

Allergies – Please make sure your teacher knows of any allergies your child might have. I will keep a detailed list to ensure your child's safety in case of a substitute.

Arrival-School begins at 8:15. Please do not drop your child off at school before 7:50, as there is no one to supervise your child.

Attendance – Attendance is very important for your child's success. In first grade, many of the activities are done in small and large groups. Therefore, it is very difficult to send home make-up work. Please, view school as a priority and make sure that your child attends daily except in illness or emergency.

Birthday celebrations – Birthdays are such special days for children. Please, let me know if you are planning to send in a treat for your child's birthday. We will not be able to have cake because of the BIG MESS. We do allow cupcakes! If you want to invite every child in the class to a birthday party, we will be glad to put the invitations in the take-home folders. The school may not give out a child's personal information. This is for safety purposes.

Celebrations – During the school year we will be having a few special events. They include: Thanksgiving, 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and the end of year celebration. . I will contact you for needed supplies and assistance as the dates near.

Classroom Management – Establishing an environment where children feel safe, confident, and comfortable is of my utmost importance. As such, on the first day of school the students and I came up with classroom rules together. The students and I will be deciding on consequences together as well. I have found that when students are involved in creating rules they take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Co-Curricular- The children will participate in five co-curricular classes a week, including music, physical education, library, STEM and art. On PE days, students are required to wear tennis shoes.

Communication – Communication between parents and their child's teacher is of utmost importance. I find your questions very important and want you to contact me as soon as they come up. Please, write me a note, email, or leave me a voicemail with your questions, comments, or concerns. I will do my

best to respond to your correspondence within the school day.

Watch out for my weekly class newsletter on my blog

<https://iblog.dearbornschools.org/casek/> and in your child's homework folder each Friday . The newsletter will allow you to see what we are working on for the week, special projects, and volunteer opportunities.

In your child's backpack there will be a green folder. It is important you check it each night and return it each school day. This is one of the best ways for us to communicate. I will be checking and packing folders daily. Our school sends home important papers in Folders.

Conferences – Parent/teacher conferences take place twice a year. The first conference will take place in November and the second will be in March. Report cards are sent home 4 times a year. If you would like to schedule a meeting separate from conferences, I am more than willing to meet with you after or before school and during lunch.

Confidentiality – What you share with your child's teacher is private. Your child's school record is also confidential. We will only discuss your child's academic progress with you, no one else.

Daily Schedule – I will send home a copy of the daily schedule during the third or fourth week of school. This is a flexible schedule so times are subject to change. Activities on our schedule include: morning meeting, calendar, /phonics/language arts/handwriting, snack, writing, lunch, math, music, library/media, art, STEM, P.E., science or social studies, and recess.

Discipline – Through discussion we talk about good and bad choices. When students have an issue with another classmate we will use conflict resolution steps to resolve the problem. In order to encourage students to make good choices, I use individual rewards and group rewards. Examples of Individual and Group rewards include: positive reinforcement, stickers, good notes, extra recess time, a group game, special snack, marbles, and money to be used in the class store.

Dismissal- Please follow the appropriate procedures for dismissal set forth by school administration. Please, stay outside and wait for your child to come to you. My door is not to be used and I am not permitted to open it for you or

anyone else.

Field Trips – Field trips are a great way to extend our learning outside of the classroom. Our class will go on a few adventures throughout the year. We ask for parent chaperones on all trips. We could not go on trips without you! We ask that chaperones find alternate care for younger siblings. Parents will be asked to cover the cost of admission for each trip. If for any reason a trip causes a financial hardship please let me know and we will make arrangements.

Homework – Your child will be assigned homework. The homework will help me understand what your child needs help with and what they are doing really well at. Homework is not an optional activity. Students are graded on their effort of completing a homework assignment. Occasionally, a student may have more than 5-15 minutes of homework because they have not used their time wisely. We will have a conversation about why they have so much homework. Please, encourage your child to finish their work at home and return it the following day.

The most important homework for a first grader is reading to and with their parents for at least 20 minutes a night. It is very important for your child to read to you, even if they are making up the words based on pictures. When your child is finished reading ask them questions about what they read or was read to them. Reading is an essential factor in helping your child develop language skills, listening skills, phonemic awareness, and a love of reading!

Lunch – Children can bring a lunch from home or buy a school lunch. A lunch menu is published each month. Milk can also be purchased through If your child brings a lunchbox, have the name printed clearly on the outside. Please send containers that your child can open. You may send juice or water for your child to drink or they may purchase milk. Please, do not send soft drinks. We will not be able to heat lunches for your child. **Medicine** – If your child is to be given any prescription or over the counter medicine at school, a form must be filled out and signed by a doctor for a prescription ,or a parent for over the counter medicine. All medications, with appropriate paperwork,

Notes – Notes from home need to be put in your child's homework folder.

Sight Words – Your child will complete weekly sight word tests on Fridays. It is important that your child practices their words at home . They will have various lists of words.

Snack –Students are asked to bring a healthy snack and drink. (Please do not send soda pop.) Please inform your child which item is their snack (They may forget). You may wish to designate a special pocket to put the snack in so that they will know where to find it daily. Children have better concentration when they are not hungry. If your child forgets a snack at home, I will have a box of snacks for them to choose from in an emergency.

Spelling Test –students will begin spelling tests on September 15. Please, make sure your child is practicing their words each night.

Substitute Teachers – There will be times throughout the year where your child will have a substitute teacher. Please remind your child that this is normal and the same standards of behavior and work habits are expected with the substitutes as with the regular teachers. I will do my best to let you know when there will be a substitute in advance.

Tardies– Children who enter the classroom after 8:40 AM will be marked tardy. Children coming in late can cause a disruption in the classroom and the learning already in progress. Please be on time! An example of an excused tardy is when a child has an early dental appointment and comes to school with a note from the dentist.

visitors/volunteers (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and the responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

Water Bottles – If your child chooses to bring a water bottle to school, please mark his/her name on it with a permanent marker. It will be kept on their desk.

What to Bring – A book bag needs to be brought every day for the purpose of getting items from home to school and items from school back to home. Help your child establish a daily routine for checking his/her book bag for notes, homework, and announcements.

Yoga- Every Friday, your child will participate in a short (20 minute yoga practice). Yoga will help your child relax from the stressful school week. I will be sending home very relaxed children each Friday!

Z-z-z-z-z – PLEASE make sure your child gets the appropriate rest. Sleep deprivation has an unfavorable effect on a child's ability to learn. Four to eight year olds need 10 hours of sleep every night.