share his/her new poems with you and sign the listening log. Poetry binders should be signed and returned the following **Monday**.

Grading

We use a standards based report card. If you attended Kindergarten at Whitney this should be familiar. For each standard, your child will receive one of three options:

Met=he/she has demonstrated that he/she has met the standard

Progressing=your child is making good progress toward the standard, but has not quite mastered it yet

Not met=he/she has not met the standard and has not shown adequate progress.

Standards that have not been taught will not be marked.

There are **no overall grades** given in each subject area.

Interims and report cards are only available online through your child's **PASS** account. Be sure to create an account if you have not yet done so. If you have any issues with your account, please contact the Whitney office.

Homework and class work will be graded with the following: **Star**=perfect; **check plus**=great, very few mistakes; **check**=good, a few mistakes; and **check minus**=not so good, many mistakes. Check minus papers may be sent home to be corrected. **Encourage your child to always do their best work and to be responsible in completing any homework on time.**

Specials

We are on a three day specials rotation. We will have either art, gym, or music each day. Please refer to your Red, White, & Blue Specials Calendar or check the school website if you are not sure what color day it is.

- Red=music
- White=gym
- Blue=art
 - Make sure students have tennis shoes on gym day.
 - Please send in an art shirt to keep at school.

Water Bottles

Your child is permitted to bring a small, child-size, refillable water bottle to school. Water is the only liquid permitted. Do not send juice, pop, milk, or gatorade. Also, please no twist top water bottles. These spill frequently and require us to spend instructional time cleaning it up. The small flip-top bottles work best.

Parent Volunteers

Room parent and party volunteer sign up is organized by the PTA. Information will be sent home regarding sign-up. I am also looking for volunteers to help with classroom tasks throughout the year and/or help students with extra academic practice. Please let me know if you are interested.

Book Orders

Scholastic book order forms for book clubs will be sent home each month. Participation in these clubs is optional. Each order will be marked with the ordering deadline as well as our online ordering code. Please make sure to return the forms or order online before or on that date. When paying for your orders, please send a check made out to the book company. I'm sorry, but no cash (I can not send cash in the mail). By ordering online, you have the option to use a credit or debit card and your child's order will still come to school with the rest of the orders. If you choose to order by paper form, kindly place the order and payment in an envelope marked with your child's name.

Birthdays

You may or may not wish to send in a treat on your child's birthday. If your child has a summer birthday, you may wish to send a treat on his/her half birthday or talk to me about arranging a day at the beginning or end of the year. Please contact me if you wish to consider food allergies when selecting your treat.

***Birthday treats must be store bought and have ingredient labels. They must be made in nut free facilities. This is a Strongsville City Schools policy. Approved treats may also be ordered through the cafeteria.

Donations

Please consider our classroom when cleaning house! If you are getting rid of **books** that your child/children have outgrown, we would love to add them to our classroom library. They may be just right for another student. We can also cozy up our reading corner with any beanbag chairs, cushions, or throw pillows that you no longer want. Finally, any small toys, trinkets, or crafts for our **prize box** would be greatly appreciated! Marc's, the Dollar Store, and the dollar section of Target and great places to find small prizes.

Home Folders

Your child should bring his/her Home Folder to and from school each day, even if it is empty. One pocket is designated for items that must be returned to school, including homework. Any homework for the night should be found in this pocket. It should also be returned in the same pocket. You should also use this pocket to send notes, forms, lunch money or other paperwork back to me and/or the office.

The other pocket is for items that are to stay at home. You will find your child's mail including completed work, notes, flyers, and other information from myself or our school. Please check and empty this pocket nightly.

I will be sending home a weekly newsletter to make you aware of what skills and concepts we are currently working on and to inform you of any new information or upcoming events. I look forward to having open lines of communication with you. Remember, parent involvement is a factor in student success!

Class Website and Communication

We have a class website that will provide you more information about what is going on in our classroom. You will find copies of the weekly newsletter here as well as other important classroom information. The site also has links to educational websites that we use in the classroom. Our class can be found at whitney1y.weebly.com.

I also communicate important information via email and ClassDojo. Changes and important news pop up all of the time. Email and/or Dojo are the most efficient way to provide all parents with the same information. Please provide me your preferred email address so that I may add you to our class email list.

I am looking forward to an amazing school year with you and your student!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Yenkof

