

September 5, 2016

Dear Families,

I am excited about the start of another school year. I will try to keep you informed about what is happening in our classroom by writing a parent letter which will be available on the first Monday of each month. My monthly news also will be posted on our Class Web Page.

General Information

Home School Folder: Please remember to look in the "Daily Message Folder" that will come home each day. The folder is a great place to put notes or any other information that needs to be sent to school. I check folders each morning for notes. Please always send a note for any change in dismissal plans.

Snack/Lunch: Lunch will be at 12:15. Please go over with your child what he or she is having for lunch each day. We will have a morning snack. The time will be determined once we have settled into a routine. For the first week I am planning on 10:00.

Birthdays and Celebrations: As noted in Mrs. Noble's letter we will no longer allow outside food for celebrations. We will be celebrating birthdays with nonfood items and other celebrations that involve food will be provided by the cafeteria.

Volunteers: I enjoy having volunteers in my classroom. I will be sending home a volunteer sign up in a couple of weeks. I am fortunate to have several community volunteers who are looking forward to being back in the classroom.

Contacting Me: School email is the best way to reach me. I will check my emails each day. If it is a matter that should be discussed on the phone you can usually reach me or leave a message at school (363-4870) from 7:45-4:45. The best time to talk is before 8:30 or after 3:10. You may also try to reach me at home (363-4956) from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Specials Schedule

Monday - PE/ Music (30 minutes each)

Tuesday - Art

Wednesday - Music/PE (30 minutes each)

Thursday - Library (45 minutes)

Friday - rotating (will be posted on the class web site monthly calendar)

Academic Information

I will go over our First Grade Day at Open House, but until then this will give you a glimpse into our day.

Morning Meeting: We will start each morning gathered in a circle. We spend the first twenty minutes of the day greeting each other, singing, reading charts, and sharing news.

Language Arts: I will spend time going over Reading, Writing and Spelling Instruction at Open House. We will be using a Workshop Model for reading and writing instruction.

Writer's Workshop September, Unit 1-Small Moments: In this unit children learn to take the everyday events of their lives and make them into stories.

Mini lessons this month will include:

- stretch important moments and actions across several pages.
- "zoom-in" on one small part of a story and stretch it across the page.
- plan writing a story with a writing partner.
- tell a story to a writing partner by touching each page.
- say a word slowly, stretch it out, and write all the sounds heard.
- sketch a story rather than draw it.
- plan a detailed story by saying it aloud before writing it.
- tell a story across 5 fingers to make sure it has a beginning, middle, and end.
- tell a partner a story and use the actual words that they will write. Then they will listen to them tell their story.
- write words they know in a "snap" and for words they don't know they will use the word wall for help.
- zoom in on the most important part of a story just like a photographer.
- write what they were feeling and thinking in the story.
- write endings that stay close into the moment.
- read partner's writing and help them fix it up.

Reader's Workshop Unit 1-Readers Build Good Habits: This unit of study focuses on building good habits as readers. I will also use CAFE as a resource (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanded Vocabulary) .

Mini Lessons this month will focus on Accuracy:

- * Look carefully at letters and words
- * Cross checking... Do the pictures and/or words look right? Do they sound right? Do they make sense?
- * Flip the sound
- * Use the pictures... Do the words and pictures match?
- * Use beginning and ending sounds
- * Blend sounds; stretch and reread
- * Chunk letters and sounds together
- * Skip the word, then come back
- * Trade a word/guess a word that makes sense
- * Recognize words at sight

Math: The math program that we use in our school is "Everyday Mathematics". One of the key features of the program is practice through games. We will be reviewing and learning several math games this month. As we start a new unit an EDM family letter will be sent home describing the unit.

Science: We will be using Stem Scope as our resource for teaching Science this year. Our first Science Unit will start in October.

Social Studies/Building Community: Students will be introduced to the classroom routines following the "Responsive Classroom Model". Students will also become familiar with school building community and their responsibilities. This week we will create our "Hopes and Dreams" bulletin board. I will ask the children to think about things they hope to do in first grade. The hopes and dreams activity will be a springboard for creating our classroom rules. We will have a discussion about what rules we need to help everyone's hopes and dreams come true. Next we will brainstorm a list of "Our Classroom Rules" and create a "Class Constitution".

Other:

Online resources - login information can be found in the back sleeve of the home school folder.

- * Raz Kids - digital online books for reading at home - I assigned books based on your child's independent reading level.
- * Everyday Math - online games and other features to explore.

Upcoming Events - (more information soon)

- * Open House - September 29th
- * Applecrest Field Trip - September 30th

I know we are going to have a wonderful year! Please feel comfortable contacting me regarding any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Julie Crafts
<http://www.yorkschoools.org/~jcrafts>

PS - I am in the process of removing pictures etc. from our web site. I look forward to adding new photos soon.