

First Grade

ROCKS!



First Grade Handbook
Mountain View Elementary

Dear Families,

Welcome to first grade! We are very excited to work with you and your children this year. You will find first grade to be full of growth, both emotionally and developmentally. Our year is planned with many interesting activities to enhance your child's knowledge. We will be covering the curriculum in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. These core subjects and units will stimulate your child's learning process as well as provide a fun atmosphere for learning.

Communication throughout the school year is extremely important as it allows for your child's needs to be met. This handbook is one of many ways that we will communicate this year and work together to help your child progress academically and socially.

This year is sure to be filled with excitement, learning, and many wonderful memories! We are excited to have the opportunity to help build the blocks for your child's learning. Please let us know if you have any questions as the year progresses!

First Grade Team

Standards-Based Grading



Mission

A standards based grading system is essential for high quality and equitable learning experiences for all students as reflected in the Teaching/Learning Cycle. Standards-based grading and reporting practices will provide accurate, specific, timely feedback designed to improve student performance.

Vision

The Adams 12 vision for standards based grading incorporates the core beliefs of communication, assessment, reporting and expectations. Grades should be based solely on a student's achievement of content standards, as measured by a variety of valid assessments to create a dynamic body of evidence. Students must be given numerous and varied opportunities to demonstrate achievement of standards. For a grade to be valid, multiple assessment opportunities must be provided for each standard incorporated in a grade. The primary focus of all the assessments, both formative and summative, included in a grade should be to provide accurate, specific, and timely feedback to students and teachers to facilitate future learning.

Core Beliefs

Communication

The primary purpose of grading is to communicate student achievement and learning in a manner that is understandable and useful for all stakeholders.

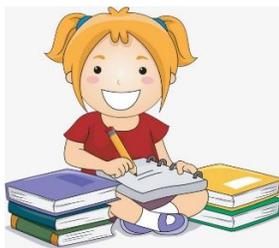
Assessment

Ongoing assessment provides evidence to drive instruction, identify areas of need, and communicate achievement toward standards.

Reporting

Grading and reporting are recognized as vital to our educators' most important responsibilities. Grade reporting will include measures of student achievement and growth that are reliable, valid, and based upon best instructional practices.

Homework



First grade is a busy and exciting time. Parents are a child's first teacher. Therefore, it is important to establish a strong connection between home and school. One way we can accomplish this is through daily and weekly homework. Homework is given on a regular basis and typically follows the guidelines below:

Reading: 20 minutes nightly

*Please be sure to have your child reading out loud so that they can hear their fluency 😊

Math: 5 minutes 3-5 times a week

*Please have your child complete the math Home Link which is a review of our daily/weekly lesson(s)

Spelling: 5 minutes 4 times a week

*Please help your child practice their spelling words and/or patterns. It is also helpful to make reference to these skills in the texts they are reading or any writing they are doing 😊

Writing: Please consult your classroom teacher



The Purpose of Homework is:

1. To give the child additional practice on developing skills
2. To keep parents informed about what their child is learning
3. To teach children responsibility for doing and returning homework

Partners in Education



Our Jobs:

Parent-A parent's job is to support their child's education through working with and by your child at home. Your child needs to see that you value education! It is important not to push to frustration when working with your child-Let them grow at their own pace.

Teacher-A teacher's job is to constantly keep a child challenged in all content areas. A teacher should be providing daily instruction at the child's level as well as moving each child toward independence in the content areas.

Student-It is the student's job to be curious, always love learning, and to practice what they learned outside of school. It is their job to remind their parents to help them if needed and advocate for themselves in their classrooms.

"All children can learn, just not on the same day in the same way."

-William J. Spady

Classroom Grading and Assessments



Grading

Both formal and informal grading is used to evaluate student progress.

Formal Grading:

All elementary, middle, and K-8 schools have implemented Standards-Based Grading (SBG). Some examples of formally graded work include writing samples, summative unit tests, and student projects. Students will be graded based on the following SBG scale:

4=Advanced Understanding of the Standard

3=Meets the Standard

2=Approaching the Standard

1=Does Not Meet the Standard

/=Standard Not Assessed

Parents have the ability to view up to date information related to their student's academic progress based on the scale listed above in the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus.

Informal Grading:

Grading of classwork (ex. center work, math journal pages, DLI, etc). Please look at all work as it comes home so that you can stay informed on your child's progress.

Assessments

Three times a year, we will be conducting Assessment Days. On these days, your child will be individually assessed. You will sign up for a block of time for your child's assessment on these days. It is imperative that your child arrive on time on the day and time selected. The beginning of the year assessments will be used to plan appropriate instruction for your child. The end of year assessments will be used to help measure the growth your child has made in first grade.

Beyond assessment days, there are formal assessments that happen during/after units of study in reading, writing, math, science/social studies.

Snacks and Water Bottles



Snacks:

Children may bring a healthy snack (fruit, cheese, vegetable, granola bar, etc.) each day. These snacks should be small and have the ability to be eaten in 3-5 minutes. The intent of these snacks is to “feed the brain” so that academic work can still happen at a high level.

Water Bottles:

Children may bring water bottles to school. Please be sure that it only contains water, as other drinks can make for a mess if spilled. The water bottle should have a secure lid, to help prevent spills.

Volunteers



We love volunteers and appreciate your willingness to help in our classrooms and in our school. Please ask your child's teacher how to sign up for volunteer opportunities inside and outside the classroom and school.

Before you are able to volunteer at our school, you will need to read the Volunteer Handbook and sign and Confidentiality Form.