
Mrs. Lindgren's

Back to School

August 2016

Welcome to first grade!! ☺ My name is Mrs. Lisa Lindgren and I will be your child's first grade teacher. I am so excited to get to know your child and all of you as well.

I have been teaching in Catholic schools for 27 years. I have taught second through fifth for 18 years and the last 8 have been in high school teaching sophomore religion and last year first grade here at St. Cyprian. A Catholic education is important to me and I want to assure you that I will do my very best to instill our Catholic faith in our first grade classroom. When I am not teaching I over-see a summer day camp in La Mirada and have done so for 23 years.

I am married to my best friend Lance for 31 years and have two wonderful children. I love spending time with my large family of 4 siblings and 7 nieces and nephews and my parents. I enjoy camping and go every chance my husband and I get.

The following is an overview of our classroom rules and procedures that the students will become familiar with in the first few weeks of school. Please read over them and discuss them with your child. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via email or note. Please sign and detach the bottom portion of the last page of this newsletter and return that portion only, by Thursday, September 1st. Please keep the rest of the handbook in a safe place for your reference throughout the school year.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

1st grade is a place for fun and most of all learning! It is imperative that all students behave appropriately in our classroom, other classrooms and on the playground as to allow for the most learning possible. Children are encouraged to develop self-control. Unacceptable behavior disrupts the learning environment and will not be tolerated.

A behavior clip chart will be used in the first grade classroom to help maintain a positive learning environment. Students will be praised for positive behavior and reminded about what the expectations of the classroom are on a regular basis. Every student will begin the day on "Ready to Learn." Students who are following the rules, setting a good example and going above and beyond the expectations will be moved up on the chart. On the other hand, students not

following the rules or expectations will be given verbal warnings for minor offenses first and if the behavior continues will be instructed to move their name down on the chart. Multiple offenses cause for continuous clip downs. Every child with minor offenses will be given the opportunity to improve and clip back up. The main objective being that the students learn from their mistakes and work toward correcting behavior.

Please refer below and see the attached Behavior Report that will come home every day in the Green Homework Folder to inform you of your child's progress. Please speak with your child about any patterns you may see and encourage positive behavior and following directions. Remember to sign the report daily and return the next class, otherwise the student will lose recess time. Behavior is part of your child's Student Learning Assessment.

Behavior Clip Chart:

- **OUTSTANDING:** Purple

- **EXCELLENT CHOICES:** Blue

~~Top Half of Chart (Purple, Blue) - A student who: Sets a great example; Consistently displays good behavior without reminders, Always treats others the way they want to be treated (The Golden Rule), Goes above and beyond what is normally expected

- **READY TO LEARN:** Green

~~Every student begins the day here and remains here if following the rules. A wonderful place to be and stay!

- **MAKE BETTER CHOICES:** Orange

~~A "warning" given after 2-3 verbal warnings in hopes that the behavior is stopped and the student moves back up

- **PARENT CONTACT:** Red

~~Multiple warnings on same day about same concern or major offenses, including, but not limited to, hitting and name calling. Parent contact sent home that needs to be signed and returned the following day.

Please be advised that extreme defiant behavior, fighting, or other extreme issues will send a child straight to red and may need to be handled by administration. Depending on the behavior, we may request an immediate conference and this behavior could result in a detention.

TREASURE CHEST and SPECIAL PRIVILEGE PASSES

Students earn a treat when ending the day on the top half (PURPLE, BLUE) of the behavior clip chart. If they earn 10 blue or purple days a month on their charts they go to the prize box. (donations appreciated)

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important tool in your child's academic success. It helps extend what was taught in the classroom. Each child will have a "**Green Homework Folder**" that will be sent home daily. Inside, in the flap labeled "RETURN TO SCHOOL", you will find math, phonics and spelling homework and at times other assignments that must be returned the next day. Homework and materials in that flap are to be completed and returned the following school day (unless otherwise noted). The homework folder itself and the Red Accelerated Reading Folder should be brought to school daily as well. In the front of their Green Homework folder is a pocket that has their **Behavior Chart** that the students will color in daily at the end of the day where they ended. Please review this chart daily with your child and initial that you have seen. On the back of the **Green Homework Folder** is the **Homework Chart**. Students will receive a stamp on their homework chart each day if ALL homework is complete and parents have initialed the chart. At the end of each month these charts will be taken out and scored for their grade in Conduct and Effort. Once removed a new one will be put on and the old one sent home. In the flap labeled "KEEP AT HOME" you will find papers that you may keep, such as previous homework and notes from the teacher.

