

ABC's of First Grade

A

Attendance - Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation.

Absences - If your child is absent from school for any reason, **you must send a note with the child on his/her return to school.** Please date the note and state briefly the reason for the absence. **Please attach any doctor's excuses to your note.**

Arrival - Car riders and walkers need to arrive at school no earlier than 7:10 a.m. Children should be dropped off at the front of the building and immediately go to the cafeteria until 7:30 a.m. Please have your child ready to unload all the way down to the fence at the gym. Also have your child ready to get out as quickly as possible. **If you are walking your child in, please park in the parking lot at the end of the building next to 5th grade.** At 7:30 a.m. the students will be sent to their classroom. Students are not permitted in the classroom earlier than 7:30 a.m. Please remember to say your goodbyes at the classroom door. **Children will be marked tardy if they arrive in the classroom after 7:45 a.m.** Please be aware that there is traffic after 7:30 due to the high number of vehicles arriving between 7:30 and 7:45.

After School - After school services cost \$7.00 per day if prepaid. After school is \$9.00 if you pay when picking up your child. After School hours are from 2:45-6:00 p.m.

Agenda - Your child will be receiving a personal Agenda book that will be used for the entire school year. The agenda will be used as a communication device between parent and teacher, daily behavior, important dates, and reminders. **Please make sure you check your child's agenda daily and return to school.** If your child loses his/her agenda the cost is \$5 to replace it.

B

Birthdays - Birthdays are important days. We do not celebrate with parties, but you are welcome to send cupcakes or cookies for your child's birthday. If you choose to send in cupcakes or cookies, you must drop them off in the front office or send them in with your child. Individual gifts or flowers should not be sent to the school. **Birthday invitations may not be passed out at school per Pickens County BOE policy.**

Book Orders - Your child may be bringing home a form to order books once a month. **If you wish to order, simply fill out the form and send the correct**

amount of money or a check made out to the book company in an envelope.

These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their child at a low price.

Breakfast - Breakfast will be served from 7:10 a.m. - 7:35 a.m. The cost of breakfast is \$1.25. Reduced price is \$0.30. Please communicate with your child whether he/she will eat this important meal at home or at school.

Bus – When your child rides a school bus, please reinforce proper behavior. Make sure your child knows his/her bus number.

C

Calendar – Please mark important dates in your calendar from the Parent-Student Handbook (found online).

Communication - I believe that communication between school and home is essential to your child's success at school. Therefore, I will be sending home notes regarding your child's progress, successes as well as any problems. **Please be sure to check your child's agenda and Friday Folder for any notes, and I will do the same for any notes you may send to me.** Please make sure to also check my classroom website for classroom newsletters and updates. You can visit the site at www.mscaglefirstgrade.weebly.com

Conferences – Parent-Teacher conferences may be requested at any time by sending a note to the teacher or an email to set up a time.

D

Dismissal – Upon dismissal, your child's teacher will escort your child to his/her bus or the loading area for car riders. **Car riders must be picked up promptly at school upon dismissal at 2:45 p.m.** Please remain in your car. If you are walking to pick up your child, you must go to the office and check him/her out. Parent parking is now located at the end of the building.

E

Early-Release Procedures – Please have an emergency plan for your child in case school is released early due to inclement weather. Discuss the plan with your child so that he/she is prepared. If school is dismissed early for any reason, you will receive an automated phone call from the school system. You may also call the information line at the county office which is 706-253-1710. You can retrieve the school closing details from the county or school website by going to www.pickens.k12.ga.us. This information is also available on WSB channel 2 as well as local radio station WYYZ 1490 am. Making sure the children are safely transported home is our top priority on these days so, **please do not ask us to call you personally as the phone lines quickly become jammed and we will be very busy caring for the students.**

Expectations - Just like in the "real world," students have rights and responsibilities in the classroom. These are explained and discussed at the beginning of the year and throughout the remainder of the school year. Students are expected to be respectful to others and responsible for their own learning and actions and to behave properly while at school.

F

Folders – Weekly folders will be sent home every Friday with your child. Please review all information in the folders and return them to school the following Monday. Included will be behavior reports, assignments, graded papers, tests, and notes.

G

Gym – Your child will be going to PE each week. Please keep this in mind when choosing clothing and shoes.

Grades - Please remember that grades are earned by the student, not given by the teacher. In order to earn high grades, the students will be expected to turn in assignments, complete and on time. Students will also earn grades through daily participation, daily work and tests.

H

Homework – Homework is an important part of your child's school experience. Supporting good work habits requires a joint effort. I will support your child and encourage good work habits at school. Your child will benefit greatly from your support and encouragement at home. Your child's homework should not take more than 20 minutes. If you find your child is having too much homework, it may be that he/she is not using his/her time responsibly in the classroom. Please go over your child's homework nightly to make sure that he/she understands the material and that it is completed properly. Your child will be rewarded at school for homework that is completed properly and turned in on time.

