

August 12, 2016

Dear Parent(s) or Guardians(s) and Students,

Welcome to J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School!!! I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year in First Grade. I am very excited to have the opportunity to explore and discover your child's learning.

The classroom environment is a learning community where the students are active participants in the class. They will have responsibilities within the classroom to ensure a safe and productive learning atmosphere.

This year, your child will be exploring his/her learning through a variety of activities. We will be using the Interactive whiteboard for most lessons to engage the students in their learning. We will also have hands-on activities and projects as well as centers for literacy and math.

There are many ways you can help your child to be successful in school. Give lots of **praise** for work well done. Be sure to comment and ask about all papers and projects that come home, and most importantly, read with your child! In doing this, you become an active participant in your child's education.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or email us or stop in and see me before or after school.

Following this page is the classroom handbook. The information included in this packet is intended to help you become familiar with the operation of the classrooms.

The handbook includes:

1. Classroom Behavior
2. Homework Policy
3. General Information
4. Curriculum
5. Daily Schedule

Sincerely,
Ms. Li

Sean Vincent
Katie Nicholas
Sienna Catherine Jeter
Alexander Naser
Andrew Susannah Samuel
Talan Clarisse Nami
Tristan
Ryan



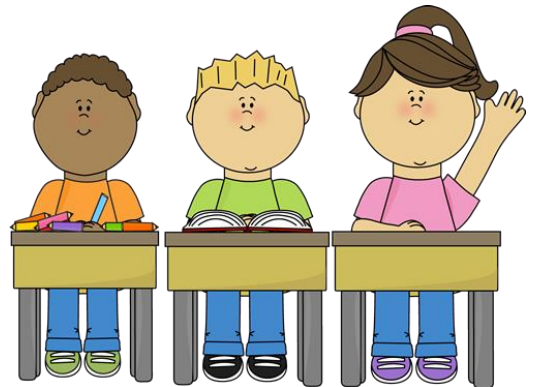
Classroom Behavior

As your child is a part of your family, all the children together create what we call our classroom family. Together, we will learn to be kind and caring to each other, celebrating each child's accomplishments and being helpful to each other. We will learn in a safe environment and talk about what that means and what that looks like. We will learn to be responsible for our behaviors and materials learning how to gain independence. These skills will be explicitly taught through our school wide behavior curriculum and supports.

Each child entering the classroom is expected to behave and perform in a positive and productive manner. To ensure that this occurs, we will be creating our classroom rules together during our first few days of school. But in general they will fall into one of these discipline policy categories that each student is aware of and expected to follow.

Expectations:

- Follow all directions the first time they are given!
- Arrive to school rested and ready to learn.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Use kind words and treat others with kindness.
- Use inside voices and quiet feet!
- Keep work area and floor space clean.
- HAVE FUN!



Consequences:

When a student is not following the set classroom expectations, he or she will be asked to "move their clip down." Students will start each day on green and move up or down based on their actions.

Dark Orange – Pot of Gold (3 points)

Purple – Over the Rainbow (2 points)

Blue – Bright & Sunny (1 point)

Green – Clear Skies

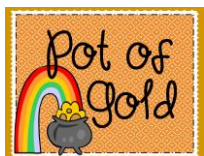
Yellow – Partly Cloudy (Verbal Warning)

Light Orange – Cloudy (Written Reflection)

Red – Stormy (Principal's Office and Parent Contact)

Physical aggressions will not be tolerated and will call for immediate referral to the office.

I believe in recognizing children for their positive behaviors. Each child will be able to pick a prize out of the prize box or the prize book at the end of each month if he or she earned more than 10 points. The whole class will also be able to work together focusing on certain goals to earn a class party. More information on this will be given throughout the year.



Homework Policy

Why do I assign homework?

I believe homework is important because it reinforces what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility and helps student develop positive study habits! Homework is leveled to ensure a positive learning experience.

When will homework be assigned?

I will assign a homework packet on Monday and it will be due the following Monday. Additionally, you can have your child visit our classroom website (learnwithmsli.weebly.com) to play educational games.

*Please read 20 minutes **EVERY NIGHT** with your child*

What are your child's homework responsibilities?

I expect each child to do his/her best job on each homework assignment. I expect homework to be neat and done in pencil. I expect homework to be completely finished when it is turned in.

What will happen if assignments are not completed?

If students choose not to do their homework, they will lose certain classroom privileges. After three homework assignments have not been turned in, or are turned in incomplete, the parent will be contacted and a homework contract will be set up.

