



Dear Parents,

Welcome to first grade! We hope that this handbook will help answer many questions for you about policies and procedures we have developed for our first grade at Mary Martin Elementary. If you are new to our district, we welcome you. You are in the right place.

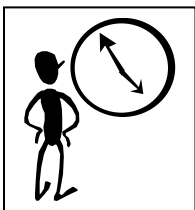
We are looking forward to a fun and productive year with your child. Our days will be filled with a strong language arts program including phonemic awareness, an intense reading program, and many shared language experiences. Math, science and social studies will be integrated throughout our day. We will go to music and p.e. daily and computer and library weekly. Art is an important part of our program to help the children express their creative nature. We strive to make all learning meaningful so that the children can make connections.

It is our belief that first grade is a "journey", not a race. Each child will bloom in his or her own time: therefore our grading system is developmental. It is our intent to make this year fun and enriching, yet to establish a respect for the school environment and our peers. We are a foundation for future learning. We teach "children", not just academic subjects! It is our belief that we are only facilitators of learning. We will provide the environment and the materials, but it takes the entire community to "teach our children". You are their first and most important teacher. We look forward to working with you this year!

Thank you for sharing your little one with us. This is going to be a great journey.

Sincerely,  
First Grade Teachers

## ***Important Information***



**Time:** 8:00 to 3:15

Arrival and departure: Students may come into the classroom when the bell rings at 7:45. Before that time they need to go the gym where teachers are on duty. Please help your child to have a good start to each day by arriving on time. At the end of the day, we will walk students outside to meet their parents. You are welcome to wait out front or we will watch for you to drive by and put your child in your car. Please do not wait in the hallway outside the classroom.

### **Attendance:**



Our school strives for good attendance! When your child has been absent, please send a note to school explaining your child's absence.

**Late arrival:** If your child comes to school late, be sure to sign them in at the office so that it will not be counted as a full day absence.

If your child needs to leave early, you must sign them out at the office.

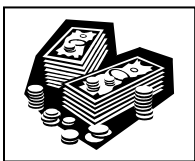
### **Clothing:**



Clothing should be simple in design, comfortable, and washable. Please do not dress your child so that you must say, "Don't get dirty!" Boots, dress shoes, and sandals make running and playing difficult. If your child wears these to school, please send something they may change into for recess and P.E. Please put your child's name in any article of clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.

*In cold weather, please send your child with a coat in case we go outside for recess.*

### **Money:**



Send money to school only when necessary. If a child must bring money to school, place it in an envelope with the child's name, teacher's name, and what the money is to be used for printed on the outside of the envelope.

*Lunch \$2.00      Milk .50      Ice Cream (Fridays) .75*

### **Withdrawal from School:**

Please notify the teacher and office at least one day in advance if you need to withdraw your child from school. This will help us to have his/her materials ready and records clear.

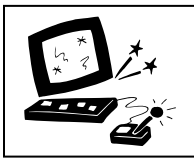


### **Phone Numbers:**

We need a phone number for each child. If you do not have a phone, give the number of a friend or relative. Emergency numbers are very important. If you change phone numbers, please ensure that the school has the new number.

### **Medical:**

Please inform the teacher if your child has any allergies or serious medical conditions. Only the nurse may administer medications, so please do not put medicine in your child's backpack.



### **Toys:**

Children are not allowed to bring toys to school. They may get lost or broken. Any exceptions will be in writing from the teacher.

### **Supplies:**

From time to time during the year, we will have special projects or celebrations that require specific materials. We would be grateful if you could help by providing some of these items. Items you are asked to provide will be highlighted on the newsletter.



### **Birthdays:**

Invitations to birthdays may not be given out at school unless the entire class is invited or all boys/all girls. This policy is to protect any children from hurt feelings.

We do not have birthday parties in class, but your child will be assigned to provide snacks on their birthday. You may send anything that is simple and easily served.

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## LIFESKILLS

**INTEGRITY:** To conduct oneself according to a sense of what's right and wrong

**INITIATIVE:** To do something because it needs to be done

**FLEXIBILITY:** The ability to alter plans when necessary

**PERSEVERANCE:** To continue in spite of difficulties

**ORGANIZATION:** To plan, arrange, and implement in an orderly way; to keep things in an orderly, readily-usable way

**SENSE OF HUMOR:** To laugh and be playful without hurting others

**EFFORT:** To try your hardest

**COMMON SENSE:** To use good judgment

**PROBLEM-SOLVING:** To seek solutions in difficult situations and everyday problems

**RESPONSIBILITY:** To respond when appropriate, to be accountable for your actions

**PATIENCE:** To wait calmly for someone or something

**FRIENDSHIP:** To make and keep a friend through mutual trust and caring

**CURIOSITY:** A desire to learn or know about one's world

**COOPERATION:** To work together toward a common goal or purpose

**CARING:** To feel concern for others



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## ASSIGNMENTS

**HOMEWORK:** Read a minimum of 4 nights a week for 10-15 minutes.

**READING LOGS:** Reading to your child is very important! You will be asked to keep a reading log of the books read to your child or books that your child has read. It is perfectly okay to read a book more than once. Children love to have their favorite books read over and over!

Your child should turn in their reading log daily. It will be stamped and returned to the child each day.

**STAR READING BOOKS:** When we work in small reading groups, we will send home a reader for practice. It needs to be returned daily!!!

**GRADES:** The following letters will be used for our grading system. A progress report will be sent home at the three week mark of the six week period. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> six week period, a report card will be sent home. A parent conference will be held the first six weeks.

E-Exceptional  
S-Satisfactory  
P-Making Progress  
N-Needs Improvement

*On the following pages are some strategies and techniques you can use to help your child with his/her reading.*