

## **1. Welcome**

Welcome to First Grade! I'm so glad you're here! My name is Miss Kelsey Fisher and I am thrilled to begin my second year of teaching at St. Mary's! This is such a wonderful school filled with amazing people and I feel so blessed to be able to be a part of this community. I am looking forward to getting to know and working with you and your families. First Grade is a time of much growth and I am excited to witness the victories, both the big ones and the small ones, of your children! Let's make it a great year!

## **2. Birthdays**

Birthdays are very special and deserve to be celebrated. On each child's birthday he or she will have the opportunity to bring in a birthday treat to share with the class. (\*There are **17** students in our class this year.) Please be sure to contact me if your child would like to bring in a treat and about the type of treat your child plans to bring at least 24 hours in advance. Thanks!

## **3. Classroom Management**

In regard to guidance and discipline, I am of the philosophy of positive reinforcement (i.e., when I see appropriate behavior, I make a point of acknowledging it). Because, as a class, we are a community of learners, I believe in working as a team. When one member of the team encounters a difficulty, we strive to work through it together and support each other. Accidents happen and mistakes are made every day and can be used as teaching opportunities. In this way, the same mistake or behavior will be less likely to occur, as the child will have a chance to talk about it and learn how to prevent or resolve it. If an inappropriate action or behavior persists or is extremely grave, it will be dealt with accordingly.

#### 4. Homework

Yes! Homework! I am a firm believer in the value of doing homework. Homework each night will consist of a **math practice page** to practice what we learned in math that day and **reading** for 10-15 minutes. Please be sure your child is reading EVERY night. It is so important that we model a love of reading to children. Reading could take the form of a parent, sibling, or friend reading to the child, rotating the reading of each page [i.e., the child reads a sentence (or page), and then the parent/sibling/friend reads the next sentence (or page)], etc. If no one is available to read with your child, he or she could read on his or her own or out loud to a stuffed animal or baby doll, however reading with another person is of great worth. Please also be sure to practice **spelling words** (a new list will be given at the start of each week), **sight words**, and **basic math facts** (you could create your own using index cards!) throughout the week. Throughout the year there will also be activities and projects to complete at home and your child may be asked to bring in an item for sharing purposes from time to time. Expect more information in the future about these! Thank you so much for your cooperation!

#### 5. Transportation

Your child's safety is so important. I like to make sure I know exactly how he or she is coming to and from school. Please be sure to fill out the student transportation form and have your child return it to school. Please remember that school begins at 8:45am and ends at 3:35pm. Please email Mrs. Grove and me to let us know if your child will be arriving late to school. **If your child is not picked up from school by 3:50pm, he or she will be dropped off at child care.** Please let me know who will be picking up your child each day. I am unable to allow him or her to go home with anyone other than the person(s) you have given written or verbal consent to the office or me. If someone else will be picking up your child for any reason, please email Mrs. Grove and me. If the person who picks up your child changes throughout the year, please let the office or me know. If the

mode of transportation home will be different than normal, please send a note into school stating how the child will be getting home. Thank you so much for your cooperation! This is all for the safety of your child!

## **6. F.I.S.H. Folders**

### **F.I.S.H. (Family Involvement Starts Here) Folder**

F.I.S.H. folders will be an important means of communication between home and school. These folders will be sent home each night and returned to school the following day. **Please be sure to check your child's F.I.S.H. folder daily**, as I will use it to send home notes, papers, etc. If you should need to send anything into school, please use this folder. At the beginning of the day, it will be the responsibility of your child to turn in any papers being returned. Should you send in **money** (i.e., book orders, field trips, etc.), please be sure to place it into a **sealed envelope with your child's name** clearly written on the front.

Thank you for all of your help! Your cooperation will greatly help the process!

\*Every Friday a **class newsletter** will be sent home outlining the events and agenda of the upcoming week. If you would prefer a printed copy, please let me know. Thanks!

## **7. Absences, Schedule, and Snacks**

**Absences:** All absences should be reported directly to the school office at (517)543-3460, as early as possible. You may leave a voicemail if you call before the office opens. You may also email me if your child will be absent. If your child is absent, I will put together a packet of work for him or her to do. The packet may be sent home with a sibling or friend or retrieved when the child returns to school. Please let me know if you would like the work to be sent home with a

friend or a sibling either when calling in the absence to the office or via email.

**Arrival:** Students should be lined up outside the door to the school (or outside the door to the classroom in the case of inclement weather) by 8:45am.

**Dismissal:** Dismissal this year is at 3:35pm. ONLY STUDENTS RIDING THE BUS MAY LEAVE THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS OF THE SCHOOL; everyone else will exit through the back doors of the school. **If by 3:50pm your child has not been picked up, he or she will be dropped off at child care.**

**Specials:** Monday: Library and Art

Tuesday: Gym (please wear gym shoes to school)

Wednesday:

Thursday: Mass (10:30am)

Friday: Music and Technology

**Lunch (12:30 pm and Recess 12:10)** Hot lunch \$3.25

Milk: \$0.65

Pizza: \$2.50 for one slice, \$3.50 for two slices (Thursday)

**Snacks:** We will be having snack time each morning. Please be sure to pack your child a healthy snack. Thank you in advance!

**Water Bottles:** If your child chooses to bring a water bottle to school (highly recommended), please be sure that his or her name is visibly written on the bottle.