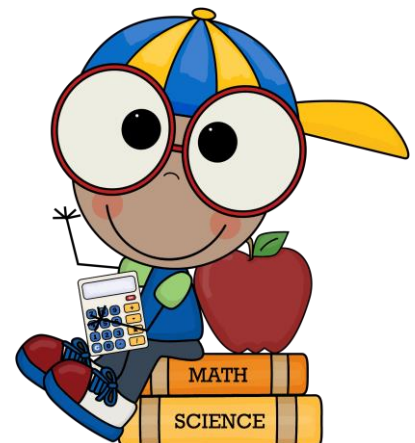
What are a parent's homework responsibilities?

Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their children. Working with your child at home is essential for them to make progress quickly and consistently. Therefore, I ask that parents make homework a top priority at home, provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment, set aside time every day when homework is to be done, provide praise and support, not allow children to avoid doing their homework, and contact me if a problem arises.

Please read and discuss this homework policy with your child. We can do this together!!



Thank you.
Ms. Li



General Information

Absences, Tardies & Dismissals

It is so important to children's education for them to be here! So much learning in first grade takes place through group discussions and activities. Although work can be sent home, nothing can replace the learning that takes place as students discuss and compare concepts together. Please help your child to be on time and come to class every day except when there is an illness or a family emergency. If your child is unable to come to school please call in his/her absence to the office: (801) 486-3197.

School begins at 8:15 a.m. If your child arrives after 8:15 a.m., he or she will need to check in at the office for a tardy slip. Please make sure you do everything you can to make sure your child arrives to school on time each day.

School ends at 3:15 on Monday – Thursday and 1:15 on Friday. If you need your child to leave early for an after school obligation, you must sign your child out in the office. If a grandparent or significant other is picking up your child, please send a note on that day. The entire class will leave the classroom together unless the office has called specific children down to be picked up by their parents. Please pick your child up on time. Students can get very worried when their classmates are gone and they are among the last to be picked up. Students who are not picked up 10-15 minutes after the bell will be in the office.

Hang Coats/Sign in

Children will begin by hanging their coat and backpack into their assigned hook, place their folder and book bag into the tubs on top of the cubbies, enter classroom to sign in, answer question of the day, and then write in their morning journal.

Dressing for School

Please make sure that your child wears the appropriate uniform clothing each day. In the winter, please make sure that your child wears mittens, boots, hat, and other appropriate clothing. Remember to label all of your child's clothing.

Lunch/Snack

We have lunch from 11:45-12:20 on Monday – Thursday and 11:40-11:50 on Friday. We will have a snack at 10:20 Please make sure it is a healthy snack! Things like fruit, vegetables, string cheese, or yogurt make great mid-morning snacks! Keep in mind that students will be eating their snacks either at their tables or on the carpet while we do read-aloud, so it would be really helpful to bring something that is easy to clean up for children and pack a paper plate to place the food if necessary. Since we are not allowed to provide snacks for the students, I suggest that you store some extra snacks in your first grader's backpack each week just in case if you forget to pack him/her a snack one day and s/he will still have something to eat during this time.

Recess

We will have recess every day from 10:00-10:15 am. Remember to send your child in appropriate outdoor clothing please. I encourage you to label everything with a permanent marker or some other label as may children have similar items and it can be hard to remember what belongs to whom. It's silly because even when lost items are held up, your child may not recognize them as their own. If they are labeled, we can help with this.

Website

Our classroom website can be found at learnwithmsli.weebly.com. You will find newsletters, pictures, math and reading videos, and other important information on this site.

School Messages

Many messages will be sent home with your child. Please look in his/her folder for notes daily. If you have a note for me, just place it in the front of the folder which will be checked by me daily. Thank you so much for helping with this!

Home Activities

Throughout the year, your child will be bringing home a "Take Home Book Bag" starting from September 26. Inside the bag, your child will have books to read at home that is at your child's current reading level. Please have your child read the books to someone and then return them the following Monday so that a new books can be put in the bag. Also, math worksheets and activities will be sent home. This may or may not be every day. It depends on the skills being taught for the day. Library books needs to be returned every Tuesday. First grade students may check out two books each time. Please make sure to bring BOTH books back in order to check out new books on library days.

Communication

I will be sending newsletters home each week to keep you informed on what we are learning in the classroom as well as any upcoming events. We hope to share with you in advance what we will be doing so you are able to support his learning or have discussions with your child about his/her day. I believe that you are your child's most important, influential teacher. As such, I encourage you to communicate any concerns, questions, or comments. E-mail is a great way to get ahold of me. My address is sli@cosgriff.org. I look forward to developing a good relationship with you and your family. We will also meet during parent-teacher conferences to celebrate your child's strengths and set goals to support weak areas.

