



The **ABC**'s of FIRST GRADE

Please Read

ABSENCES: Much of our learning takes place together in class. We do lots of hands-on activities and group work. Please plan to attend school everyday. Being present for daily instruction keeps your child from falling behind. If your child is absent, please send in a note/excuse on the day they return to school. If you know that your child will be out of school, please send a note with your child or feel free to contact his or her classroom teacher(s) via DOJO or email at tbryant@buffaloschools.org, smparsons@buffaloschools.org or cadeveny@buffaloschools.org.

ARRIVAL: Students will be able to enter the building at 9:00am. At 9:15, students will be marked tardy and must be accompanied by an adult to the main office. **Students should come to school prepared and ready to tackle the day.**

BIRTHDAYS: If you would like to send a treat with your child on or near his/her birthday, please feel free to do so. These treats will be eaten during our snack time or after lunch. If your child has a summer birthday, you may send in treats on his/her "half-birthday." ***Due to COVID and other restrictions, please note that items must be nut free, store bought, and pre-packaged individually. ** If your child has specific food allergies and you would prefer for them to have their own treat, please feel free to send them in.*****

COMMUNICATION: We look forward to working with you and your child this year. Communication will be very important as the year unfolds. Your child will have an agenda and take home folder (black) this year. It will contain our daily homework (agenda) and other important information that assists with communication between home and school. **PLEASE CHECK FOLDERS & AGENDAS DAILY. They should be taken home and returned to school the next day.**

CLASS DOJO: Class Dojo is a free app. It will be utilized to support our classroom and parent community. It will also be a safe and simple way to communicate between home and school daily. It will be used to track student skills and behavior within the classroom. A parent letter with a sign up code will be sent home. I strongly suggest that everyone signs up, as it is very free and very useful!

DISMISSAL: Dismissal begins at 3:25pm. **If there are any permanent changes in home transportation, please contact the school and transportation immediately. If your child has a different dismissal plan for that day, please send in a note or contact the main office.**

DOJO MESSENGER: is our preferred method of communication because of the quick turn-around. Please be sure to sign up. Also, if you have an email address that you check regularly, please provide it to me to maximize our communication.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: should be on file in the office. **If your address, or any of your phone numbers change, please inform the office as well as The First Grade Team as soon as possible.**

FIELD TRIPS: We may be taking field trips throughout the year. Keep a look out for information on any field trips that may pop up. Details will be announced in our homework folders.

GRADING: Students will receive quarterly progress reports and report cards. However, to check weekly grades and progress throughout the year, please sign up with PARENT PORTAL. This will grant you access to your child's grades at any time.

HEALTH CONDITIONS– If your child has any health conditions we need to know about, please notify The First Grade Team AND the school nurse.

HOMEWORK: Students will have homework in hopes of creating routine and promoting responsibility. **Students are expected to read and complete a math activity every night. Spelling and site word practice will also be recommended daily.**

INDEPENDENCE: Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. First Graders are very capable of doing

many things on their own and we encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following self-help skills at home with your child: *zipping, tying, dressing, etc.* **It is also helpful to have your child wear Velcro shoes until he or she learns to tie his or her shoes well.**

INCENTIVES: We all know that the offer of incentives can be a fun way to help motivate students to succeed. Ask your child about Class Dojo, “Brownie Points,” weekly shopping. We also work throughout the year to earn class prizes such as Dance Parties, Pizza Parties, Board Game Day, and much more.

JOYFUL LEARNING: Our goal as your child’s teacher(s) is to provide the kind of learning environment that he or she not only learns well in, but enjoys being in. Our school district has very high expectations for learning in first grade. Our job is to help your child meet those expectations AND make it fun.

KEEP INFORMED: by checking daily classroom dojo posts and private messages for information. Also, **please check your child’s agenda nightly** for assignments and reminders.

NEWSLETTERS: will be sent home each month in students’ take home folder (black) to inform you of our focus and upcoming lessons. Important information is always included, so please read carefully. In addition, our school-wide newsletter is sent home once a month.

PROGRESS REPORTS: or classroom checkups will be sent home frequently to inform parents of student progress academically and behaviorally. **They must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned the following school day.**

QUESTIONS: Instead of asking your child, “What did you do in school today?” ask, “What book did you read during independent reading?” or “What did you learn in math?” or “Tell me what you wrote about during Writing Workshop!” Show that you’re interested, and ask specific questions. Most likely, your child will respond positively and more openly.

QUICK GOODBYES– Quick goodbyes (at home, in the car, or in the cafeteria) will leave drier eyes.

REPORT CARDS: will be sent home quarterly. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s report card or progress, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SNACK: Although students will be provided with breakfast and lunch each day, they will most likely rely on a little something extra to help get them through the day. In order to keep sharp minds and full bellies, we ask that you provide a snack for your child to bring to school daily. If for some reason you simply cannot send a snack(s), please let us know so other arrangements can be made. The kids really depend on a little something to keep them going all day.

SUPPLIES: A supply list was provided to indicate the items your child needs in class. **Please make sure your child is prepared for school every day with those essential items.** Your child should also have supplies at home (as well as a quiet place to work) to complete at-home assignments. If obtaining supplies is difficult due to financial constraints, please let us know and we will be happy to make sure your child has what they need to succeed this year.

TARDIES: If your child arrives at school after 9:15 am, they will need to report to the main office accompanied by an adult.

UNIFORM: Students will not be expected to wear uniforms. However, students are expected to comply with Buffalo Public Schools Dress Code (See Handbook). It is important to teach scholars that we represent ourselves and our school in a positive and professional manner, in other words-- come dressed for success!

Each student in our classroom is unique. We will do our best to differentiate instruction to ensure that all children get what they need to be successful in First Grade. It is **EXTRAORDINARILY** important for your child to have a successful First Grade **YEAR**. We as a team will do our best to make learning fun and exciting – you can expect a lot of growth in so many different areas. It will seem as if the upcoming school year will **ZOOM** by!

Feel free to detach bottom portion to keep on the fridge or other accessible place at home

Contact info for your child's First Grade teachers:

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Buffalo, NY 14216

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