

Meet the Teacher Night Information

Mrs. Weeks 1st Grade Classroom

Important Information

Lunch Time: 10:45 - 11:15

Library Day: Thursday Afternoons

Specials Schedule: Monday - Art
Tuesday - Spanish and Music
Wednesday - Music and P.E.
Thursday - Computer and REAL
Friday - P.E. and Spanish

Classroom Schedule:

8:25-8:35 Arrival
8:25-8:45 Morning Activity Bins and Announcements
8:45-10:45 Shared Reading, Phonics, Grammar, Guided Reading
10:45-11:15 Lunch
11:15-11:35 Afternoon Meeting
11:35-12:25 Whole Group Math
12:25-1:25 Specials
1:25-2:00 Snack / Math Groups
2:00-2:30 Writing
2:30-2:50 Recess
2:50-3:30 Science / Social Studies
3:40 Dismissal

Email: lweeks@bluevalleyk12.org

Classroom Website: <https://teachers.bluevalleyk12.org/Domain/559>

Classroom Phone Number: 913-239-6264 (call office during school hours)

Office Phone Number: 913-239-6200



READING

Students will be doing whole group reading and small group reading lessons. Small reading groups will be based on reading levels or reading strategies. These groups will be starting sometime at the end of August / beginning of September. Some students will be bringing home a book in a Reading Buddy Bag M-Th for extra reading practice. **Please be sure that these books get put back into their Reading Buddy Bag each night if your child brings one home.**

It is an expectation for first graders to read around 20 minutes a night when possible. I will be sending home a reading log where you or your child can fill out the books they read each night starting in September. Please only fill out 1 book per night as I count nights and not minutes read. Each month I will decide the number of nights that will be required to read and write it on your child's reading log. Most months will be around 16-18 nights in the month. The 1st day of each month I will check the logs to see who will be participating in a little reading party. These parties last no longer than 10 minutes so those that don't make the goal won't be missing out much but it will still encourage kids to read at night.

We are starting a new reading program this year so some of this may change as we get to know the program better. Thank you for being flexible as we are trying to get used to this new program! It is called Benchmark Advanced.



SPELLING / PHONICS

This school year we are focusing more on phonics skills rather than memorizing a set list of words. This is an area that 1st grade is working on improving and changing from years past. I will be letting you know what spelling patterns we are working on each week in the newsletters. Some activities that can be done at home with these spelling patterns are finding words in books that have it, think of a list of words together that have the spelling pattern, and finding words in everyday situations that have the spelling pattern such as road signs. Every Friday I will give the students a little assessment to see how they are mastering the spelling pattern. I will not be sending these assessments home but you can see their score on their online grades. If your child does not score well on a test, I will email you and let you know what area they need to work on.

As far as correcting spelling in everyday work, we focus more on stretching out our sounds in 1st grade rather than correcting every word they misspell. With that being said, I think it is important for the students to see how words are spelled correctly so if you see any of your child's words misspelled that come home, it is okay to have them correct it at home! I will choose 1 writing assignment a month to have the students publish where I do expect perfect spelling as well (with my help).



WRITING

Writer's workshop is the format that I do during writing. What this means is that the students go through the entire writing process within a week or two. They will brainstorm, create a rough draft, peer edit, revise, and publish at least 1 piece of writing every month. I will also be holding writing conferences with students individually to address any skills that they may need to work on and set goals for them to achieve while writing.



MATH

The students will typically be completing a math work page every school day. The point of our math program is to introduce many ways to solve problems. We do not expect them to master every way that is introduced but to find what works best for themselves instead. The students will get a pre-test before each unit to tell me how fast or slow I will need to teach the unit. They will get a post-test after each unit as well to see how much growth they made throughout the unit. I will keep these tests and you will be able to see how well they do on each one by looking at your child's online grades.

The scores they receive on the tests and my observation in class will help me create guided math groups. I typically do one math group a day that helps enrich or support student math skills. These groups will change often depending on what unit we are on.



SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE

Our social studies will mostly be based on what is being taught during our reading time. Most of these topics will include family, friends, holidays, now and then, etc.

