

## **Welcome**

Welcome! First grade will be one of the most exciting and memorable years in your child's education. I look forward to working with both you and your child to make this year as successful as possible!

## **Meet the Teacher**

I am originally from Eufaula, Alabama and graduated from Eufaula High School in 1994. I attended Auburn University (WAR EAGLE!), and graduated in 1998 with a degree in Elementary Education. This is my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching. I have spent the last 16 of those years here at Daniel Pratt Elementary School.

My husband, Chad, and I have four wonderful children: Mason (18), Ryley (16), Josie (12), Coleman (20, stepson). Josie attends Prattville Junior High School as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Mason and Ryley both attend Prattville High School as a Senior and a Junior. Coleman attends Southern Union Junior College.

I enjoy exercising, traveling with my family, being outdoors, and watching baseball and football. My boys both play baseball and my daughter enjoys horseback riding.

Our home is full of excitement!

## **Classroom Schedule**

Generally, Language Arts and Reading are taught in the morning. This includes Reading, Grammar, Phonics, Spelling, and Writing. Math, Science, and Social Studies are typically taught in the afternoon. I will be sending home a more detailed daily schedule soon.

## **Reading/Language Arts**

Reading and Language Arts will be taught mostly in a whole group setting this year, due to COVID-19. However, I will have opportunities to work individually with your child. Face shield and masks will be worn to protect both your child and myself during these one-on-one sessions. I will work with your child to discover areas of strength and weakness to customize my instruction. READING WITH YOUR

CHILD AT HOME NIGHTLY IS SO IMPORTANT! Your child will be learning many new phonics, skills, sight words, and comprehension skills this year. We will also be focusing on learning to read smoothly and fluently. I will occasionally send home extra reading material for your child. I will also enjoy reading TO your child on a daily basis. We will read and have fun discussions with several chapter books this year. I want to develop and encourage a love for reading in each of my students!

Reading, Grammar, and Spelling homework will be given almost every week. Be sure to take a look at my newsletter or website each week, understand the skills I will be teaching, and practice reinforcing those skills at home.

My students will do a lot of writing this year. We will keep writing journals and write in them often, as well as participate in countless other writing activities throughout the year. Many of these will be fun and exciting activities that will encourage your child to express himself through writing and artwork.

Letter formation and handwriting skills will be taught and practiced, and handwriting scores will be given based on S(satisfactory), N(needs improvement), and U(unsatisfactory) scale.

### **Mathematics**

In an early elementary classroom, I feel the use of hands-on activities is so important. We will do our very best to use individual manipulatives as much as possible, without having to share and risk the spread of germs. Students will typically have a practice homework sheet to do the night before a math test.

### **Science/Social Studies**

These subjects are usually taught in the afternoon. I will often rotate these subject areas. For example, I may teach two weeks of Science, then two weeks of Social Studies. Many times, the Science and Social Studies skills I teach will be based on fun, seasonal activities. Grades for Science and Social Studies will be based on the same S, N, and U scale as Handwriting.

### Homework

Most weeks, a homework sheet will be sent home on Mondays and due on Fridays. Please do not send this back before Friday. This sheet will reinforce the reading, grammar, and phonics skills for the week. Math homework is usually sent home the night before a test. In addition to that, please make sure you read nightly with your child.

### Transportation

Car riders or walkers should arrive at school between 7:15-7:45 am. Please do not arrive before 7:15 am. Car riders should be dropped off in the loop beside the gym. Turn onto Jay Street off Sheila Blvd to find this drop off area. Buses drop off in front of the school. Do not come through the loop in front of the school, as this could cause a safety issue for our bus riders and your child. If you would like for your child to eat breakfast at school, it will be delivered and eaten inside our classrooms this year.

Afternoon dismissal times are as follows:

2:40-Walkers

2:45-Carpool

2:50-1<sup>st</sup> Load

2:55-Daycare

3:00-2<sup>nd</sup> Load

3:05-YMCA

If your child will be a walker, you will need to practice with him/her before the first day of school and make sure he/she knows exactly where to go.

Bus questions should be directed to Autauga County Schools Transportation.

Please be sure to know what bus number your child will ride, and if it is 1<sup>st</sup> load or 2<sup>nd</sup> load.

Any transportation changes must be made in writing by note or fax by 2 pm each day. Written notification is also required for any permanent changes in your child's transportation. Our fax # is 334-358-2393.

### **Lunch/Snack**

All money **MUST** be sent in an envelope with your child's name, amount of money, and purpose of the money. This includes lunch and snack. Please do not combine lunch and snack money in the same envelope. This money goes to 2 different places. You can pay for lunch by the day, the week, the month, etc. The money will go into your child's lunch account. You can add more money into the account at any time. You can also set up a "PayPams" account and you can add money online.

We have snack every day. Please send money for snack in a labeled envelope or send a snack for your child to eat at school. No glass containers or carbonated beverages are allowed. A price list will be sent home and/or on the DPES website.

### **Miscellaneous Information**

1. All money must be sent in a labeled envelope. Place envelope in the zipper pouch in your child's binder.
2. Please label all of your child's personal items.
3. Fill out a medication consent form when your child needs to take medicine at school. You must bring the medicine. Do not send any medication with your child to school.
4. Attendance is very important. Please refer to the DPES Handbook for more information on attendance.
5. Birthdays: You may send individually wrapped snacks for the entire class to enjoy during our snack time on your child's birthday. The snacks should be sent to school with your child. We will eat the snack and sing "Happy Birthday" to your child during our snack time.
6. Field Trips: Unfortunately, field trips will not be allowed this year.
7. Parent visitors: Unfortunately, parent visits nor volunteers will be allowed this year.
8. Box Tops: Please collect Box Tops for Education that can be found on many types of food and household items. You can send these in a Ziploc bag whenever you have collected a few. This money goes directly into our classroom!

### **Communication**

We are partners in your child's education! Please feel free to call, email, or send notes if you have any questions or concerns.

\*Email address: [tressa.roten@acboe.net](mailto:tressa.roten@acboe.net)

(Please email directly, rather than going through the school website, as sometimes these emails are not delivered.)

\*School phone number: 334-361-6400

IMPORTANT: Please go to [www.dpeseagles.com](http://www.dpeseagles.com) and sign up for "Notify Me". Please also read carefully through all of the information on this website, particularly under the "parent info" tab.

### **Grading Procedures**

INOW is the system we use to post student grades. This enables you to view these grades online. The cost is \$10 per DPES FAMILY. I highly recommend that all parents register for this. It will help you keep track of your child's academic progress.

Graded papers will also be sent home in a timely manner. Some papers may need to be signed and returned. These will be marked "Sign and Return".

Numerical grades will be given for: Language Arts(Spelling and Grammar), Reading, and Math.

S,N, and U will be given for Science, Social Studies, and Handwriting.

Report Cards will be issued at the end of every 9 weeks and Progress Reports will be issued at the end of every 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  Weeks. These must be signed and returned.

\*Please note that any of the information in this packet is subject to change, due to COVID-19 pandemic.\*

**I am so excited to teach your child this year! ☺**

