

## Welcome to First Grade!

As you look around you will notice common classroom features: student desks, a carpet and calendar area, a reading table, coat rack, teacher's desk, a quiet reading area, listening center, and a computer area. The difference between our class and most is that we are not just students and a teacher, we are a FAMILY!

We work very hard to keep up with the New York State Standards and the Standards of the Diocese of Rochester. It is my firm belief that quality education outweighs quantity. My students demonstrate an understanding of skills, or I will adjust the curriculum to meet the needs of the class or individual. If necessary, I tutor students for 15-45 minutes after school as needed or as time permits.

We start every morning with an AM Job (three journal assignments, one printing practice, and one math activity each week.) We then move onto classroom prayer followed by Math Calendar, Religion, Phonics, Printing (M,W,&F), gym at the YMCA (T&TH), Math, English Language Arts Groups (Reading, Grammar, and Writing). Students also have participate in Exploratory subjects at least once a week, (Success Maker for math and reading concepts in the computer lab on M, W, & F, Computer Class on Tu, Art on TH. and Library on Fridays. Students usually bring in a small nutritious snack daily to eat between 9:30 and 10AM. Snack milk is available by the *month or semester*.

After lunch and playground, we have story and finish our ELA Group activities and seatwork. Then we alternate Science, Social Studies, and Scholastic News through out the week. At 2:00 students look forward to center time followed by free play. Centers enrich lessons previously taught with a fun, game like task.

Although we are very busy, students often look forward to our "extras:"

October:	Rosary making The Pumpkin Patch Halloween	March/April:	Easter
December:	The Tree Farm, Santa's Day Off, Christmas Caroling Book Exchange	May:	Ag. Day Participating in First Friday Mass
February	Valentines Day 100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School Mardi Gras	June:	Field Day Nature Hunt at Stony Brook

I encourage parents to ask their child what we are doing in school and talk about it. It is always more fun to learn when someone takes an interest. Parents are also encouraged to read with their child as often as possible, as reading with children will be the key to his or her academic success.

### **IMPORTANT HOUSE KEEPING FACTS**

#### **CALENDAR, MATH FACTS, READING VOCABULARY/SIGHT WORDS and**

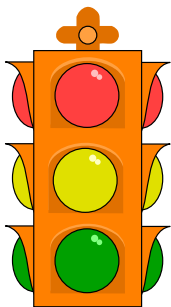
**HOMEWORK:** I send home a monthly calendar attached to the homework folder that lists important dates, the math facts for the week/day, reading vocabulary/sight words and nightly homework. These calendars will be useful throughout the whole year, so I urge parents to either keep them in the folder or remove it at the end of the month. (Please note that your child should know all the math facts by Easter.)

**HOMEWORK:** I usually assign homework nightly during the week. Assignments usually take 5-15 minutes a night. I encourage students to sit down and do their homework as soon as possible after school. Most assignments will be Phonics worksheets, reading workbooks, and math worksheets. These assignments are in addition to reviewing the sight words and math facts that may be listed on the calendar. Establishing good homework habits now will help your child to succeed in school! (I provide all students with a HOMEWORK FOLDER. It is the students **RESPONSIBILITY** to take care of the folder.) **First Grade Students are not allowed to use pen on any work!**

**PAPERS:** Most papers are sent home at the end of the school week, as this gives me the time needed to grade and review papers with students. Parents are asked to sign and return the folder on the first day of school each week. However, students need to check their mailboxes everyday as notes, letters, and homework may be placed in their mailboxes daily.

**SHOW AND TELL:** I send home the show and tell bags with a few children every day. Show and Tell will be during morning snack. Students are **discouraged from bringing in toys at other times.** **Toys are very distracting to the learning process.**

**BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION:** In an effort to reinforce the good behavior, and outstanding effort you may hear "I GOT A STICKER TODAY!"



1. **Students get one sticker every day that they don't have to turn their behavior card to red.** Students start on green and receive one warning for most offenses, excluding anything physical. If a student gets in trouble again he/she will be asked to turn the card to yellow and then red. If a child turns his/her card to red they will not receive a stickers for the day. (Physical offenses automatically turn their card without warning.) (Students that turn their cards to green will bring their cards home on Fridays to be signed. They will earn 1 "bug" for returning their card signed.)
2. Students who do extra kind acts also receive pennies-these pennies are called BUGS (Being an Unusually Good Student.) A student may earn additional BUGs for participating in school fund-raisers or personal incentives.

Students will be allowed to trade their stickers for prizes of their choice from Buzzy's Classroom Store.

**PRAYERS:** We usually focus on two or three prayer concepts per month.

Sign of the Cross  
Glory Be  
Grace Before Meals  
Responses at Mass

Our Father  
Prayer to Guardian Angel  
Intentions  
Closing Prayer

Hail Mary  
Prayers of Thanks  
Morning Prayers  
Rosary

**BIRTHDAYS:** Parents are encouraged to send in a treat on their child's birthday, as long as they send in enough for every student. Students that have summer birthdays may borrow a day during the school year to celebrate with the class. This way no child is over looked or feels left out.

Party invitations may be sent in as long as there are invitations for every student in our class or all of the boys or all of the girls as the case may apply. This is to eliminate hurt feelings.

God Bless,  
Mrs. McDaniels