Welcome to First Grade! I’m so excited to see what this year has in store for us! First grade is such an important year for developing independence and responsibility, which helps students become more confident in their learning.

Over the next few pages, you will find more information about classroom expectations, procedures, important dates, and more. If you have any questions, or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to partnering with you this year and getting to know you!

Contact Information

★ High Plains main number: 970-679-9800.
★ My classroom extension number is 9826.
★ I will make every effort to check my phone, email and Class DoJo during lunch and/or specials.
★ If you have an emergency, urgent question or a change in after school plans, please stop in or leave a message with the office to ensure I get the message.
★ Email: jessica.scheid@tsd.org

Parent Communication: Class Dojo will be my main source of parent communication! I’ll be updating frequently with important announcements, reminders, special classroom events and monthly newsletters (sent within the first week of every month).

Open and honest communication is extremely important for a successful school year. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions. I will do the same. Class DoJo is the BEST way to reach me, because I can check it throughout the day.
Pick Up and Dismissal:
★ We will be having a soft start, please see the student/parent handbook for more information.
★ If your child is eating breakfast, please have them at school no later than 8:15.
★ The tardy bell will promptly ring at 8:20.
★ If your child will be picked up via the hug-n-go lane, they will be standing with one of the First Grade teachers until they see your vehicle.
★ We will be dismissing from the East doors close to the hug-n-go lane. For safety reasons, your child will not be dismissed until I see the person picking them up.

If there are any changes in your child’s daily pick up schedule, please contact the office and/or send me a DoJo message

Daily Attendance:
★ Please call the front office if your child will be out
★ Email teacher and contact the office if you have a planned absence.
★ If there’s a change with your child’s daily pick up, please send a note, or contact the office as soon as possible. This eliminates any miscommunication in the afternoon, and ensures your child is where they should be.

Absences/Vacations:
★ When students are absent for any reason, when your child returns they will be sent home with an orange folder saying We Missed You on the front. The folder will have all of the work your child missed inside. Please help your child complete each assignment and return the work as soon as possible.
★ If you are planning a vacation outside the scheduled district breaks, please notify me ASAP, and I will do my best to get materials ready ahead of time. However, if I am not able to get materials ready prior to the vacation departure, then your child will need to complete the work when he/she returns to school.

Classroom Management:
★ Class DoJo: I will be using Class DoJo as a behavior management tool to communicate both desired (positive points) and undesired (points taken away) behaviors throughout the day. To reward students, once a week, they will have a chance to “cash in” their earned points from the Bison Cart.
★ Bison Bucks: Bison bucks are small pieces of blue paper with the Bison Pillars on them. Students can earn Bison bucks from an HPS staff member by showing the Bison Character Pillars, or going above and beyond both behaviorally or academically. When students earn a Bison buck they will get a Dojo point in exchange to use toward the Bison cart. At the end of the day, students will be able to take home their Bison buck to share with you their achievement.
★ Pom-Pom Jar: When the class has filled our jar with pom-poms, we will earn a themed class party. Students will have the opportunity to vote on the type of party they would like. For example, pajama party, movie and popcorn party, or popsicle party-just to name a few. :)
★ Calm Down Area: The purpose of this area will be for any student who need a moment or a break to themselves. Inside this area students will find, tools and strategies to help them refocus and problem solve.
**SEL/Peacekeepers:** A large part of First Grade is about being able to positively resolve conflict, and to identify and advocate emotions. To help support students we use the SEL program called Second Step, as well as, Peacekeeper circles. We will have Peacekeepers once a week.

**Star Student**
Each week we will be having a “Star Student”. Each child has been assigned a week that he/she will be the Star Student. The Star Student should fill out the poster and color it so it is eye-catching. I will send home the poster in their Thursday Folder. It should be returned the following week on Monday. I am also sending home a bag that your child can fill with artifacts, keepsakes, favorite items, photos, or anything else they would like to share. These items will be displayed during their week. Please do not send too many artifacts, since our space is limited! Please help your child with this project. Please help him/her with the spelling and capitals on the poster since it will be hanging for everyone to see. Have Fun!

**I-Ready Assessment:**
In a few weeks, your child will be taking the district I-ready reading and math assessment. This assessment is one of the many tools I will use throughout the year to measure your child’s growth in reading and math. I will send home your child’s results in their Thursday folders. We’ll discuss your child’s results and progress at conferences in October. Please know this is the very first time your child has taken this assessment and it’s the beginning of the year. The I-ready diagnostic assessment will be given 3 times throughout the school year (beginning-Sept., middle-December, end-May).

**Snacks/Water Bottles**
If you would like, please send a healthy snack each day (i.e. fruit, crackers, cheese, yogurt, and veggies. Please no chips, cookies, candy. A little nutritious snack will help fuel the kids body to continue learning throughout the day. We’ll have snack each afternoon right before specials. We do not have a water fountain in our room, so if your child would like to bring a water bottle they may. Also, only water please. Juices and sports drinks get sticky if they spill.

**Birthday Treats/Invitations**
We will celebrate your child in the classroom on their birthday. Sadly, to follow district policy and guidelines, birthday “treats” are not to be brought to school to share with the class.

**Invitations to parties** can only be passed out at school if the whole class is invited (or all girls for a girl party or all boys for a boy party). Please hand deliver or mail invitations if your child is only inviting a few children from the class.

