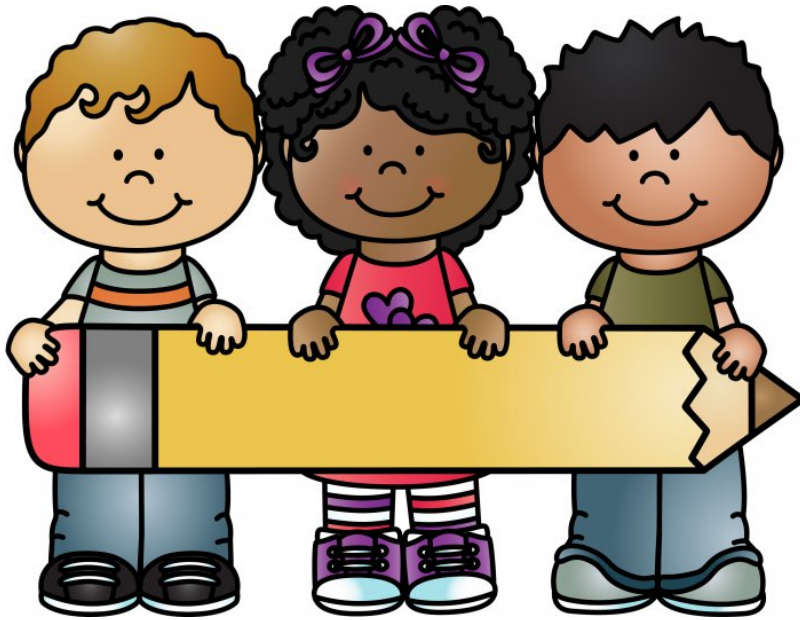
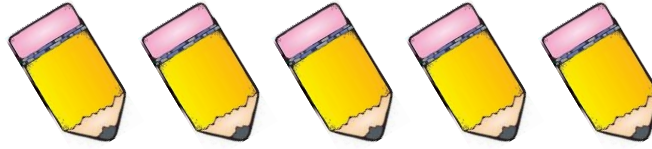


# Welcome to First Grade!



**Mrs. Hazel's class**

# A Typical Day For Your Child



**Arrival:** Students arrive in the classroom around 7:55, hang up coat, book bag, etc., sign up for lunch, then they will either work on work in their "Ketchup Folder" (unfinished work), assigned morning work or explore with our morning bins. The announcements and pledge take place during this time. Students are responsible for giving me any important papers (homework, notes) from their STAR folder.

**Science/Social Studies:** Our language arts program is integrated with science and social studies. We also will study "Skywatchers", sound and light, plants and animals, maps, and communities.

**Specials:** The class will have a special each day at 8:50. These include Library, Music, Art, Physical Education, Health, Technology and Guidance.

**Math:** This includes a lesson with Mrs. Hazel, sometimes computer time to work on ST Math, Everyday Math games, Reflex or other online math programs, and review games such as Monster Squeeze and Penny-Dice. Our math program is called Everyday Math and we also will be utilizing Number Corners by Bridges for a calendar routine to help build number sense.

**Bathroom Break:** We will take a whole class bathroom break each morning and afternoon. Students are permitted to use the restroom during class when necessary, one boy and one girl at a time. There will be specific bathroom procedures to maintain social distancing this year.

**Lunch:** Takes place each day at 11:00 in the cafeteria. School lunches and breakfast will be free again this year. Milk is available to purchase.

**Recess:** Free choice either out on the playground or in the classroom from 1:00-1:30. Closed toe shoes are required for the equipment on the mulch!

**Snack:** We will have snack each day in the afternoon, since we eat lunch so early! See snack paperwork for more information and cost.

**Literacy Centers:** This includes a listening center, writing center, word work center and reading center. During this time, students also meet with Mrs. Hazel for guided reading and in small groups for Book Clubs and interventions.

**Guided Reading:** It is a method of small group modeling and teaching children (using their instructional-level text and decodable texts) a variety of reading and phonics strategies that they need to become fluent, independent readers.

**Whole Group Language Arts:** This typically takes place on the carpet (not sure about this year) and will include things such as instruction on comprehension and fluency, read aloud, shared reading of big books, word work (including spelling and high-frequency words), phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and phonics activities. Our literacy system is from Fountas & Pinnell Classroom, and we use Heggerty for Phonemic Awareness.

**Writer's Workshop:** Will include modeled writing, shared, interactive and guided writing. Students will write narratives (small moment stories), persuasive pieces, and opinion pieces. This is from Lucy Calkin's Units of Study.

**Brain Breaks:** We will sing songs, dance, and utilize other "brain breaks" throughout the day.

**Dismissal:** Students put their papers in their STAR folders and get packed up to go home.

# Additional Information



**S.T.A.R. Folder:** Please help your child to be responsible for their own S.T.A.R. Folder. It should go home each night, papers given to parents/guardians, and returned to school each day with any completed papers or notes. I encourage students to be fully responsible for their folders and empty them. Fill them themselves. I will explicitly teach them how to do this, so they are capable without needing individual reminders.