We got a new Science program a couple of years ago that explores science topics on a much deeper level than ever before! Some topics that will be covered are plants and animals, light and sound, and sky patterns.



HOMWORK

The students are required to complete at least ONE Challenge of the Week each week. These challenges are listed on the newsletter each week (newsletters go home every Friday). If you have some extra time or want to do more with your child, feel free to complete all 3 challenges! I am perfectly okay with only 1 challenge being completed each week though! These challenges will be completed in your child's homework notebook. I am not picky how the challenges are completed in the notebooks as the students do not have a lot of experience with writing in notebooks. As long as I can tell they did one of the challenges at home, they will receive credit! A date at the top of the page would be helpful however 😊. PLEASE do not exceed more than 30 minutes of homework each night! That includes the 20 minutes of reading they are expected to do each night! They have plenty of years to worry about homework. I want 1st grade to be fun and not stressful for anyone! Student homework notebooks will start going home on August 18th. The 1st homework assignment will be due on August 25th and every Friday after that.



ZONES OF REGULATION

When a student seems to be struggling with behavior in any particular way, these are the steps I will most likely be taking with them (see back of packet for Zones of Regulation poster):

1. I will be directing them to the Zones of Regulation chart to identify a way to redirect their behavior. This chart has many options for the students to choose from to help them get back in the green zone (ready to learn). We make it a BIG deal that being in another zone is not a bad thing. It is more important to identify a strategy to get them back in the green zone so they can continue their learning.
2. If looking at the chart does not redirect their behavior, I will have them fill out a Zones of Regulation think sheet with me. This will give them a time to discuss the matter with me privately and to identify a strategy to get back in the green zone in a more engaging matter. These think sheets will go home with your child the day that they are used. Again, this is not a way for them to get into trouble. It is a way for them to focus on strategies that help them get back in the green zone.
3. If for some reason the think sheet does not help them get in the green zone, I will have them help me write an email to you providing you details about how their day went and what kind of strategies were tried to get them back in the green zone. This is just a way to keep the communication going between all of us, not a way of getting them into trouble.
4. If a student is consistently having to email home, I will create an individual behavior plan for the student to help them regulate their behavior on a more consistent basis with a more effective approach.

****If I have students that do something extra special throughout the day, I will have them move to the VIP table. This table is filled with special writing utensils that are fun! A student might go to the VIP table for anything from having good handwriting for the first time or for being the only student who is following directions! There are a TON of reasons I will move students to the VIP table and the kids LOVE IT! They will also be able to wear a 'brag tag' that day to show their other teachers and friends!**



FIELD TRIPS

We will be going on two different field trips this school year. We will be going to the Kansas City Zoo and the Folly Theater. More information about these field trips will be provided at a later date.

****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PAID THE FIELD TRIP FEES IN PARENTVUE.****







CLASSROOM PARTIES

We will be having a Halloween party, Winter party, and a Valentines party. Dates and times for these will be provided in my weekly newsletters when it gets closer to that time. All parents are invited to join these parties but please do not bring any other children with you. This is a special time for the 1st graders to celebrate! When providing snacks for these parties, please be sure to look at the nut safe list. More information on these parties will be provided at a later date!

As a school, we have decided to not have birthday treats. Instead, we are going to have an extra recess in honor of the student! They will get to decide if they want indoor or outdoor recess (weather permitting). They will also be able to be line leader for the day. I will do the closest school day to their birthdays to celebrate. For any summer birthdays, I will find some extra time in August and May to celebrate their birthdays (which ever month is closest to their birthday).

The ZONES of Regulation®

			
<p>BLUE ZONE</p> <p>Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly</p>	<p>GREEN ZONE</p> <p>Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn</p>	<p>YELLOW ZONE</p> <p>Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control</p>	<p>RED ZONE</p> <p>Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control</p>

Deep Breath

Get a Drink



Write a Note



Take a Break



Name _____

Date _____

Circle which zone you are currently in:

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

Explain how you know you are in this zone:

What strategy did you use to get back to the Green Zone?