It is vital that all work is complete and that your child has followed all directions on each sheet of homework. Phonics in particular will ask your child to complete multiple steps, so please be aware of this and check your child's homework nightly. If incomplete or missing steps, work will be sent home to be corrected or completed and your child will receive half credit for that assignment when it is returned.

In addition I will be sending home corrected papers every week in our "CORRECTED PAPER FOLDER" which will contain tests and assignments that were graded. Please review these papers, take them out and sign and return the envelope the next day.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading/Accelerated Reader

In first grade, our main goal is to learn to READ!! ☺ SUCH AN IMPORTANT YEAR!! While we will be doing the learning and practicing at school during whole and small group lessons, it is important that students continue this practice at home. Students must read, listen to a book, and/or be read to (at the beginning of the year) for 15 minutes every night. Please, please, please, enforce this.

Students will be bringing home a RED "Accelerated Reader" folder every night and must return this folder to school EVERY DAY. Please log what books are being read or heard each night. During the month, have your child choose 2 stories he/she liked and write about the book in one good sentence on the template provided. Do not worry about whether it is legible or not, allow him/her to do his/her best writing. These will be collected at the end of each month and will count toward your child's reading grade. Your child will not receive his/her homework stamp on Friday's if we do not see consistent reading.

We are fortunate to have a classroom library and a school library both full of plenty of books. Students will be responsible for two books at school and one book at home. It is important that the students keep ALL school materials in a safe place at home, away from pets and smaller siblings, but most importantly their books.

Our classroom library will be used for Accelerated Reader. The students will be assessed at the beginning of the school year. Based on their level, the students will pick two books from our classroom library or if they have not achieved a level will be given easier books to practice. The students will keep one book in their desks and take one home in their red Accelerated Reader (AR) folder. This is the book they should be reading nightly. It should be kept in the folder. If it is lost, the parent will be responsible for replacing it or will be charged to replace it before the child can pick out a new book. At the beginning of the year, the children will test (at school only) on a book each week on Friday. As the year progresses, students will be required to test on two new books each week. This process will begin in a couple of weeks after testing is done and I will send home a reminder note.

Writing- We will be writing daily in class. Some of our writing will be graded on content and other times on grammar. In the beginning we will write and not worry so much about spelling until we can come up with complete thoughts and our writing flows.

Spelling

We will begin taking spelling tests every Friday starting the 2nd week of school. There will be ten words and 2 dictations sentences. The two sentences will be dictated to the students and graded on spelling, punctuation, spacing, capitalization and neatness. We will be practicing the words and sentences at school, but daily practice at home is important. These words will come from their reading series. Every week, you will find the Theme High Frequency Words that the students will be orally tested on every three and a half weeks. Please make sure your child knows the words quickly and without sounding them out.

MATH

Math facts are a vital part of first grade basic math. Please spend time with your child testing him or her on their addition and subtraction facts until they begin to memorize them. The homework that is sent home will be directly correlated with what we learned that day and will be tested on in the days to come. Please be sure your child understands the material. We will take timed math fact tests and more info to come when we begin them.

ACADEMICS/GRADES

The students in first grade will receive a Student Learning Assessment at the end of each trimester. The grading scale for first grade is as follows: O = Outstanding; S = Satisfactory; N = Needs Improvement. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 21-23. Academics, progress and social skills are addressed and discussed at this time.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. is held two times a week. Students will have P.E. every Tuesday and Thursday. Please remind students to wear tennis shoes on these days and P.E. shirts and shorts.

MASS

Students will begin going to Mass at 8:30 am on Friday's beginning in September with our Fifth Grade Buddies. Student Body Masses will be every month and students will attend with their Mass Buddies.

Student of the Week

Every week we will have a new "Student of the Week!" Friday afternoon the new Student of the Week will be chosen and he/she will bring our class mascot Kermit home that afternoon to

spend time with over the weekend. The student will be responsible for journaling about their experience with our class mascot and drawing a picture to go with it daily with a minimum of 5 entries. The mascot should be returned the following Friday along with the journal in the bag it is sent home in.

Your child will also be given an ALL ABOUT ME PERSON poster to fill out and decorate which will hang in the room. This will be an at home project and we will go in alphabetical order. A handout with more specific directions will go home soon.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

School begins at 8:00 am and students are not allowed on campus before 7:40 am. If you arrive earlier please remain with your child until that time or send your child to morning daycare. At 8:00 am, students will immediately begin their morning routine. Please note that the students will know the routine and are able to begin the day on their own. Children will be marked tardy after the 8:05 am bell. Please check in with the office if your child arrives late.