I

Ice Cream – Ice cream will be sold by the school as a daily snack option. **Snack Money cannot be included with lunch money AND it must be in an envelope labeled as snack so that it is not confused with other monies sent to school.** The following choices are available: Chocolate Cup, Strawberry Cup and Vanilla Cup for 50¢. Your child is also welcome to bring a snack from home if he/she does not want to purchase an ice cream.

Illness – The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. If your child becomes ill at school, he/she will be taken to the nurse and, if needed, you will be called to come get them. Please do not send the children to school if they are vomiting or if they have a temperature as these types of illnesses can make the entire classroom sick. **Our school has a policy of 24 hours vomit or fever free.** Please keep this in mind if your child is ill.

J

Journals – We write in journals at school each day. Please encourage your child to write at home, also.

K

Kindness – Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

L

Lunch – It will be a great assistance to us if **you purchase lunch for your child on a weekly or monthly basis.** Lunch for students is \$2.00. You will also receive a form to sign allowing your child to purchase extra food items if you so wish. Any questions concerning lunch accounts should be discussed with the cafeteria personnel as teachers do not have access to lunch account information.

M

Media Center –The children will have the opportunity to check-out three books. These books must be returned before checking out more books. Please encourage your child to check out AR books to work toward his/her reading goal and practice reading these books at home.

Money – Whenever you send money with your child, please put it in an envelope or Ziploc bag with your child's name, the specific purpose for the money and the teacher's name. If the money is for different purposes, please put it into separate envelopes or Ziploc bag. Please try to send the correct amount, as we cannot make change in the classroom.

Medication - When your child needs medication at school, you **MUST** meet with the nurse directly to complete the appropriate documentation. The medication must be sent to school in the original bottle with directions specifying dosage. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

N

Newsletters – I will e-mail a newsletter every Friday along with posting it on the classroom website. This newsletter will contain information on what we are studying, weekly spelling words, homework assignments, and any important dates. Please take time to read the newsletter each week.

O

Organization – Being organized is very important to student success. The children are encouraged to be organized with and responsible for their papers, assignments, and desk accessories while at school. We also encourage parents to allow the children to grow responsibly by making their lunch choices and unpacking themselves in the mornings. This quickly becomes routine for the children once they realize they have to take care of it themselves.

P

Parties – Following are the two main parties scheduled this year: Winter (at Christmas time) and the End of the Year. Information about these events will be sent home a few weeks before the event.

Physical Activity - Students will be involved in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily. This may be P.E. or recess. In case of bad weather, we will have our recess indoors. Please send gym shoes on the scheduled P.E. days.

PTO – Please become a part of Hill City's PTO. The PTO works very hard to provide much needed classroom supplies and student rewards. It is a great way for you to stay involved, informed, and connected to the school. Please watch your child's folder for sign up information.

Q

Questions – If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me by note, email or by phone.

R

Recess – The children will go out for recess every day except days with inclement weather (raining and/or below 35°). Please keep this in mind when helping your child select clothing for the day. Please keep a coat, sweater, or sweatshirt in your child's backpack at all times. This can come in handy for unexpected temperature changes.

S

Snack – We will designate a snack time in our schedule. Please be sure your child has a snack from home each day or you purchase ice cream from the school for \$0.50.

T

Together, we will make it a wonderful year!

Toys - Please check your child's backpack regularly to make sure he/she is **not** bringing toys to school.

U

Understanding our classroom rules and expectations is vital to the success of our school year.

V

Visiting at School – Parents are welcome to have lunch occasionally with their child. Please sign in at the office and wear a visitor's sticker.

Volunteering – There are many opportunities for you to participate in your child's school year. Volunteers are greatly appreciated at HCES! You will find information in the school packet concerning a **mandatory training program** for volunteers. PTO always needs lots of volunteers as well.

W

We are a Team – It is our responsibility to work together as parent and teacher to help your child have a successful first grade year.

X

Extra Special – Each child is extra special to us. Throughout the year, we grow to love and cherish each one individually.

Extra Practice - Anytime that you feel your child is struggling with a concept and needs extra practice, or challenges, please let me know and I will get you some extra materials.

Y

Year-long Calendar – Please observe the year-long calendar found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Also check the weekly newsletter for dates and times about upcoming events.

Z

Zooming through skills - First grade is filled with new concepts and skills that help to start their academic foundation. It is sometimes an adjustment from the kindergarten setting. Please know we will be patient and nurturing as we help the students learn these vital steps.