

WELCOME

first graders

2021-2022

Dear Room 103 Families,

Welcome to First Grade! My name is Mrs. McLeod and I am thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. So far we've had a great first week back to school. All of students in Room 103 are already working so hard! :) It is going to be a fun year, full of learning and new adventures. I'm so excited to get to know your child and you family throughout the year. I 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 I. Please make sure you take the time to read through this newsletter. While there is a lot of information, answers to your questions may be found below.



Academics

- Language Arts: We've recently adopted Collaborative Classroom curriculum. Collaborative Literacy is a comprehensive ELA curriculum designed to develop independent readers, writers, and critical thinkers. Collaborative Literacy addresses the core skills and strategies traditionally taught during Language Arts while creating a classroom community in which students can learn and grow.
- Math- We use the Go Math! Curriculum.
- Social Studies- My World!
- Science- Mystery Science

Attendance & Arrival

Being at school every day is extremely important to your child's success and quality of education. Students will arrive every morning to the Main Office doors and report directly to our classroom. (No outdoor line up) The office doors will be open for arrival from 8:00-8:10am. Any arrivals past 8:10am will be considered late.

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. If your child is in quarantine due to Covid 19 then you will be provided a schedule and assignments for classwork.

Cassell Birthday Celebration Policy

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Students are **no longer** allowed to bring edible treats to school to share with their classmates. We suggest celebrating your child's special day by donating a book for the classroom library or sending stickers, pencils or other non-edible items to pass to their classmates.



In addition, if your child is having a birthday party, invitations are only able to 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. I maintain high expectations for your child to follow our school wide positive behavior plan expectations and classroom expectations. In our classroom, staff and students will use positive reinforcement to keep each other motivated and encouraged. On the 1st day of school the students in room 103 worked together to create some classroom expectations to provide the best learning environment. All students are expected to follow school rules and classroom expectations throughout the school year.

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 class rewards at the end of the week for those that do not receive any behavior notices. 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.

Communication- Teacher/Parent

For whole class announcements, I will be sending either an email or a note that will be in your child's folder. To communicate with a specific family, most times an email or note will be sent home in your child's folder.

If you need to contact me, email or note sent to school is the best way. If you do need a response, then email would be the best form of communication.

Homework

Homework is not a grade and will not be critiqued for accuracy. I check accuracy for my own understanding if the content needs to be reviewed or not. In the beginning of the year, many children will need help reading the directions of an assignment before they can work. As the year goes on, they may begin to be able to read and understand the assignment on their own.

- 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 Math sheet from our Math book to be completed and returned the following day. The assignment is a review from the skills/strategies taught in class. The lesson that was completed in class will also be sent home so that you can review it if needed.

Student Planner

Planners are expected to be delivered soon. Until then, please check your child's green folder for any assignments. They would be found on the "Right Back to School" side of the folder.

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.

**** Make sure your child's planner is checked every night, and returned to school every day.**

Room 103- 1st Quarter Academic Content

Math- Go Math!

- Addition & Subtraction Concepts
- Addition & Subtraction Strategies
- Go Math Lessons will be sent home with Go Math Homework sheet. Please refer to the lesson that goes home for help, if needed.

ELA- Collaborative Classroom

- Unit 1- The Classroom Community: Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry
 - Build stamina to work and read independently
 - Identify rhyming words
 - Make text to self connections
 - Discuss story messages
- Unit 2: Focus on Making Connections (Fiction and Poetry)
 - Listen to discuss a story
 - Discuss characters and their feelings
 - Synonyms, suffix -er
 - Identify rhyming words

Looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. McLeod
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