At the end of the school day, you must pick up your child from the classroom once the children are dismissed. Students not picked will be taken to daycare at 3:10 pm.

***Please keep in mind that the mornings are very busy, so this is not the best time for brief meetings. If you need to meet with me, please write me a note or send an email so I can schedule a time that will allow us to talk without any distractions or interruptions.

ATTENDANCE

If your child has been absent, please send in a note explaining the absence on the day of they return. Please provide a doctor's note for an excused absence. If possible, schedule appointments after school. If your child will be absent, please let the office know in the morning if you would like me to send home class work/homework with a sibling or to the office for you to pick up after school. If I do not get a message from the office about the homework, your child will receive it upon their return and is due by the end of the week.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers in the classroom must have completed the Safe Environment Course and be fingerprinted. Contact the office for information regarding these procedures.

SNACK AND LUNCH

Every child needs to bring a snack to eat during recess. Please try to keep it healthy and easy to be eaten quickly. Recess for first grade is only 15 minutes total to include eating a snack, using the restroom and playing. Remind your child that recess is the time to eat a snack and not his/her entire lunch! When packing a lunch, don't forget to pack a fork, spoon, or napkin if needed! Thank you! Hot lunch is ordered and paid for by the 27th of the previous month with Unique Dining. Look for hot lunch menus in the white folder. Orders are placed online or turned in at the school office.

SHARE DAYS

Share days allow the students to develop oral skills by standing in front of the class, talking about what they have brought, and answering questions from classmates. Share will be every 1st Friday of the month. Beginning the second week of school. Each child can bring one item to share. This may include a toy, stuffed animal, game, trading cards, art work, etc. **NO PETS PLEASE!** Share will affect your child's language arts grade so please be sure to remind your child to choose something each month and have them practice what they will say by answering these questions: **What is it? Who gave it to you? Why is it special to you?**

BIRTHDAYS/CELEBRATIONS

I love to celebrate birthdays and I know how important they are to the students. If you would like to bring in a treat for the whole class for your child's birthday that is perfectly fine with me as long as you let me know ahead of time so I can plan accordingly. Please send the treat in with your child in the morning and I will hand them out right before recess, lunch or the end of the day. *The treat can include ONLY a cookie, mini cupcake, donut and one drink for each student. Please do not send any additional goodie bags or decorations, etc.*

***Please send out any party invitations from your home, unless there is an invitation for each child in the class, at which point your Miss Martinez will place them in the homework folders.

FIELD TRIPS/CLASS PROJECTS

TBA

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

The children will be learning about *God's Creation, the Holy Trinity, Jesus, the Church, God's love, God's signs of love through the Sacraments, and how Jesus died to save us.*

Language Arts

Language Arts includes Reading, Phonics, Spelling, and Writing.

Math

First grade math discovers addition and subtraction, place value, measurement, geometry, fractions and time.

Science

We will be discovering living and non-living things such as plants and animals, weather change, matter (solids, liquids, and gases), space and different health issues.

Social Studies

Social Studies will focus on friends, neighborhoods, communities, the Earth, maps, our location in relation to the Earth, and other people and places around the world.

1ST GRADE PRAYERS

The Pledge to the Cross

I pledge allegiance to the Cross of Christ and to the Church for which it stands, One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, with grace and salvation for all. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you!! Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinner, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Grace before Meals

Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts; which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the birds that sing; thank you God for everything! Amen.

Creation Prayer

God made the Earth, God made the sky; God made the fish and the birds that fly. Animals, flowers, trees so tall; God made everything great and small. God made all that I can see. God made you and God made me! Amen.

CONTACT ME

The easiest way to contact me is through email. I check my school email after school and I will get back with you within 24 hours of your email, usually sooner, except weekends. I will be sending a Weekly News Letter home beginning in two weeks to give you any information in our class progress and what's new in room 1.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know the procedures for first grade. If we all work together, this will be a very successful year. Thank you for your time and cooperation ahead of time.

God Bless,

Mrs. Lindgren

1st GRADE HANDBOOK

Please read over this information with your child, sign, detach this page, and return by Thursday, September 1, 2016.

I, _____, the parent/guardian of

(Print your name)

_____, at St. Cyprian Parish School verify that I

(1st graders name printed by you)

have read and understand the rules and procedures for first grade and have discussed them with my child.

Parent Signature - Date

Student Signature