**Thursday Folders**
Each Thursday, your child will be sent home with their Thursday folder. Inside, you will find important papers from the school and completed work. We use Thursday folders to facilitate communication. Please help your child be responsible for returning his/her folder by the following Wednesday. From time to time, other notes will come home in your child’s backpack during the week. Please check it nightly!
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Lunch
★ 10:37-11:17 Lunch/Recess
★ You can add money to your child’s lunch account using the following link: https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home
★ PLEASE put all cash and checks in an envelope or plastic bag labeled with your child’s name.
Please label all lunch boxes and bags.

Volunteers
Helping your child realize the value of education is extremely important. Your presence at school is one way to show your love and encouragement. As a teacher, I work very hard to create an educational environment in which students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, as well as meet the academic, social, emotional, and developmental needs of each student. I am looking for volunteers to help with this awesome task. Please take time to sign up to volunteer. I will need several volunteers to volunteer throughout the year. As I need them I will send our DoJo messages with a sign up. As of now, I’m in need of a volunteer every Friday morning for sight word testing, and every Wednesday to help fill Thursday folders.

Field Trips
More details to come later. I will be sending out DoJo messages with more information, as well as requesting volunteers. Throughout the year, we’ll be taking walking field trips to the High Plains environmental center.

Homework:
Homework is an extension of the learning experience children are having during the instructional day. Homework is designed to aid the student in achieving classroom and school goals.

1st grade homework will average no more than 15 minutes (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). Homework= 10 minutes of reading (book bags), 5 minutes of math facts. If your child would like to read more, please encourage them to do so. If your child should spend too much time completing homework, please don’t hesitate to let me know. We might need to make changes to meet his/her specific needs.

★ Book Bags: Your child will be sent home with a large gallon sized Ziploc bag. It will include a leveled reader book and your child’s sight words for the week (below is a description of each). It is imperative your child brings both materials too and from school Monday-Friday, as we will be using these materials during small group instruction.
  ○ Leveled Reader The book inside your child’s bag is called a leveled reader. The leveled reader targets your child’s current reading level. We’ll be reading and practicing reading strategies with these books every day. Please listen to your child read this story nightly (Monday-Thursday) to help them continue to practice reading strategies they are learning in the classroom. It is imperative the kids bring the book to and from school everyday. Students will not have books sent home on Fridays for over the weekend.
  ○ Sight Words In your child’s "book baggie," they will have a set of sight words. Over the course of the week, please practice the first list in the packet. If you feel your child can quickly read through the next list, without any prompting, you can also practice the following list. Each Friday, I will test the kiddos to see if they are at mastery. You will know they mastered their list when they have a sticker on the top of the page.
Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday):
8:20-8:54 SEL
8:54-10:34 Reading/Daily 5
10:37-11:17 Lunch/Recess
11:20-12:20 Writing/Content Lit
12:20-12:35- Calendar Math
12:35-1:00- Math
1:03-2:06 Specials
2:10-3:00 Math Small Groups
3:00-3:20 Recess
3:20-3:00 Closing/Clean Up/Pack Up

Schedule (Wednesday):
9:20-10:34 Reading/Daily 5
10:37-11:17 Lunch/Recess
11:20-12:20 Writing/Content Lit
12:20-12:35- Calendar Math
12:35-1:00- Math
1:03-2:06 Specials
2:10-3:00 Math Small Groups
3:00-3:20 Recess
3:20-3:00 Closing/Clean Up/Pack Up

Specials Rotations:
★ Specials will rotate weekly. Below is the order in which our specials will rotate.
★ Please make sure your child wears the appropriate shoes on the weeks we have P.E.

Red- Art
Yellow-Music
Green-Library
Blue- P.E.
What we’ll be learning this year:

Math:
★ Place Value
★ Count and write to 120
★ Addition and subtraction within 20
★ Represent and solve problems with addition and subtraction
★ Word problems
★ Apply properties of operations between addition and subtraction
★ Measure lengths indirectly and by writing length units
★ Tell and write time
★ Reason with shapes and their attributes

READING:
★ Identify key details and central message
★ Main idea
★ Ask and answer questions
★ Identify text features in nonfiction text
★ Retell stories (B,M,E characters, setting)
★ Compare and contrast nonfiction/ fiction texts
★ Making predictions
★ Identify structures in poetry
★ Grade level phonics (blends, digraphs, syllables, word families)
★ High Frequency Words
★ Vocabulary
★ Fluency

WRITING:
★ Opinion writing with supporting reasons
★ Narrative with real or imagined sequence of events that include details and closing
★ Informative/explanatory writing
SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:
★ Light and sound
★ Sun, moon and stars
★ Plants and animals
★ Community-citizenship
★ Maps and globes
★ Economics (goods and services/wants and needs)
★ American/Patriotic Symbols/Timeline of Notable Americans

A few suggestions you can do to help your child be successful this year:
★ Get a good night sleep
★ Eat a healthy breakfast
★ Read everyday with your child
★ Practice math facts
★ Play reading or math games
★ Have your child write everyday (journal, stories, notes)
★ Model taking turns
★ Use manors with your child
★ Encourage your child to problem solve before asking for help.
★ Teach your child to work independently
★ Have your child pack their own backpack (homework/baggie book)
★ Encourage your child to tie their own shoes

Wish List:
★ Expo Markers
★ Crayons (Crayola)
★ Astrobright paper
★ Colored Pencils
★ Dry erase markers
★ Sharpened Ticonderoga pencils
★ Erasers
★ Ziploc Bags
★ Lined Paper

I am looking forward to a fantastic year with your child!