**Book Clubs:** An order form from Scholastic book clubs is sent home each month. There is no obligation to buy. These book orders contain quality children's literature at a reasonable price. You can also place your order online, where you can pay with a credit or debit card or send a check to school with your order (made out to the book club). Our online classroom code is JB37T.

**Report Cards:** You will receive a report card at the end of each nine weeks (progress report for the first nine weeks). At the end of the first nine weeks you will have a conference with me. If at any time you feel a conference is necessary, please contact me.

**Birthdays:** Students are not permitted to bring in food treats for birthdays and other celebrations this year. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate a half-birthday.

**Label:** Please label all personal property: book bags, lunch boxes, clothing, jackets, water bottles, masks, etc.

**Water bottles:** Hydration is important! Students should bring a water bottle to our classroom. Please make sure it's double insulated so it doesn't sweat on papers and with a closure so it doesn't spill when it gets knocked over (Such as Contigo, Camelback, Thermos, Yeti, etc.)

**Homework:** Your child's homework each night will be to read and play each night. There will be some math worksheets throughout the year, as well. I will also send home optional math games, sight word practice, and sometimes some weekend packets for extra practice.

**Headphones:** The school district has bought headphones in bulk for each student to use, but they aren't very durable. If you have a pair you purchased last year, you're welcome to send those in again.

**Contacting Mrs. Hazel:** During the day, I am busy working with the students and may be unavailable to check my messages/emails until after dismissal. If you need something urgent, please contact Mrs. Catalano in the office. [jcatalan@basd.net](mailto:jcatalan@basd.net) or 357-2425 ext. 2301. I will use Class Dojo as my main form of communication with messaging you.

Thank you in advance for all of your help!

# Mrs. Hazel's First Graders'

## Discipline Policy

Dear Parents,

In order to guarantee your child and all the children in our classroom the excellent learning climate they deserve, we are utilizing the following discipline plan. As you know, good behavior and learning go hand in hand. Simple class rules have been established to ensure your child has a positive and safe learning environment.

### PHILOSOPHY:

We believe that even at the age of six and seven, children need to learn the importance of accepting responsibility for their actions. All children are expected to follow classroom rules and procedures, and we will help them learn to do so in a positive, fair, and equitable manner. Good discipline allows us to teach, and students to learn. This is the right of every student.

### OUR SCHOOL RULES:

1. Be kind.
2. Be safe.
3. Be respectful.
4. Be here and ready.

This year we will be using Class Dojo to monitor behavior. The students will earn "points" for following our classroom rules (things such as participating, raising hand to speak, good line and hallway choices, following directions, working quietly, completing work, working hard, being kind, being responsible, etc.). At the beginning of the year, students will earn a "High-Five" for every 5 points they earn each day. Students have many opportunities to earn points and should meet this goal each day if they are following our classroom rules. This will increase to a 10 point goal later in the year and will include a prize box option, as well. Students will not lose points for poor choices, but I will note if your child is needing lots of reminders about something, so you are aware and can follow up with them at home. **Please check Class Dojo each day to see how your child is doing and have a follow up conversation with them each night.**

I have found this system to be very successful in First Grade, and with all the modeling and practice we do at the beginning of the year, most of my students are able to be very successful with their behavior. Of course, if there is a continued pattern of negative behavior, I will call for a conference with you so we can discuss the issues and solve the problem together.

I look forward to establishing the best possible learning environment for your child. With teamwork and cooperation among parents, teachers, and students, we will have a terrific year! We will be in close contact with you regarding your child's progress in our classroom this year and appreciate your support. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks so much for your help and support,  
Mrs. Hazel

# What Can I Do At Home to Support My First Grader's Learning?



## READING

- Have your child read you their Guided Reading books (either physical book or on Google Classroom)
- Read 20 minutes a day (Record for Book-It) - can be a combination of reading and listening to you read books
  - Practicing sight/heart words (both reading and writing them)
  - Read a chapter book to your child and talk about the story
- Encourage your child to sound out unknown words, looking for chunks they know, sliding through the whole word, and thinking about what makes sense.
- Read books on Epic: class code zxd0208 at <https://www.getepic.com/students>

## WRITING

- When your child is writing at home, encourage them to sound out their words part by part, stretching out the words to “sound spell” rather than spelling it in the correct adult form. You can always write underneath their spelling with the correct spelling if they want to know the correct adult spelling.

## MATH

- Play Math games that have been sent home to build number sense to 10 (Packet in the fall and throughout the year new games will be sent home)
  - “Home Links” that are sent home throughout the unit
  - Any of our websites: ST Math (JiJi), ConnectEd, and Reflex
- Any of the number sense and place value activities I put on our newsletter

Other good sites: ABCYa.com, Starfall, Teach Your Monster to Read, Zearn, Prodigy

### Record Log for Work at Home

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity Completed</b> (I.e. sight word ZAP, STMath, or Roll and Record)	<b>Adult Signature</b>

You can use this if you want to record when your child plays math games at home, gets on one of our websites or practices sight words. When your child returns this sheet to school, they will get a Hive Five.