

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. 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 your 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 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: Collaborative Classroom
 - * Mrs. Walsh will be co-teaching with me during our Reading block.
- Math- Envisions
- Social Studies- My World!
- Science- Inspire Science

Attendance & Arrival

Being at school every day 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. Student line up time is at 7:55am and they will enter the building at 8:00am. If you arrive and the doors have already been closed, then your child will need to report to the main entrance for a tardy slip.

Our day of learning begins promptly as soon as we enter and unpack for the day. Please make sure that your child is on time and in our line prior to 8:00am.

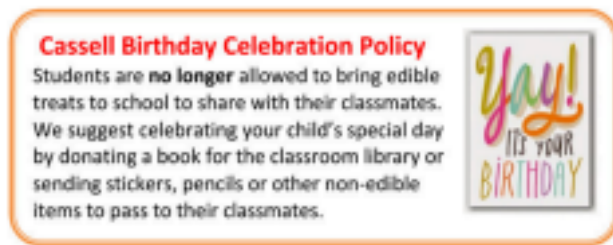
Absent Work

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- 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 must arrive at school at 7:45 and enter through the rotunda doors. Students will eat breakfast in the multipurpose room and be sent to class at 8:00am . 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. K-2 scheduled Recess/Lunch : 10:30-11: 15

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. I 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 LEGO "Loving Every Growth Opportunity- The Sequel" In our class we will work on framing our mindset to allow for growth and opportunity rather than just being stuck or unable to do something.

Communication- Teacher/Parent

For whole class announcements, I will send either an email or a note that will be in your child's folder. Most often I will send a note in the green 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 the best way to contact would be through email.

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. I strongly advise that your child completes the

homework independently. While providing guidance to walk through steps, 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. I suggest letting your child do as much as they can independently (the worksheet does not need to be fully complete) and writing a note on the worksheet to let me know there was some difficulty. That way I know what the student can do and what needs to be reviewed in class.

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- Envisions

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

Reading- 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

Writing- Collaborative Classroom

- Writing left to right
- Generating ideas to write
- Punctuating sentences
- Rereading own writing
- Relating writing and illustrations
- Writing freely and independently

Looking forward to a great school year!

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