

August 25, 2017

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with your child this year. First grade is an exciting year and we will work to build your child's academic foundation so that he/she will experience continued success in the future. I expect all of my students to have a wonderful year in first grade.

The remainder of this letter will include information that will offer explanations of things that will occur this year. Please read through this, and please call if you have any questions or concerns.

1. School begins at 7:40 and dismissal is at 3:20. Car riders will be released at 3:10. Students will be considered tardy at 7:45 and will need to get a slip from the office prior to entering the classroom, if they are late.
2. My conference time is 8:50-9:35. Please call during this time if you have anything that you would like to discuss. I am available through email as well. My email address is twilliford@kountzeisd.org. Our lunch time is 11:00-11:30. Feel free to join us anytime; just remember to check in at the office first. Meet us in the cafeteria, not in the classroom to help us minimize classroom interruptions.
3. Required homework will consist of sight word flashcards and take home readers. Each day there will be an extra practice page for our Saxon phonics lesson, and our weekly concept for math. This is not to be turned in but to be used as extra practice at home, if needed. At times, we will use the practice pages for daily grades in class to assess student knowledge. Take home readers will begin October 16th.
4. Grading policy: We will take 6 daily grades and 2 test grades per subject each six weeks. Only test grades, excluding reading DRA assessments, will be allowed to retest, per parent request. The highest grade received on a retest is a 70.
5. 1st grade discipline will be handled as follows:

All students start off the day on green ☺ on our behavior chart and before their color is changed they will receive one verbal warning. Upon 2nd verbal warning they will move their clip to blue. If the undesired behavior continues, he/she will be asked to move their clip to yellow. If it continues further, he/she will be asked to move their clip to red. Your child's behavior chart will have a colored dot to reflect what color he/she ended the day on. Remember that this is a learning experience for your child while they are learning rules, expectations and responsibility.

The consequences are as follows:

Blue: 5 minutes out of recess-still a happy face ☺

Yellow: 10 minutes time out at recess

Red: no recess

***Certain situations could result in an automatic trip to the principal's office.

6. By October, your child will be able to check out a library book. 1st grade's library days will be on Monday, 1/2 day Thursday, & Friday. He/she will be able to take a comprehension test (Accelerated Reader/ A.R.) over the book on the computer in our classroom. I will have to help them with the test and I will only have a 15-minute time period every day to do this. This will be a slow process until they learn how to do it themselves, please be patient. Hopefully, I will have a few trained soon and can get them to be Accelerated Reader helpers. Library books need to come to school every day. Also, AR testing is your child's responsibility.
7. Once a month or so, I will be sending home a book order form. If you would like to order your child some inexpensive books for their home library, this is a good resource.
8. Your child may bring their own drink (water, Gatorade, Powerade and such) from home for P.E. Sodas are not allowed. Please make sure your child's drink is labeled.
9. If you would like to bring a birthday treat for your child on their birthday, send a note or call the day before. The celebration will be from 2:00-2:15.

First grade is an important year in a child's life. Let's work together to make this year rewarding and fun for your child. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns about your child and his/her learning. We both want what is truly best for your child.

Thank you,

Mrs. Williford
twilliford@kountzeisd.org
(409)246-3877