**The ABC’s of Mrs. Olney’s First Grade Class!**

A

**Absences**: If your child is sick and will not be at school, you must call the office at to let them know. Also, if your child will be leaving early for any reason, you must let the office know via phone call; or you may send a note to school with your child and I will give it to the office.

B

**Birthdays:** Students may bring in non-food treats for the class to celebrate their birthday. If you wish, you may send in non-food treats such as pencils, stickers, bookmarks, or any other small toy because of various food allergies. Another great option is to have your child donate a book to the classroom. They will get to read/share the book with the class on their birthday. Birthday treats will be shared at the end of the day. If your child's birthday falls during the summer, treats can be brought on the half birthday, or at the beginning or end of the school year. If your child wishes to pass out invitations at school, then everyone must be invited. If all children are not invited, I encourage invitations to be sent through the mail or given outside of school. This is a school rule! School directories can be purchased at the beginning of the year with family contact information. I will not be able to provide any information regarding phone numbers or addresses.

**Behavior Policy**: Our classroom will use a clip chart to monitor individual behavior. Students will be rewarded for positive behavior, while discouraging negative behavior. Each day, every student will begin the day at the Ready to Rock level. Clips can be moved up and down the day based on behavior. At the beginning of the next day, students who showed positive behavior will be rewarded with a punch on their punch card. Once their punch card is filled they will be able to pick out of the prize box. Please see the Clip It! Behavior Chart handout for a more detailed description.   
  
Every time the students earn a compliment in the hallway, lunch room, the classroom, etc. we vote on which body party to add to Mr. Potato Head. Once Mr. Potato Head is put back together we will earn a whole class prize.

C

**Conferences/Communication**: There are two times throughout the year designated for parent/teacher conferences. Fall conferences will be October 28th and November 10th, and winter conferences will be February 18th and 24th. However, a conference can be requested with me at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. Whenever you feel the need to speak to me, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail. If you call during the day and I am teaching, I will not be able to answer the phone, but I will return the call the same day, if not, within 24 hours. E-mail is a quicker way as I can check it during specials and also when I’m at home. It's important for your child that we work together! I want to know your concerns so I can be more responsive and helpful to your child. If you are wondering...should I or shouldn't I...you SHOULD! The more we work together, the better it will be for your child. Any time you have a question or concern please call me or e-mail to discuss any issues. Another quick and easy way to communicate with each other is through your child’s school planner. I check these daily, and it is important you check this daily as well. At the end of each day, your child will write one thing they did or learned at school each day. My contact information is:  
[www.Mrsolney@bighollow.us](http://www.Mrsolney@bighollow.us)

847-740-5320 ext. 3039

D

**Dismissal**: School gets out at 3:15 every day. If your child normally rides the bus and is going to be a pick-up, a phone call must be made to the office, or a note must be written so I can give it to the office.

E

**Extra Clothes**: I encourage sending in an extra pair of clothes in a Ziploc bag for your child to keep in their cubby or backpack in case of an accident (bathroom, lunch, recess). In addition, socks may also be kept in your child’s cubby, especially in the beginning and end of the school year during sandal season. Kids usually like to wear socks with their gym shoes when going to gym. The temperature in our classroom can also fluctuate from warm to cold, so your child can keep an extra sweater in their cubby.

F

**Folders**: Your child will have 2 folders that will be kept in their binder. They will take their binder home every day and must bring it back to school. One of the folders will be labeled “Take Home,” and the other is “Homework.” In their take home folder you will find work/tests that are passed back, important papers from me, or handouts from the office. Anything other than homework will go in this folder. Their homework folder is where you will find their homework, and it is the folder they will bring their homework back to school in.

G

**Gym**: Students will have gym class every day from 10:15-10:40. Students will need to keep a pair of gym shoes at school in addition to a white t-shirt with their name clearly labeled on the shirt. The white shirt is put on over their regular shirt and is worn to gym other specials. On Fridays I remind the kids to take the shirts home to be washed, so please remember to send them back to school on Mondays.

H

**Homework**: Homework will be given every week. It gives students an opportunity to reinforce and practice what was taught in class. It also encourages responsibility. Try to get into a routine of doing homework every day. Pick a time, either before or after dinner, and please sit down with your child while doing homework. Even though your child may be able to do it themselves, sitting with them shows them that you care about what they are learning in school, and it also lets your child know that homework is important. If your child is getting frustrated, please stop! I do not want your child to be spending countless hours every night on homework. If this is happening to your child, please let me know and we will work something out. Homework is checked, but not graded!! Reading logs **DO** count, so make sure to turn those in!!

Math: I will send home math homework on Friday. It may be a few pages of review from the week or even an activity. Math homework is due back with spelling homework the following Thursday.

Spelling/Grammar: Spelling words and an **optional** homework sheet will be sent home on Friday in the Homework folder. Students will have all of the following week to practice their spelling words in a fun manner. Students will also be assessed on these words on Friday.

Reading: Sight words will be sent home on Friday to be practiced with your child the following week. Students will be assessed that following Friday. Two decodable readers will also be given for your child to practice reading every day. These books can be kept at home! Reading Logs will begin in September. Your child will need to return the month’s reading log by the first school-day of the month that follows it. Please read with your child every night!

In addition to regularly scheduled homework, your child may occasionally complete additional assignments or projects for science or social studies.

