FIRST GRADE AND FABULOUS

Ballard/Fisher (2018 - 2019)

Our school year is going to be wonderful with many new and exciting events to experience. First and foremost, we appreciate your effort in helping your child be prepared for this year and we look forward to working with your child and each of you as well! As we welcome you and your child to first grade, please look over the following information to become acquainted with first grade procedures. Please keep this letter for a reference throughout the school year.

REWARDS

CLASS REWARDS - As a class we will work to earn marbles in our marble jar! We will have to earn 100 marbles to earn a class prize, which could be anything from an extra recess to an ice cream party!

INDIVIDUAL REWARDS – Students will be individually rewarded for their positive behavior on a daily basis with positive praise/words, stickers, small pieces of candy, pick a “brain break” video, happy notes sent home, etc.

As parents, please encourage your child to display this positive behavior at ALL times!!

CONSEQUENCES

1. Warning (verbally reminded of correct behavior)
2. Responsibility folder will be marked.
3. If behavior is not corrected, a note will be sent home or a parent will be called. (depending on behavior and situation)

HOMEWORK FOLDER (BLUE FOLDER)

Each day the homework folder (blue folder) will come home with papers completed in school and papers that have been given for homework. Please take out the papers in the “take home” pocket and go over all papers with your child and have them complete the papers in the “homework” pocket and return to school. Homework will be sent through a weekly newsletter **via email** from the teacher that will be sent home on Mondays. **The weekly newsletter will be emailed out by the end of the school day on Monday.**

Homework will vary from week to week. Some weeks you may notice more homework due to a more difficult skill being discussed in class that week. **Pay close attention to the homework chart on the weekly newsletter emailed every Monday by the end of the school day.**

\*\*\*Homework will count for a grade. Each homework assignment in **any** subject will count for 3 points each. Homework must be turned in on the assigned due date. If homework is turned in late, your child **will not** receive any points for that homework assignment. If a student is absent on the day homework is due, they will be allowed to turn in their homework assignment when they return to school. If not returned within TWO days after an absence, your child will receive a zero. All homework points for each subject will be added into Renweb at the end of each nine-week period as a total homework grade.

MISSED CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK – We encourage students to complete any missed classwork from their absence(s) within a timely manner and return it to school for the teacher to check. If a student is absent on a day that homework was assigned or is due, they are required to turn in the homework within the next TWO school days or it will be marked as incomplete and graded as a zero.

EARLY FINISHER FOLDER (YELLOW FOLDER)

Our early finisher folder (yellow) will stay in your child’s desk all year. This folder will hold all work that is to be completed during “free time.” (For example, transitions from lunch back to the classroom, early finisher work, during snack time, after morning journal, etc.) Students are given plenty of opportunities throughout the day to complete these extra pages.

We often tear out “homework” pages from our math textbook for your child to place in their yellow folder. In addition to these math pages, students work on holiday activities, handwriting pages, pages with an extension of our classroom skills, and several other educational activities.

We often complete a “yellow folder check” on various days throughout the month. Your child will be given a few days notice before a “yellow folder check” so they can ensure they are using their time wisely. If your child’s yellow folder exceeds 5 early finisher pages of ANY kind, those pages will be sent home with an attached note for your child to complete those pages as homework.

RESPONSIBILITY FOLDER

Students WILL NOT take their responsibility folder home daily. Each Thursday the folder will be sent home for you to sign for the week. (Please refer to the dates at the top for which week to sign.) However, if your child receives a mark at any point during the week, their folder will be sent home to inform you of the behavior. Please be aware that any teacher or faculty member can mark a student’s folder. These marks all count for the final grade in conduct.

GRADED PAPERS

Graded papers will be sent home in the white Thursday envelope along with papers from the office every Thursday. Please review ALL graded papers with your child and go over any questions they missed. Please sign the envelope and the pack of papers and return by Friday each week.

EXTRA INFORMATION

SPELLING - Each Friday a new spelling list for the upcoming week will be sent home in your child’s spelling journal. (labeled composition notebook)

GRADES/TESTING - Each week we will have a reading, grammar, and spelling test. We will also have a math test at the end of each math chapter. The weekly handwriting grade will come from the spelling test.

\*For the first full week of school, we will not count our first spelling, grammar, or reading tests for a grade. We will grade the tests so you can get an idea of our grading system, however, these grades will not be put into Renweb. This will give our students and parents some insight into how our tests/grading will be setup for the year.

MONEY - Anytime a student brings money to school; please place it in a sealed envelope with the student’s name, first grade, amount, and what it is for. It should be placed in the student’s homework folder (blue). If your child brings money to school and it is not labeled, it will be sent back home.

CONFERENCES/CONTACT - As educators, we firmly believe that for students to flourish and succeed in their educational experience, the child, the teacher, and parent must work as a team to ensure their success. To contact your child’s teacher during the school day, 7:45 am to 3:45 pm, please email your child’s teacher. We will check our email as much as possible during the school day. You can also place a note in your child’s homework folder (blue).

SNACKS - Please make sure to send **ONE** healthy snack that is sealed tight to school each day. NO CANDY and NO LIQUIDS are allowed. We **do not** keep extra snacks in the classroom. If your child needs a spoon or fork for their snack, you must send that item with them.

BIRTHDAYS - You may send a treat for birthdays. **Please let me know a day or two in advance, via email, if you plan on sending a treat for your child’s birthday.** If you plan on sending **any** type of cake, it MUST be precut. You can send party invitations as well. If party invitations are sent, all students, all girls, or all boys must receive invitations.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK - Each week a different student will be chosen as the student of the week for our class. We will give the student an “All About Me” poster to take home on Friday, which should be returned Monday. The poster will be displayed in the classroom. The student of the week will be allowed to share their poster with the class. Students will be allowed to bring one show and tell item during their week.

PERSONAL ITEMS - Make sure all items are clearly labeled with your child’s name, especially sweatshirts and jackets!

CHANGE IN DISMISSAL - Please keep in mind that the end of our day is very busy and quickly moving. Therefore, if your child has a change in their dismissal, please send me an email as soon as possible and/or email/call Mrs. Toni in the office BEFORE 3:00 p.m. We cannot guarantee the change in dismissal if we are emailed after 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES - Attendance is an important part of our school curriculum. Each day’s learning is based on the day before. We encourage you to have your child in school every day, unless he/she is sick. If your child is sick with fever, they **must be fever free for 24 hours** before returning to school. A note should also be sent with your child on their return from the doctor or parent. Please feel free to email if an emergency comes up with your child. If you would like to receive your child’s missed work for the day, please contact the office for a homework request.

As per the St. Alphonsus Student Handbook, absences are excused (with written verification) for the following reasons: personal illness, death or emergency in the immediate family, appointments with written verification, school sponsored activities and extenuating circumstances with written approval. An excused absence still counts against the student’s attendance record. However, the student is allowed to make-up class work, assignments, and tests. Following the return to school, a minimum of one (1) school day for each day of absence is allowed for make-up work.

An absence or tardy is considered unexcused when written verification is not presented and approved within 48 hours of the student’s return to school. Work must be completed for an unexcused absence or tardy. Students who are out due to vacations are to take home books and materials and must take scheduled test prior to the absence. The school considers an unexcused absence or tardy as a serious disruption of the learning process.

Parents, we want to thank you for the opportunity to work with your child. They truly are treasures! We look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you and welcoming you to our wonderful classrooms! We know each of you will share in your child’s education, and if we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know!

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