



First Grade Classroom Procedures

Beginning of the School Year: The first few weeks of school will be filled with activity as we get to know each other and learn routines for our classroom. This will build a foundation for our journey through first grade! Academically, we will be reviewing kindergarten skills, begin first grade skills and learn the procedures of Daily 5. Daily 5 is a system we will use that will help create great readers! I will also be assessing each student's level of performance in reading, writing, and math in order to plan for future instructional needs. It is with great excitement we move into this new school year!

Morning Arrival: Students arriving at school between 7:15 and 7:50 should report directly to the lunchroom, where a teacher will be on duty to supervise them. Students will sit at the table designated for our class until they are dismissed to our classroom. Please note: Parents are not able to accompany their children due to Covid restrictions. Once students arrive in the hall outside the classroom door, I will greet them and welcome them in.

Afterschool Dismissal: Regular dismissal is at 3:00 PM. Half day dismissal will be at 11:15. Please plan to pick up your child in the car line. Students will only be released to those included on the Emergency Card. Please contact me via email or

the elementary office to let me know if a new person will be picking up your child. Please have them bring identification.

Daily Routine: The academic subjects we will study in the classroom include Bible, Reading, Language Arts, Math Spelling, Handwriting, Social Studies, and/or Science. We will also have special classes outside the classroom.

Our Schedule

7:50-8:00 Arrive to class and unpack

8:00 a.m. School begins!

11:00-11:30 Lunch

12:00-12:30 Recess

2:55 p.m. Car line Dismissal

Our specials include the following:

Chapel, Gym, Music, Art, Computers,
STEM Lab, World Language, and Spanish

Lunch, Snack, and Water Bottles: Lunch is from 11:30-12:00 and recess is from 11:00-11:30. We may also take an afternoon recess.

Sack Lunch: Please label your child's lunchbox with the student's name and 1A, so it can be returned if it gets misplaced. Also, be sure to pack all necessary supplies in your child's lunch, such as napkin, spoon or fork.

Hot Lunch: PCA lunchroom does not accept cash. If you haven't done so already, please set up an account at www.myschoolaccount.com and put money on it for your child to use in the lunchroom. Through this website, you will be able to see what your child is purchasing as well as add money when needed.

Healthy Snack: Each morning we will take a brief break to have a healthy snack. Students also have the opportunity to finish any snack or lunch items during an afternoon break. Please pack this snack in the lunchbox and include any needed supply. (spoon/fork) Some ideas for our healthy snack include fruit, cut vegetables,

cheese, crackers, and yogurt. Please be sure your child knows what should be eaten for snack.

Water Bottles: Water bottles are important!! There are no drinking fountains this year, only the water bottle station. Students must bring a reusable water bottle each day. It is necessary that the bottle have a top that will open and close easily, without touching the spout and does not require your child to put a cap on after each drink. Please see the pictures on the final page! Thanks!

Home/School Connection:

Friday Note: Each Friday a classroom newsletter will be sent both a paper copy and a digital copy. It will inform you of what will be happening the following week. Included will also be information such as, upcoming events and any help needed.

Student Planners: PCA students each have their own planner. We use these to help teach organizational skills and responsibility. First graders will be writing word wall words, homework assignments, and spelling words in their planners. Please check your child's planner each night, sign it, and have he/she return it the next morning. Parents can also use the planner to send written communication to me. This is an important link in the communication process between school and home.

Take Home Folders A folder labeled "Take Home Folder" is another tool we use. Notes, homework, completed classwork, and correspondence will come home in this folder. Please check your child's folder each night. It is important to return the folder the next morning to be used again.

Homework: Math and reading assignments will usually come home Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Students will bring home a double sided math worksheet. Side A is completed as guided practice in class. Side B will be assigned for homework. This worksheet allows students to practice previously learned concepts, as well as new concepts introduced that day. Please note any problems he/she may have had in completing the math so that I can follow up in class. Periodically, your child will also receive math fact flashcards. These facts need to be practiced until memorized and mastered. It will be important for your child to be able to quickly and accurately identify the answer to each one.

Practice reading is a crucial step toward becoming a good reader! Each night your child should practice reading. It doesn't need to be a long in duration, but is essential. Listening to your child read aloud is a good idea. Reading choices will include stories from a home reader, "Book in a Bag" selections or books from home. Consistent practice is what counts!

For success in mastering sight recognition of high frequency words, please practice and review "Word Wall Words". These word often have irregular spellings. They are not phonetically spelled or read. They are found in the planner. There is a word wall word check on Fridays.

Verse memorization is a critical part of our Bible curriculum. We will practice these in class, however, I ask that you also go over them at home. Students will recite their verse on Friday. My goal is for students to love to learn and remember God's Word!

Our reading program introduces a weekly spelling list that targets words with a particular spelling pattern. Spelling tests will be on Fridays. The spelling list will be included in our Friday classroom note.

Reading Rewards Program: In an effort to encourage individual reading at home, we will use a couple of different techniques which will include rewards! I will be sending home a sheet of bookmarks to record the number of minutes the student reads and beginning in October, we will take part in Pizza Hut's "Book It" Reading Incentive Program. More information will be sent home later explaining each.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by written note, via email Melody.Miller@plymouthchristian.org

Additional Things To Know!

Toys

We ask that students do not bring toys from home to school. The exception would be if your child attends After School Care, but please have a special place that toys can be kept in their backpack. Also, please help them to understand that the toy should remain in their backpack until they arrive at After School Care.

Birthdays

Students are welcome to bring a treat for the class to celebrate their birthday! Due to the current restrictions, all treats must be individual prepackaged store items. Please let me know in advance if you would like to send something so that I can plan our time accordingly. Summer birthdays can be celebrated at the end of the year or at your child's "half birthday." Please note: if inviting students to an outside party, please send the invitations in the mail if the whole class is not invited.

Book Orders

Scholastic Book Orders forms are sent home approximately four times a year. This is an inexpensive way to support your child's reading, but is not mandatory. Please be aware that not all books advertised are supportive of our Christian principles. I would advise you to research about the books to find those you would consider appropriate for your child.

A few additional supplies

*Please send in a pair of earbuds for your child to use for computer use. They need to be in a case or ziploc bag so they can be kept in your child's locker.

*Please send in one adult large t-shirt for your child to use in Art and STEM lab. It should be a solid color. The Dollar Store and Michael's have them for a very reasonable price.

*Please label with your child's name the mask he/she wears to school each day. When traveling outside the classroom the children will wear their masks. When we arrive at our destination each child will have a sealed bag to keep the mask in until we are ready to travel again. The labeled bags will be kept in a basket so they will not get dirty or lost. Also, we need 1 or 2 extra masks, just in case. Please keep them in a labeled bag in a backpack pocket or pouch.

