

Dear Room 103 Families,

Welcome to First Grade- Room 103! My name is Mrs. McLeod and I am thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. Mrs. McBrearty is in our classroom as a full time inclusion teacher. It is going to be a fun year- full of learning and new adventures. We are so excited to get to know your child and your family throughout the year. We can't wait to see what this year has in store for us!

Below you will find some information about Cassell and our classroom. At the end you will find our academic goals for Quarter 1. Please make sure you take the time to read through this entire newsletter. While there is a lot of information, answers to your questions may be found below.

Academics

Below are the names of our curriculums that will be used for all subject areas during the school year.

- Language Arts: iReady Magnetic Reading (phonics/word study) and Wonders (Reading and Writing)
- Math- Envisions
- Social Studies- My World!
- Science- Open SciEd

Attendance & Arrival

Being at school every day and on time is extremely important to your child's success and quality of education. Your child will arrive and be dismissed through the doors closest to the playground.

Arrival- Please make sure your child has arrived and is in the building prior to 7:45 am. Doors will close promptly at 7:45. If you arrive and the doors are closed your child must enter through the main office doors. We get started learning promptly at 7:55am, it is in our child's best interest to be in school and ready to learn when we start. In addition, please make sure your child uses the bathroom at home immediately prior to leaving your house.

Absent Work

If your child is absent, all missed work will be sent home when the child returns to school. For every 1 day absent, your child will have 2 days to complete and return the work. Absent work cannot be sent home prior to an absence, including vacations- thank you for understanding. Please be aware that when a student is absent they are also missing discussions and hands on application during class time and that cannot be formatted into worksheets to be made up. If a student is absent or tardy frequently, grades will be affected.

Breakfast and Lunch

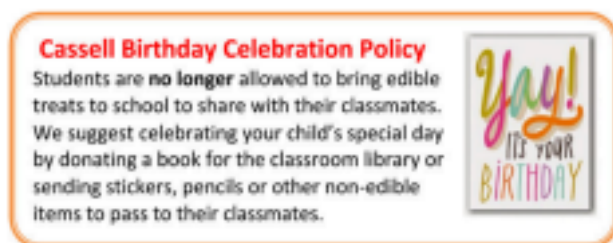
If your child would like a breakfast provided by CPS, then your child should arrive at

school at 7:30 and enter through the rotunda doors. Students will eat breakfast in the multipurpose room and be sent to class at 7:45. Students may bring a lunch from home or receive one from CPS. **Please note that if your child forgets a lunch at home- they will receive the CPS lunch. The office will not deliver any lunches dropped off later in the school day.

1st Grade Recess- 10:15-10:40

Lunch - 10:40-11:00

Cassell Birthday Celebration Policy



In addition, if your child is having a birthday party, invitations will only be passed out in school if all boys/girls or all students in the class are invited. If this is not the case, invitations must be handed out to students outside of school hours. Thank you!

Classroom Behavior Plan and High Expectations

Cassell believes in positive reinforcement. We will maintain high expectations for your child to follow our school wide and classroom expectations. In our classroom, staff and students will use positive reinforcement to keep each other motivated and encouraged. All students are expected to follow school rules and classroom expectations throughout the school year. We will work together as a community to create our classroom expectations during the first week of school. Throughout the year we will refer to the expectations that we created as a class.

In our classroom, students will be able to earn tickets by being a role model and following classroom and school expectations. At the end of the week a few tickets will be pulled for a lottery drawing reward. There will also be a whole class incentive reward on Fridays for those that do not receive any behavior notices during the week. A behavior note will be sent home if there is an ongoing challenge with a student on a specific day. If your child happens to receive a note, that means we talked about the day and how we can make it better for the next day. Please review the note and day with your child, sign, and return to school the next day.

Our school wide theme this year is Art is the Heart of Learning. We will be making arts connections into our everyday learning

Communication- Teacher/Parent

For whole class announcements, we will send either an email or a note that will be in your child's green folder- usually will be a note in the folder.

If you need to contact Mrs. McLeod or Mrs. McBrearty, the best way would be through email.

Grading

A: 90-100%
B: 80-89%
C: 70-79%
D: 60- 69%
F: 59% and below

Grades are taken throughout the week and will be entered on Aspen Gradebook.

Homework

Homework will be assigned regularly throughout the week. All homework will be written down in your child's planner so please check that on a nightly basis. In the beginning of the year, many children will need help reading the directions of an assignment before they can work on their own. As the year goes on, they may begin to be able to read and understand the assignment on their own. We strongly advise that your child completes the homework *independently*. It is ok to support and provide guidance to walk through steps, simply giving answers will not strengthen your child's learning from the day.

- Reading- your child's most important task is to read on a nightly basis. Engage your child after they've read or listened to reading by having a conversation, asking questions, and drawing pictures.
- Math- your child will be assigned a practice page from our Math curriculum to be completed and returned the following day. The assignment is a review from the skills/strategies taught in class. At the top of the page, there is an example and a home activity.

* If your child is having difficulty with the concept or skill from that day, please know it is ok to let them struggle and return the homework with errors. I suggest letting your child do as much as they can independently and writing a note on the worksheet to let me know there was some difficulty. When I know there may be a struggle at home I am able to re-teach and address specific students when needed.

Student Planner

We spend *a lot* of time learning how to effectively use the student planners. Every school day we will write our homework assignments for Reading and Math. Reminders or notes may also be written in the planner.

****Please* make sure that every single night you check both the green folder for notes/homework **and** the student planner.

Room 103- 1st Quarter Academic Content

Math

- Topic 1: Understand Addition and Subtraction
- Topic 2: Fluently and Subtract within 10
- Topic 3: Addition Facts to 20: Use Strategies

Reading:

- Ask and Answer Questions
- Characters, Setting, Events
- Rereading
- Visualize
- Topic and Details

Word Study: Students will study these letter sounds to be able to read and write words.

- Short Vowels
- Digraphs (sh, th, ck, ch, ng)
- Trigraph (-tch)
- Blends (bl, cl, fl, pl, st, sk, sm, sp)

Writing and Grammar

- Form and use complete sentences
- Start sentences with a capital letter
- End sentences with correct punctuation (periods and question marks)
- Nouns: Singular/Plural, Common/Proper
- With guidance and support, focus on a topic and add details to writing
- Write a narrative

Looking forward to a great school year!

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and

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This year's whole-school theme is
ART is the HeART of Learning!