

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
First Grade
2020-2021**

Components of the Day:

- Classroom Schedule- We will have all components of Language Arts in the morning. Math, Science/Social Studies will be in the afternoon. Once our schedule is "set in stone", I will send home a detailed schedule.
- Language Arts- This subject is taught daily in a two-hour block and includes reading, writing/language, and spelling. The first few week of first grade consists of a first grade readiness unit. More information concerning reading will come home with your child!
- Math- In our classroom, I will use a variety of resources, including the enVision series, math centers, and journaling to teach the mathematical standards required for first grade. This will enable the students to apply problem-solving strategies to all areas of life through the use of hands-on manipulatives.
- Science/Social Studies – We will be learning about ourselves, each other, and the world we live in through themes that appeal to young children. We will cover what is required in the curriculum guides that correlate with various STEM activities. We will never study both subjects in one day. I will alternate teaching both subjects throughout the year. Grading is somewhat different for these two subjects.

Other Information:

- Homework- Your child will have a homework folder found inside his or her J.UN.G.L.E. binder. Please check this *nightly* to ensure completion of all homework. If you see a blank activity or something that needs to be corrected, please have your child complete and return it to school. Homework is typically given on a Friday afternoon and expected to be completed and returned by the following Friday. Therefore, students are given a full week before the homework is expected to be completed and returned.








- **Graded Papers**- Your child's papers will be graded as he or she turns them in. I will then file the papers in your child's folder. Once graded, these papers will be sent home in your child's J.UN.G.L.E. binder. If a paper has a numerical grade such as "95," please know that a grade was recorded in the grade book. Occasionally, if the majority of the class did poorly on a specific lesson sheet, I will drop the grade. If a grade has been dropped, there will be an "X" over the original score.
- **Attendance**- Good attendance is vital for success in school. Illnesses will always occur, and I will make every effort to help your child understand the missed concepts that were taught and make up assignments. In order for travel to count as an excuse, Mrs. Finch must approve it **PRIOR** to the trip. Death and family illnesses are exceptions to this procedure; however, an excuse from home must be turned in upon return to school. Students are dismissed to go to the classrooms promptly at 7:45 a.m. **Please have your child at school prior to 8:00 so that they can complete morning duties before the day begins!** Please keep in mind that students are marked tardy if he or she is not in class promptly at 8:00 a.m.
- **Snack** - We will eat snack daily. Your child can choose to purchase snack and juice in the "Snack Shack" or choose to bring one from home. Typically, juice and snack costs about \$1.50 a day. Please do not send in carbonated drinks or candy at this time. **Please label money each day for snack in an envelope with your child's name, what the money is to be used for, and the monetary amount.** You may NOT write checks for snack.
- **Lunch**- The cost of lunch is \$2.50 a day. You may use PayPams and pay online for lunches. Checks are acceptable and should be made out to DPES. Just like snack money, lunch money and ice cream money **should be sent in an envelope labeled with you your child's name, what the money is to be used for, and the monetary amount.**
- **Labels**- Please place your child's name on his or her backpack, lunchbox, and all outer garments. I also ask that you send ANY money in an envelope with both your child's name and the monetary amount written on the front. **Please send lunch money and snack money in separate envelopes!**

- **Book Orders**- I will send home book club order forms several times this year and you will be able to order online. I will send home instructions about how to order online with the order form. This is a wonderful way to buy books for your child at a reduced price. It is also a great way to help get additional books and supplies for our classroom. Ordering books through the book club is completely optional.
- **"Marvelous Monkey"**- You will receive a list showing your child's name and the week he or she is the "Marvelous Monkey" of the week. Each day of that week, your child will bring in something, including a poster. The poster should be turned in on the Friday *before* his or her assigned week and it should also be all about them. Each student's poster is to be displayed for their assigned week only. Failure to send in the poster will shorten the amount of time it is displayed. The following explains what is to be brought each day:
 - ***Monday**-*child will explain poster*
 - ***Tuesday**-*child will bring favorite short book*
 - ***Wednesday**-*child will bring favorite small toy*
 - ***Thursday**-*child gets letters from other students*





****One More Thing...**

Please save Box Tops that are found on many food products and other "household" items. We collect them in our classroom and we are able to "redeem" them at Turtle Shell (a school supply store here in Prattville). I am able to buy items for our classroom that will benefit all the students. I encourage you to save Box Tops all during the school year. If you will, please send them in periodically in a zippered bag so that I can turn them in throughout the year. I would really appreciate you collecting those for us. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! ☺

Special Notes

-  If you have any changes during the school year in your address, telephone numbers, place of employment, or emergency contacts, please remember to send this information in **writing** to me.
-  Please notify me, in **writing**, of any changes in student transportation (permanent or temporary) as they occur throughout the year.
-  Students are to be unloaded in the back of the building (McQueen Smith Road drop-off) OR on the side of the building (Jay Street drop-off). Please do not drop students off in the front. It would be very dangerous because the buses unload there. If you want to check your child out then you may do so in the front office. (All check-outs must occur **BEFORE 2:30!**)
-  Please use the provided carpool tag in this folder and have it visible in your car window when picking up your child after school.
-  Bus questions should be directed to the Transportation Office. The telephone number is (334) 361-3897. PLEASE contact them before the first day of school to find out your child's bus number AND if they are to ride on the first or second load. This is SO important!
-  We *encourage* first graders to use a tote bag or backpack. No rolling backpacks will be accepted.
-  Please pin your child's yellow transportation tag to their backpack for at least the first two weeks of school!

Money Matters

-  Please **ALWAYS** send any money /checks in a marked envelope with your child's name, what it is for, and the monetary amount on the front of the envelope. In the event that the money is misplaced, there will be a better chance of it being returned.
-  Lunch tickets may be purchased in the lunchroom. Student lunches are \$2.50 per day.
-  First grade handwriting paper to be used for the entire school year is \$8.00.
-  Students will be allowed to go to the supply store when money is sent in a **LABELED** envelope.