



Welcome To FIRST GRADE

We are off to an exciting start in First Grade! This class handbook has been prepared to help you become familiar with the workings of our classroom, the routines we keep, and some of the practices that we use daily.

★ Kindly note, we will be having an in person "Meet the Teacher" afternoon on September 14th, 2026 at 2:15pm. We can't wait to meet you!



HMH Into Reading

This year, we will continue to use the HMH Into Reading curriculum. The curriculum has both reading and writing components, which will be used to enhance your child's reading and writing skills throughout the school year.

The first module is called "Nice to Meet You!" Students will build and strengthen their reading, speaking, listening and writing skills as we explore new friends and experiences. We will be reading books about making new friends, taking on new challenges, becoming familiar with new words and different activities about school.

Overview of the Modules that will be taught this year:

Module 1: Nice to Meet You!
Module 2: My Family, My Community
Module 3: Amazing Animals
Module 4: Better Together

Module 5: Now You See It, Now You Don't
Module 7: The Big Outdoors
Module 8: Tell Me a Story
Module 10: Dare to Dream

During the reading component of HMH, students will strengthen their vocabulary, learn how to choral and echo read, and learn comprehension skills and strategies. Some of the skills and strategies that will be taught include retell, characters, setting, central idea, text features, and story structure.

We would like to share some important terms that you will be hearing frequently this year and in the years to come. We feel it to be extremely helpful for you to be familiar with their meanings:

- Read Aloud: The teacher reads to the class from a single text.
- Choral Reading: Reading aloud in unison with a whole class or group of students. Choral reading helps build students' fluency, self-confidence, and motivation, and provides a model for fluent reading.
- Echo Reading: When the teacher reads a short segment of text, sometimes a sentence or short paragraph, and the students echo it back. It is a rereading strategy designed to help students develop expressive, fluent reading as well as used for print knowledge.
- Reading Log: Students will be filling in a Reading Log in class and at home. Please put the date and which books they read at home. They will be taking home books in a bag to read each night.

Writing Component

During the writing component of HMH, the children focus on building their writing skills. We will be teaching students how to write different types of writing pieces such as narratives, poems, and informational texts. They are expected to follow the "Steps for Writing" which include pre-write, draft, revise, edit and publish, for every writing piece they create. We also have time set aside at the end of each writing unit, where students can share their work to the entire class, to celebrate and share their hard work. To help practice your child's writing at home, make sure to encourage them to sound out and spell their words, to use upper and lower case letters correctly, and use the correct punctuation at the end of their sentences.



Fundations/Phonics/Word Study

Fundations and Heggerty are the two main programs that we use during the word study period. They are evidence based programs designed to help students understand letters and how to make words.

Areas that we will focus on throughout the year are:

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| ● Phonemic awareness | ● Vocabulary |
| ● Phonics/ word study | ● Comprehension strategies |
| ● High frequency word study | ● Handwriting |
| ● Reading fluency | ● Spelling |

A word wall is a permanent display of words. It is set up alphabetically and as new word wall words are introduced they are added. These are high frequency words that will help to build vocabulary and make reading a "snap." They have two workbooks that are kept in class and a practice book for FUNdations that will be sent home for homework.



Envision Math

Envision Math is an interactive program that allows children to use technology, workbooks, and manipulatives to discover different mathematical strategies. There are 15 topics that we will be covering throughout the year. They have a workbook that is kept in class and a homework book that will be sent home for homework.



SEL/ Harmony

Harmony SEL incorporates multiple methods to teach positive relationships and create an inclusive classroom environment. Everyday Practices are a key component of the program, providing students with ongoing, supported opportunities to interact with peers and participate in dialogue and decision-making about issues related to the classroom community.



Homework

Homework is assigned daily. Homework usually includes Word Wall Word Practice, reading or writing, math, FUNdations and one remote activity a week on Google Classroom. A homework folder will be given to each student. Students should empty their folder each day, sending back only their completed homework and any notices that need to be signed. Parents are asked to check and sign homework each night. We do not give homework on Fridays.

There are also online platforms students will be able to access and receive extra practice on.

For reading, students can log onto edMentum reading and Waggle.

For math, students can log onto edMentum math.



Change of Clothes

If you think that your child might need to keep a change of clothes at school for any reason, please place a labeled ziplock bag with extra clothes in their backpack. We have limited space in our classroom to store these items but children can keep in their backpack if needed. We will always call or message if a child does spill anything or have an accident.



Birthday Parties

Birthday celebrations may be planned for the class. We do ask that they be simple, as we only reserve about 20 minutes at the end of the day for parties. Please send store bought cookies, cupcakes, donuts or juice. We ask that all foods are peanut free, because of peanut allergies. If your child has a peanut allergy please send in snacks that they can have safely during birthday parties so they don't feel left out. We ask that you send in napkins and or plates with the snacks to prevent messes in the classroom and if you can please inform us a few days before so we can plan better.



Dismissal

First grade classes are dismissed outside of exit 4. Please be prompt in meeting your child. If someone other than a parent will be picking up your child, that person's name **MUST** be on the Blue Card kept on file in the Office. Any change in pickup, bus, or afterschool activities must be in writing to the classroom teacher. If you do **NOT** want a specific person to pick up your child, we also need that in writing.



Communication

It is very important to maintain close ties between home and school. Changes in routine, events at home, and special occasions are all important in your child's life. Letting us know of such things helps us to understand a child's behavior or mood. Please write us a note or send a message when you feel it is important for us to be made aware of anything. We use Class Dojo, a **FREE** digital app that is connected to your phone, to send/receive messages and give classroom updates.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns!



First Grade Teachers