**The ABC’s of First Grade**

A

**Absences:** Good attendance habits enhance your child’s learning. If your child is absent, please call the office. Also, document in the PAWS folder the reason for the absence and doctor’s note if necessary. See Paradise handbook for attendance policies.

**Arrival:** Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Students arriving at this time wait in the cafeteria at a designated table and will be dismissed to their class at 7:45 a.m. Parents may not accompany children to class.

B

**Birthdays:** We acknowledge each child’s birthday in the classroom. Per the office: A parent may bring/send individual store bought treats/individually wrapped treats **(homemade items will not be permitted)** and individual juice (no red dye)/waters to school for a brief celebration. The treats will not be served before lunch. Arrangements must be made in advance with the teacher. Treats must be delivered to the office and the office staff will deliver the treats to the room. Balloons/Flowers that are delivered during the school day will be picked up from the office by the student at the end of the day.

**Book Orders:** Throughout the year, we offer an opportunity for students to purchase books from Scholastic Book Club. Teachers earn points that can be traded in for more books and materials for the classroom. A due date will be indicated on the form.

**Box Tops:** Please continue to send Box Tops and be sure to write your child’s name on the back of each one to be entered in drawings each six weeks.

C

**Computers:** Our students will visit the computer lab regularly to work on academic and technology skills.

**Conferences:** If at any time you have any questions, please call during my conference period. (12:05 - 12:50.)

D

**Discipline:** In order to provide your child and all the students in the classroom the excellent learning climate they deserve, we will practice the eight expectations from the Great Expectations program daily. Our Class Rules are : #1: Follow Directions, #2: Raise your hand for permission to speak. #3: Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat. #4: Make smart choices. #5: Respect yourself, respect others, respect this place.

**Donations:** Supplies that would be useful in the classroom but are not mandatory are baby wipes, Clorox Wipes, Magic Erasers, Ziploc bags (any size), small paper plates, play dough, washable markers, colored pencils, colored copy paper/cardstock, and plastic spoons and forks.

**Daily 5:** Daily 5 is the way we incorporate “hands on” language arts practice in our classroom. The five areas are Work on Writing, Word Work, Read To Self, Read With Someone, Listen to Reading.

E

**Email**: Please feel free to contact me by email. Our district’s filter may prevent your email from coming directly to my inbox. If I do not reply within 24 hours, please jot me a note in the PAWS folder so that I can look for it in the spam folder.

**Emergency drills**: From time to time the administration will conduct emergency drills to ensure the safety of our children in the case of the actual event. They will include fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills.

F

**Field Trip:** We plan to extend our learning by taking 2 field trips this year. Please look for notes and procedures in your PAWS folders. **(Due to Covid-19, we will not have a fall field trip this year. We are hoping to be able to plan our annual spring field trip to the Dallas Arboretum.)**

G

**Gym:** Students must wear appropriate shoes daily for P.E. **If students do not have proper shoes for P.E. , they will be unable to participate and points will be deducted from his/her grade**. Instructional time is lost when students have to change shoes. It would be helpful if they came prepared to wear the same shoes all day.

H

**Homework:** Regular weekly homework will be assigned. HOMEWORK SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES PER NIGHT. Check the weekly newsletter for assignments.

I

**Illness:** If a child is running fever at school s/he will be sent home. Please help us to keep a healthy environment by keeping your child home when running a temperature. Please see the school website for Covid-19 symptoms.

**Ipads:** We have 4 student Ipads in our classroom that we use daily.

J

**Join PTO:** Please support our PTO by becoming a member. They are generous in the donations, service and time for each child at Paradise. See how you can share your talents and time also!

K

**Keep Updated:** Check your child’s PAWS folder and the district’s website for school happenings.

L

**Label:** Please label everything your child will be bringing to school. This includes supplies, coats, lunchboxes, backpacks, etc.

**Lunch:** First grade lunch is from 10:45-11:20. Your child may bring his/her lunch from home or purchase it from the cafeteria. You may deposit money in the account program if you would like. Free and reduced lunch applications have been sent home and are available in the office. You may join your child for lunch anytime, just be sure to check in at the office. **Due to state law, you may only provide lunch for your child.**

M

**Money:** Please send all money in the zipper pocket in the PAWS notebook clearly labeled with your child’s name, amount and purpose of money.

N

**Nurse:** When your child is ill at school you will need to pick him/her up from the nurse’s office located in the main office. Please send all labeled prescription medications to the nurse.

O

**Outside:** Playing outside is an important part of large motor and social development. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We will go outside everyday with the exception of rain or extreme temperatures. We have 2, 20 minutes allotted for recess.

P

**Parties:** We will host 3 parties a year for our students: Christmas, Valentine’s and Easter. Please look for notes so you may sign up to contribute. **(Due to Covid-19, we are unsure of any parties this year).**

Q

**Questions:** Please use Parent Square, email, or call during conference time to ask any questions that you may have.

**Quiet:** First grade students are active learners, so you will not always hear a quiet classroom! We are busy learning!

R

**Report Cards:** Report Cards will be sent home electronically 6 times a year at the end of each 6 weeks grading period. If you need a paper copy sent home, please let the office. know.

S

**Snack:** Students will be able to bring their own snacks each day for the afternoon snack. If you would like to donate snacks to the class, individually wrapped and sealed snacks will be accepted.

**Spelling:** Spelling Homework will be assigned each week. Students will be taking a spelling test on Fridays.

T

**Tardies:** The Tardy Bell rings at 7:55 a.m. Students arriving after that time will need to go to the office for a tardy pass. Repeated tardiness will result in consequences administered through the office.

**Toys**: Please keep all toys at home. Students may bring BALLS ONLY to play outside. Please make sure your child’s name is on the balls. Outdoor play equipment is provided by the school.

**Transportation**: Please contact the school office before 2:30pm if there are any last minute changes in your child’s regular schedule. You may also send a note in the PAWS if you know in advance of any changes.

U

**Understanding:** Thank you for understanding that your child is our first priority and we will do our very best to answer all communication, comments and questions promptly.

V

**Visitors:** All visitors must check in and out of the office.

**Volunteers**: Please see me for volunteer information and a sign up sheet. All help is appreciated! **(Due to Covid-19, volunteers are not allowed on campus. Stay tuned for updates, we will welcome you with open arms as soon as we are allowed!)**

W

**Water Bottles:** Students may bring flip top or sport top water bottles from home to drink in class. Please remind your child that this is a privilege and to not let their water bottle distract them from learning.

**Watch Dog Dads:** Watch Dog Dads volunteer their time in school by encouraging students, helping staff, and providing a positive presence on our campus. If you would like to volunteer, contact the office.

**Website:** Check the PISD website and your teacher’s webpage for information, resources, and upcoming events.

X

**X-tra Classes**: PE is attended daily by your child. Computer, Music, and Library are attended on a rotational basis.

Y

**Yell for the Panthers!** Our students will be attending the pep rallies at the high school on Fridays during football season. Parents are welcome to attend but your child can not be released from the pep rally. **(Due to Covid-19, the elementary will not be attending pep rallies this year.)**

Z

**ZZZZZ** plenty of sleep: Make sure your first grader gets adequate sleep at night so they will be ready for learning at school.