**ABCs of First Grade!**

* Attendance is very important! If your child misses school, please remember to write a note or call the office telling why your child was absent. Please plan vacations and appointments during non-school times if at all possible. Frequent absences and tardies negatively impact your child’s learning. Getting in the habit of being late to school or gone often negatively impacts your child’s learning beginning in kindergarten.
* Backpacks and folders should be checked **and returned** every day!
* Every child's Birthday is important.  I will send a note home shortly before the special day to arrange for treats. I will recognize summer birthdays at the end of the school year.
* Communication is important. Feel free to Contact me whenever you have a question or concern. I will return your call or email within 24 hours.
* My system for Discipline is simple. I work hard to make the classroom a positive and safe place for all. Our class follows the school rule: Bobcat learners are respectful of self, others and things. Problems will be handled individually to meet the needs of each child.
* Each child is Different and will therefore be handled differently when it comes to academic needs. This is not to say that there won’t be consistent Expectations.
* School should be Enjoyable and I work hard to provide a classroom where learning is Fun!
* We will be going on at least one Field Trip. We always like for parents to go with us, but younger siblings are not allowed to go on the trip. This is a chance for first graders to spend time with their classmates.
* Learning is Fun!
* G is for the Good times we will have learning all year!
* Students will have short Homework assignments Monday through Thursday. The Homework will vary and coordinate with skills we have been working on in the classroom. They will also include practicing sight words and math facts. Please return the homework in the go home folder the next day (preferably) but no later than one week late.
* Honesty, I will communicate with you as honestly as I can about your child, even if the news isn’t so great.
* It is Important to keep all records current. If you move, get a new phone number, change work numbers or change after school care routines, please be sure to inform the school office.
* Independence is a very important skill for first graders to develop both at home and at school. I believe in not doing things for children that they can do for themselves but do believe in guiding them towards recognizing their self-reliance capabilities.
* Join the La Center PTO and get involved with our school! Parent participation is important and valued. Every little bit of help counts!
* The Keys to a successful school year include good communication between home and school, a positive attitude, family support and good attendance (this includes being on time to class). When families are positively involved in education, the student will be better able to meet academic and social challenges.
* Library visits will take place once a week, and two books can be checked out each session providing books previously borrowed are returned.
* Money is difficult for a child to keep track of. Please send in any money in a sealed, labeled envelope or zipper bag.  We now have the option of paying for many school related fees online which is a great option for parents. Please let me know if you would like more information on this.
* Music and Movement help facilitate learning and engage the brain. We use both often in the classroom!
* Our school Nurse is on staff 5 days a week to take care of kids and medications, please talk with her if you have any questions regarding prescriptions, allergies or other health concerns.  If your child has a fever or has been sick the night before, please do not send him/her to school until they are **fever free for 24 hours**.    Also, please do not send medications to school with your child. He/she will not be allowed to self-administer medications of any type. Medications at school must be accompanied by a doctors note.
* Newsletters will be sent home bi-weekly, additional reminders and notes will be sent as needed.
* Always sign your child in and out of the Office when picking him/her up or dropping off.  Please be prompt when picking your child up.
* Parent/teacher conferences will be held twice a year (fall and spring). I look forward to meeting each parent individually!
* Please make sure that we have your current Phone number at home and at work. We also need a number of a trusted friend or family member to call if we cannot reach you in the event of an emergency.
* Play is important! It is not a waste of time; great learning and problem solving can develop from play.
* Parents are Partners in learning! Enough said!
* Always let me know if you have any Questions or concerns.  I’ll gladly address them!
* Please review our school Rules and the Collaborative Agreement (both in the student handbook) with your child. It's important that your family understands them.
* Reading is very important.  Please read to your child, with your child and have your child read to you as often as possible.
* I believe in teaching responsibility and respect for others.
* We will do Sharing at school beginning in a few weeks.
* Please make sure that your child knows how to Tie his/her shoes. I know it seems simple, but first graders really should know how to perform this task!
* Your child is important to me! I will always treat your child with lots of love, respect, and Understanding!!
* I love parent Volunteers. If you have some time to offer--either in the classroom or at home, please let me know. Help is always needed and appreciated.  If you aren't able to come for any reason, please give as much notice as possible.  I count and plan on you!!  You must always sign in at the office and get a Visitor's pass.  Strangers on campus cause concern and will be asked to report to the office. Remember, --not everyone knows you. Each volunteer must fill out a volunteer packet **2 weeks** before volunteering. This includes 2 weeks before field trips.
* Have your child Wear practical clothes to school.  I will make every effort to protect your child's clothes but sometimes life happens! Also, please label all jackets, sweaters, backpacks, and lunch boxes with permanent ink.    The office also has some extra clothes in case your child needs them, but supplies are very limited! NOTE: If you have any old clothes to donate to the school, it would be greatly appreciated.
* Y is for You! Please remember that you are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can!
* Z is for Zoom! Sit back and watch your child's skills take off! You will be amazed and surprised at the changes this year.

Here’s looking forward to a great year! Mrs. Cooper ☺