





Mrs. Morrison's First Grade Syllabus

Welcome to Belair K-8! I am so THRILLED to be your child's 1st grade teacher. We will have so much fun learning about reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. In 1st grade, your child will not only have academic growth, but also social. I believe that every child learns differently and that it's my responsibility to reach each student regardless of their learning style. The purpose of this syllabus is to help you with the 1st grade curriculum as well as procedures and policies for the classroom.

Grading Policy

Standards based report cards provide parents, teachers and students with more accurate information about students' progress toward meeting standards. Parents will be more aware of what their children should know and be able to do by the end of each grading period. The report card for grades K-3 will include a grading scale (1-4). See the diagram below.

STANDARDS BASED LEARNING PROGRESSION			
1	2	3 (TARGET)	4
Beginner Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
Student demonstrates progress toward <u>initial</u> foundational skills of the topic.	Student demonstrates proficiency on <u>foundational</u> skills of the topic.	Student demonstrates proficiency on all grade level skills of the topic.	Student demonstrates understanding and performance beyond proficiency and has exceeded the standard.
			

Attendance Policy

Students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse for the absence their first day back at school. For any absence beyond (or after) 5, the parent shall be required to provide an official physician's note or another excuse from an acceptable or official third party justifying the absence. For a student to be marked present for a full school day, a student must be in attendance for one half or more of the school day (or at least half of the school day). However, a student will not be recognized for perfect attendance after (10) tardies. It is very important for your child to be at school every day. Whenever your child does need to be out for a whole day or part of a day, please send a note explaining the reason. The note can be from the doctor or dentist or a note from you. **School begins at 9:00 this year. Students are tardy at 9:05.**

Transportation

Students who ride a RCSS bus will receive and wear a RCSS Transportation Tag. Transportation changes must be provided to the school office in written form. Written, signed notes may be sent with a student, delivered to the school office during the day (before 3:00pm), or faxed to the school office at 706-220-2403. Emails to your homeroom teacher are also acceptable. Telephone calls will not be accepted. If a written form of notification is not received, the student will go home the regularly scheduled way.

Homework

It is recommended that first grade students set aside a minimum of 20 minutes per day for homework on a regularly scheduled basis. Homework assignments will be sent home on Monday and should be turned in completed the next day.

Examples of homework assignments:

- ★ Math facts
- ★ Spelling/sight word or vocabulary word practice
- ★ I-Ready
- ★ Uncompleted class work
- ★ Working on special projects

HOMEWORK IS GIVEN TO REINFORCE SKILLS WE ARE LEARNING IN CLASS. PLEASE TREAT ALL HOMEWORK AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE AND MASTER SKILLS.

Signed Papers

Signed papers will go home bi-weekly. Parents are to return the packet of papers signed the following day.

MONEY

All money sent to school with your child must be in a sealed envelope or Ziplock bag labeled with your child's name, homeroom teachers name, and reason for the money.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time for anyone, especially first graders. You may celebrate your child's special day by bringing in cupcakes or cookies. You may choose to bring them first thing in the morning and we'll pass them out during lunch or you may choose to bring them at lunchtime and help pass them out yourself. Just realize that we only have 30 minutes for lunch and other classes will need to be seated in our seats when our lunchtime is over. Please note that no balloons are allowed.

Remind App

I will be using the Remind App for most of my communications.

Classroom Expectations

Students will help write the rules on the first few days of school but these are a good guideline.

In our class we LEARN!

Listen to and follow directions quickly and actively with our eyes, ear, and bodies.

Enter and exit prepared, remembering to obey school and safety rules.

Always try our best to work quietly and to work hard.

Respect others by using kind words and polite manners.

No Excuses!

Behavior System

Love and Logic- this process includes sharing control and decision-making, using empathy with consequences, and enhancing the self-concept of children. When your child displays negative behaviors, the following will take place:

- o Warning
- o Recovery in classroom
- o Parents will be contacted
- o Principal's office and parent contacted

Your child's folder will be used as a contact about his/her behavior and will be sent home and returned each day. I will also be giving out tickets each day to the students who show positive behavior. Once they receive a ticket they will write their name on it and put it in the "Caught Being Good" bowl. At the end of the week I will pull out five names and they will get to go in the Teacher Treasure Box. The more times they get a ticket the better chance they will get in the Teacher Treasure Box!

Course Overview

ELA Goals

Students entering first grade are developing strategies that will enable them to comprehend grade-level texts of appropriate complexity and communicate effectively both in writing and in speaking. Students will begin to anchor their inquiries and responses firmly to the text, whether literary or informational, using increasingly specific and relevant evidence to support their claims and inferences. Students will learn more advanced phonics skills and build a bank of sight words. They read, listen to, and discuss more complex stories, make connections between what they read and hear and their experiences. They monitor and self-correct their reading, retell stories identifying key details, and describe characters and settings. First graders will understand text features such as glossaries, and will be able to identify the main topic. Students' analytical skills will extend to identifying the central message/lesson/theme, understanding character and plot development, and evaluating the impact of word choice

Math Goals

In 1st grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to improve speed and accuracy adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., $17 - 8$). Another important goal in 1st grade is adding with a sum of 100 or less; this will rely on understanding what the digits mean in a number such as 63 (namely, 63 is six tens and three ones). Working with multi-digit addition this year will set the stage for 2nd grade, when your child will be working with three-digit numbers and adding and subtracting with larger numbers.

Social Studies Goals

In the first grade, students continue their introduction to United States history through the study of selected historical figures. In the history strand, students study the important contributions each historical person made. In the geography strand, students learn about where these historical people lived and explore important basic geographic concepts. The civics strand provides a study of the positive character traits exhibited by these important historical figures. The economics strand continues the introduction of basic economic concepts.

Science Goals

The First Grade Georgia Standards of Excellence for science engage students in raising questions about the world around them and seeking answers by making observations. First graders use whole numbers to analyze scientific data. They identify how magnets pull on all things made of iron and either attract or repel other magnets. First graders create drawings that correctly depict something being described. The students are asked to plan and carry out simple investigations to understand patterns (shadows, sound, weather, and daily needs of plants and animals) observed in the world around them and make predictions based on these investigations. They follow safety rules.