

Parent Handbook

Ms. Fox
First Grade
Room A113

Jefferson Elementary
2014-2015



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

I set high standards for students' behavior in and out of the classroom. I let them know my expectations and encourage them to be role models for other students. As a class community we work together to learn and understand the expectations as well as develop strategies for dealing with problems. Taking responsibility for one's choices is a theme that is integrated into all areas of our classroom. Students who model appropriate and responsible behavior are intrinsically rewarded by their success and achievement. I believe in focusing on students' strengths to help them grow and succeed in a safe environment.

"Make Your Day" is an all school citizenship program that encourages students to self-manage their own behavior. First grade students who have followed school and classroom expectations, and have shown a positive attitude for the day will have earned personal points to "make their day." Make Your Day is based on the rule that, "Everyone has the right to learn and be physically and emotionally safe, free from interference from others". Students are asked to, "do what is expected and do it the best you can". In first grade students are given these classroom expectations:

1. I will work and play safely.
2. I will show respect for myself, others and property.
3. I will help make Jefferson a good place to learn.
4. I will try my best.

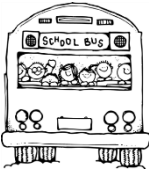
There are natural consequences for students who choose not to follow school/classroom expectations. Students who make inappropriate choices are choosing to take a time away from the class and/or activity based on a series of steps. Those students who have had repeated steps during our school day will have a note stating that they did not "make their day." Please take time to discuss the choices your child is making at school with him/her. Focus on generating ideas for changing the behavior instead of punishments. Our ultimate goal is for students to make responsible choices and understand that they do not have the right to interfere with another student's opportunity to learn.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and being on time to school is fundamental at Jefferson. First grade lessons and activities are group-centered and participation is essential. Please see that your child is prompt and prepared for the school day. The first bell rings at 9:10 and class begins at **9:15**. If your child is going to be absent or tardy, please notify the office at 425.385.7400.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

All students must meet and line up under the covered area by the gym in the morning. I will pick up the students and escort them to the classroom. Tardy students will need to check in at the office before coming to the classroom.



Students being picked up after school will be lined up behind the "1st Grade" cone. You may either park and meet your child in this line or stay in the circular driveway. We will send your child to your car when it is your turn in line. Please contact me if your child's end of the day routine changes.



LUNCH

As a first grade student your child will be eating lunch at school. First grade students will eat lunch at 11:30am. Your child may choose to bring a lunch to school or buy school lunch. Please check with the office to see if your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch prices. If your child is going to bring a lunch, please make sure your child's name is clearly marked on his/her lunch box. If your child is buying lunch, you can preload your child's lunch account online. If you are sending lunch money to school with your child, please put it in an envelope clearly marked with your student's name. All lunch money will need to be given directly to our Kitchen Manager, Kathy Pickett, in the cafeteria. All students will be required to practice and learn their 6 digit student number. This number will be used in the lunch room and to log onto student computers. Please help your student practice his/her student number at home.

SPECIALISTS

Below is our current schedule for specialists. Please make sure your student is wearing appropriate shoes and clothing on days when we are in the gym for PE.

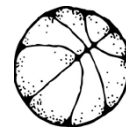
Monday - PE with Mrs. Trautmann

Tuesday - Music with Mrs. Reger

Wednesday - Library with Mr. Haney

Thursday - Music with Mrs. Reger

Friday - Computer Lab with Ms. Klujber and PE with Mrs. Trautmann



SCHOOL FOLDERS

To encourage and develop organizational skills, I will provide a folder for your child. This folder is green and will be sent home and then returned to school EVERYDAY. Please check this folder each evening with your child to encourage good study skills at home. This folder may eventually be replaced with a folder of your child's liking, however, please wait until January when the students are more comfortable with the "folder routine". Thank you!

One side of the green folder says "Leave" - papers on this side stay at home. The other side of the green folder says "Return" - these items need your attention (i.e. homework, notes to be signed, weekly homework chart) and should be sent back to school. I will give each student a weekly homework chart that is to remain in his/her folder until the end of school on Friday. This chart will also include weekly reminders and event updates. Set aside time every afternoon to have your child go through his/her folder. After you have attended to the items in the folder and completed homework, please sign the chart for that day. Setting up routines with your child early in the year for returning his/her signed homework chart and folder leads to success later in the year and throughout his/her school career. Please make this a daily priority and encourage responsibility on the part of your child.

HOMEWORK

Homework is used as a home/school connection to practice, review and reinforce skills and concepts covered during the school day. Homework assignments will be marked daily on your student's homework chart and may include reading, writing, math and science. Homework assignments will be due the next school day, unless otherwise noted. Your initials on the behavior/homework chart signal your child's completed practice. To encourage strong study habits, please establish a routine for homework including a set time, quiet working environment, and necessary supplies.



First grade homework at the beginning of the year should take about 15 minutes. This is a time to establish study skills. Homework may seem easy to your child, especially at the beginning of the year. Great! Acknowledge his/her success and use any extra time to read. Reading to, reading with, or reading alone are all ways to practice. A reading log will be a part of your child's homework routine, where they can record minutes read. Our first grade goal will be to read 15 minutes, 5 times a week.

WEEKLY READER

Weekly Reader is a Scholastic magazine for students. This publication is an excellent social studies and science resource for your child. We are requesting \$5.00 from each student in order to purchase a classroom subscription of Weekly Reader. Please make checks payable to Jefferson Elementary. Thank you!



BIRTHDAYS

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school please contact me a few days prior to the date. Goodies need to be store bought and/or packaged. Simple is best! To avoid hurting anyone's feelings, please distribute birthday party invitations outside of school, unless your child is inviting all the students in our class.

VOLUNTEERS

All classroom volunteers must be approved through our online application process. Volunteer clearance is good for 3 years, so if you completed an application last year, you would still be approved for this year. I will be creating a volunteer schedule to begin in October. Please complete the volunteer form (attached) if you are interested in being a classroom volunteer.