



Welcome
to
First Grade
from
Mrs. H and Mrs. B

Good “Stuff” to know

Birthdays

Your child may wish to share his/her birthday celebration with classmates. You may provide a simple treat on the day. We shall eat it at snack time in the afternoon or at the end of the day. If the birthday falls on a weekend, we can celebrate on the Friday or Monday. If your child has a summer birthday, we can celebrate in June.

Clothing

Please dress your child in clothing that is comfortable and suitable for school. Outdoor play is an important part of the day. Investing in a jacket with a hood is a great idea in this part of Europe!! We play out even in the light rain. Don't forget athletic shoes on PE day, too. Please review the attached schedule for special classes.

Computers

We have 3 computers in the classroom as well as weekly computer lab sessions. **Any assistance by**

parents in the lab would be greatly appreciated! Please talk to your classroom teacher if you are interested in volunteering.

Curriculum

We use DoDEA's First Grade curriculum. You can visit our classroom webpage www.geil-es.eu.dodea.edu/Classes/1Aindex.html and click on the word curriculum on the left side of the page.

Dismissal

Please fill out the attached dismissal procedure form and return promptly. We shall strictly adhere to this schedule *unless* a written notice is provided. We cannot accept a verbal message from your child **OR** an older sibling saying that the dismissal will change for the day.

- *Parent Pickups-PPUs* will wait at the bus dismissal gate or on the bench outside of Mrs. B's class. Please tell your child where they will be picked up.
- *IYAers* will walk immediately to the IYA building. Students are **not** permitted to play on the playground without supervision.
- Bussers, *CDCers* and PPU's will be walked to their individual pickup points by the teacher. When the dismissal bell rings, teachers must walk the bussers to their busses. There will be no supervision for the PPU's, please be on time.

Last minute changes can be disruptive, confusing and mistakes can happen. Please remember for the safety of your child to follow and discuss these dismissal guidelines.

Forgotten Items

If your child forgets anything such as a lunch ticket or jacket, you may bring the item to our school office in Building 93. A messenger will deliver it in a timely manner.

Homefolders

The primary form of communication between parents and the teacher will be through your child's homework/message folder. Please buy a simple two-pocket type (pockets at bottom). Each student is required to bring the folder to school **every** day.

I shall send the folder home **every** night, empty or full. Please check your child's folder **every night**. Read and remove all materials every night. Use the folder for homework return, notes, lunch money or tickets, and/or change in dismissal procedures. One of our objectives is teaching responsibility and independence in our first graders. Using the folders correctly is a great way to do this.

Homework

Homework packets are sent home on Monday and should be returned to school on Friday. In addition to the homework packet, you and your child should read together each night for at least 10 minutes, increasing time as the school year progresses.

Reading At Home (RAH): As your child develops independent reading skills, book bags with level readers will be sent home starting in September. Additional information will be provided with the book bags.

Late Arrivals

If your child is tardy, you must go to the office first to sign in. Your child will receive a late pass, which must be given to their teacher. Please remind your child to enter the classroom quietly as class will be in session.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for November 15th and 16th. You may also request a conference with your teacher at any time in the school year. Please keep in mind that drop off and pickup times are not good times to stop and talk because class is in session or we have to get to the busses.

Spelling

First grade involves *all* the language arts: reading, speaking, listening, viewing, and writing. Spelling is just a small part! We shall have weekly spelling tests every Friday (or Thursday on short weeks). The word list (5 words) will usually go home on Monday (in the homework packet) for that week. The spelling words are our Word Wall Words. Please practice with your child daily to ensure your child's proficiency.

Suggestions:

- Writing on each other's back
- Rainbow spelling—using different colors on top of each other
- Chanting, exercising words, clapping
- Writing sentences with spelling words
- Salt/sand in a tray
- Finding words in print

Snacks

We have two snack times in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Your child has a long day and needs to sustain energy. **Please** pack nutritious snacks and drinks such as: cheese, crackers, a small sandwich, peanut butter, vegetables, real fruit, granola bars, yogurt, nuts, real juice, and WATER.

NO CANDY, SODA, or CHIPS are permitted.

You are encouraged to send in a bottle of water to stay in the classroom, in addition to the snack drink. Please have a sippy bottle, or closing straw type.

Study Trips

Parents are welcome and encouraged to accompany us on study trips. You will serve as a chaperone to assist the teacher. Siblings are not permitted on study trips. Our Host Nation teacher schedules all trips working with the classroom teacher. We use the study trips to enhance or extend our curriculum.

Volunteers are always welcome. Please speak to your classroom teacher.