The ABC's of First Grade

A Parent Resource Pamphlet 2019-2020

2+2=4
3+3=6
4+4=8

Attendance: Consistent attendance is a key component to success in 1st grade. Students should arrive by 8:45 AM to maximize instructional time.

Birthdays: Students will have their birthdays recognized over the morning announcements. If you wish, you may send in a small, non-food item for your child to share with his/her classmates.

Conference Day: We will meet to discuss your child’s progress on Friday, November 22nd. Keep an eye out for sign up information.

Dismissal Changes: Please send a note to school to inform us of any changes in your child’s dismissal. We are unable to let your child go home with a friend or change his usual dismissal procedure without written permission from you. Students may only ride home on their assigned buses. If a change in dismissal procedure occurs during the school day, you must call the office.

Email: Our email is included in this brochure. We will return your email or make a phone call, if necessary, as soon as possible.

Field Trips: We plan to go on two field trips this year. More information will follow once details are confirmed.

Grading Scale: The following grading scale is used in 1st grade: CD- Consistently Demonstrating, P- Progressing, N- Needs Development. Primary achievement codes equal the following numeric values: CD = 80%-100% P = 40%-79%

N = 0%-39%
All Baltimore County students in grades 1-3 will be graded using this scale.

Homework: Your child will have homework Monday through Thursday to reinforce skills and concepts taught in class. Assignments will usually be glued in their homework book, but some assignments may be found in the take-home folder. Homework is due the following day and should take no longer than 30 minutes. Your child may spend less or more time completing an assignment depending on the level of difficulty. Please check your child’s homework book each night and initial it once they have completed it.

Individual Behavior: We utilize a positive approach to classroom discipline. A behavior folder with monthly calendars will come home daily to inform you of your child’s social and behavioral progress. Our goal is to help students learn how to make good behavior choices.

Jobs in the Classroom: Students will be assigned a classroom job that promotes independence and responsibility.

Keep Updated: You can stay updated by reviewing and signing nightly homework, checking email and Classtag app, reading newsletters, checking BCPSone, and signing the behavior calendar. More info will come about signing up for Classtag.

Lunch: Lunch time for Mrs. Barnes’ and Ms. Rickels’ classes is from 11:20-11:50. Lunch time for Mrs. Wilkins’ class is from 11:15-11:45.
**Management:** We are implementing “Houses”, a school wide character education, relationship and community building program.

**Newsletters:** Classroom newsletters will be sent electronically the last Thursday of each month.

**Our Schedule:**
- 8:30 – 8:50 Arrival and Announcements
- 8:50 – 9:00 Everyday Counts Calendar Activities/Morning Meeting
- 9:00 – 11:15 Phonics/ELA/Writing
- Lunch
- 11:50 – 12:05 Read Aloud
- 12:05 – 1:10 Math
- 1:10 – 1:45 Science/Social Studies/Health
- 1:50 - Pack up
- 1:55 – 2:15 Supervised Play
- 2:15 – 3:05 Special Area Classes
- 3:15 Dismissal

**Parties:** We will have classroom celebrations for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Valentine’s Day, and Spring Break.

**Questions:** We can be reached by phone (410) 887-5947, by note, or by e-mail. Since we cannot guarantee we will have the opportunity to check e-mail during the instructional day, please do not e-mail time-sensitive information, such as dismissal changes. Please call the office to notify us of last-minute changes.

**Room Parents:** Each first grade class will need several room parents to work as a collaborative group to coordinate events and share information with parents.

**Specials:** First graders will have daily specials that consist of art, music, P.E., and library.

**Take-Home Folder:** This folder will come home every day. Please check the folder each night for important information as well as some of your child’s daily work. Items on the LEAVE side should be taken out and left at home. Anything on the RETURN side can be read, possibly signed, and returned to school the following day. Please help your child remember to show you this folder each night and bring it back to school the next day.

**Using Technology:** Students will have access to a device in the classroom for a variety of purposes, including skill practice, research projects, and some assessments.

**Volunteers:** We love volunteers! Moms, dads, grandparents... Anyone wanting to volunteer must complete a volunteer training session each year. We will need volunteers for field trips, to help prepare classroom materials, to help with class celebrations, etc.

**Website:** Please access BCPSone to check your child’s grades.

**XYZ:** WE are excited to work with you and your child this year! Make sure he/she gets plenty of zzzz’s each night as we have exciting days planned this year!

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**1st Grade Teachers**

Mrs. Amanda Barnes  
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Ms. Sam Rickels  
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Mrs. Debbie Wilkins  
dwilkins@bcps.org