I

**Illness**: If your child is truly sick please keep them at home to rest and get better. It is so easy for germs to spread in a classroom. Also, I cannot allow any type of cough drops or medicine to be taken by your child. Anything like that MUST be given to the nurse with a letter/note, and your child has to go the nurse to take it.

J

**Juice Boxes**: I allow juice boxes at snack time only. Students may keep a water bottle in their cubby to drink from throughout the day.

K

**Kindness**: Kindness is always encouraged in our classroom. Our first rule in our classroom is the golden rule!



L

**Lunch**: We have lunch/recess from 11:30-12:10. If you will be sending your child with a cold lunch (meaning lunch from home in a bag or lunch box) please make sure their bag or box is labeled with their name. Also, please explain to them that cold lunch means lunch from home. I take lunch count every morning, and some kids think that if they bring soup from home for lunch that it is considered a hot lunch. (It’s cute how literal they think!) Parents can pay lunch tickets online (which is probably the easiest way). If money is sent to school then the money will be collected in the cafeteria before school starts. The school offers a free and reduced lunch program, so please fill out the paperwork in the office if you think you may qualify. Paperwork for this must be filled out every year.

M

**Mystery Reader**: Would you like to come in our classroom and read a story to the class? If the answer is yes, then please sign up to be a mystery reader. We call it mystery reader because only I know who will be coming in to read. If you would like to be a mystery reader, we do it on Fridays from 2:55-3:00. Grandparents are also welcome to be mystery readers. You can bring in your own book to read, or I have books for you to choose from.   
N

**Newsletters**: I will be posting a monthly newsletter to tell about what is happening in our classroom, as well as other important information. Please make sure to read. They will be sent home monthly in your child’s home folder.

O

**Ordering Books**: I will be sending home Scholastic book orders every month. Book orders are a great way to build your at-home library, and I have found that the books are very affordable. They often have books for only $1.00! There is also an option to order books online, and for every online purchase, our class receives one free book! If you would like to order online, the activation code for our class is GQN6C We also have a few different school book fairs throughout the year.

P

**Parties**: Volunteers will be needed to plan and organize our holiday parties. We will have a Halloween, Holiday, and Valentine's Day party! Parents will be in charge of and coordinate the activities during the parties. Sign-up sheets will be posted at Curriculum Night.

Q

**Questions**: Please don’t hesitate to ask any questions! Your child’s talk tab is a great place to write down any questions you may have for me, and I will write back the same day.

R

**Reading expectations**: Please read “Why my child should read 20 minutes every night.” This can be found on my website. Reading every night is very crucial for first graders, and yes, reading to your child counts. Other activities that count as reading include listening to reading on a computer or CD player, or telling a story with a wordless picture book. Weekly reading logs must be turned in to get credit for reading the required number of minutes. These reading logs count towards your child’s homework grade on their report card.

S

**Star Student**: Every Friday a star student will be chosen. When your child is chosen he/she will bring home a poster to be completed at home. Each day the star student will be treated like a "star" as we have daily star student activities. At the end of each month, I will eat lunch will all of the star students from that month!  
  
Monday- Students will bring in and share the star student poster that was completed at home.  
  
Tuesday- Bring in one special item for show-and-tell!  
  
Wednesday- Bring in your favorite CD for the class to listen to throughout the day! (Please be sure is appropriate.)  
  
Thursday- A family member may read your favorite story to the class…Or…

2) Parents, you can write a letter to the class telling us how special your child is to you. Send the letter in a sealed envelope, and I will read the letter to the class during star student time.  
  
Friday- Each student in the class will write a letter or draw a picture to the star student while the star student decorates the cover to their book.   
  
**Snack**: We will have snack every afternoon. Please provide healthy snacks for your child such as fresh fruit, veggies, yogurt, granola bars, pretzels, or string cheese. Remember, we are fueling young minds and bodies, and healthy snacks will keep them fuller for longer. Snack donations (a bag of pretzels or crackers) would be greatly appreciated to give to students who forget a snack for the day.http://teacherweb.com/Controls/DHtmlEditor/Images/face1.gif

T

**Technology**: Students will go to computer class two days a week. I encourage you to go to Mrs. Kellman’s website (the computer teacher), as she has many links to various learning websites.

U

**Understanding:** I understand that things occasionally come up, homework is sometimes forgotten, and things happen. Please let me know if your homework is going to be late, or if something happens that may affect your child.

V

**Volunteering**: If you would like to volunteer in or out of the classroom please let me know. Parents will not have access to the copy machines, but there is always something that needs to be done. Parents will also be needed during field trips and other activities throughout the year.

W

**Wish List:** Any of the items from The Giving Tree are greatly appreciated. I might ask for other items in the newsletters throughout the year.

X

**Exciting Things!**: Besides some of the wonderful things we are going to learn about, there are a lot of exciting things that happen in first grade. Some of them include pumpkin fun, holidays around the world, field trips, watching the life cycle of a butterfly, RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program/show, and much more!

Y

**Your Child**: Please be sure to fill out the parent survey that is included in the welcome folder. I look forward to being your child’s teacher, and also working with you to provide your child with the most positive learning experience. I can’t wait to get to know your child and have a terrific school year!

Z

**Zzzz:** Please make sure your child gets enough sleep, especially in the beginning of the year. The school day can seem long to a tired child!