Money

Occasionally you may want to send money to school to order a book or pay for pictures. Please send it in a sealed envelope with your child's first and last name, the amount of money, the purpose for the money (for example book order, pictures, etc.) and my name.

Birthday Celebrations

I would love to help make your child's birthday special. On your child's birthday (or day following if it falls on a weekend) we will celebrate as a class. You may choose to send in a birthday treat. If so, you may choose to send in individual treats that will not easily spill or make a mess such as cookies, cupcakes, Twinkies, candy bars, etc. or bring in pencils, small trinkets, erasers for all children. However, it is completely up to you and your child whether or not to bring in a special treat. If you would like to visit the classroom to help pass out the treat, please make prior arrangements with me so I can fit it into our busy school day.

Housekeeping Items:

- ❖ Send your child with a backpack and folder every day.
- ❖ No gum, candy, or toys at school.
- ❖ Label all items from home with your child's first and last name.
- ❖ Send all notes inside the folder.
- ❖ Please send birthday invitations through the mail not at school so feelings are not hurt.
Thank you.
- ❖ Please keep this letter for future reference.

In closing, I am really looking forward to a great year with your student. I can't wait to get to know you and your child better as we spend this year together. We know this transition can be bitter-sweet for parents as well as children. We understand that it will take time to adjust to our new environment. Together we will make it a fantastic year for all.



Warmly,
Sunny Li



Curriculum

Philosophy

I believe young children learn by exploring with their senses and by asking questions in a safe, structured, nurturing environment. I believe parents and teachers are partners in education. It is our responsibility to create engaging learning opportunities where all children can investigate, manipulate materials, and communicate socially in a variety of ways.

Standards

The first grade language arts, math, and social studies curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and Utah State Core Standards. We will follow the Next Generation Science Standards for all of our science content.

Literacy Block (Power Hour)

Students have a 45-minute block of time called Power Hour on Monday thru Thursday devoted to language, literacy, and writing. Our core literacy program is the *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys Common Core Program*. During this time we will be developing our reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. We will begin with a close reading text to teach comprehension strategies, critical thinking, and deeper connections with the text. This is a teacher directed activity where different concepts are taught within a text (either a poem, big book, songs, or other materials). Research shows that reading and writing complement each other and are best comprehended when taught together. We will have a teacher guided writing lesson conducted with the children practicing these skills independently or with support, in their writing folders. We practice both teacher dictated phonics sentences which practice hearing and recording sounds as well as process writing where children formulate their own idea and write about it! During guided reading time, we will be working with small groups of children on specific pre-reading (phonemic awareness and letter ID) and reading objectives at each child's appropriate level. While we are working with small guided reading groups, the rest of the class will be working independently or in small groups as literacy centers. Guided reading groups will begin after literacy centers have been taught at an independent level, usually six weeks into the school year.

Reader's Workshop

This is our time to talk about what readers do such as book handling, how to make good book choices, how to "talk" about the books we are reading, and to learn vocabulary and important comprehension skills. This will likely take place after lunch time as a quiet time and a way to transition back into our learning.

Writer's Workshop

For writer's workshop time, the children work specifically on getting their thoughts and ideas onto paper and developing their stories. It is a time when we work on the process of writing from beginning to end for those special pieces of writing. The goal here is to increase their writing stamina or their ability to write for longer periods of time independently with what we have learned together as a class and in small groups as well. I will work with small writing groups at this time for conferences.

I-Pads

Throughout the year students will be able to use I-pads to practice the new skills and to also play games that reinforce concepts being taught in the classroom.

Word Work

This is the time when we will explicitly teach phonics and phonemic awareness lessons to the children. The lesson will start whole group with an interactive journal component to end as a way for children to have independent practice with the concepts taught.

Math

New math objectives will be taught whole group with support. Children will then have an opportunity to have independent practice with the new skill. Children will engage in independent math centers while I work with small guided math groups. We will also work in Math Journals. Your child will be given an opportunity to expand their critical thinking, problem solving, and listening skills during this period of our day. Our core program is *Math in Focus/Singapore Math*.

Thematic Units

Behavior, Religion, Science, and Social Studies lessons will be taught explicitly and integrated into our reading and writing as well. We cover these lessons in a whole group with extension activities to express our learning. We know that children learn best when we embed the content into themes that are meaningful. We will work hard to make sure that our learning is meaningful and developmentally appropriate. We also know that service learning is very valuable and a lifelong gift. As much as possible we will work to include service learning projects into our themes.

Specials

Monday

Computer

12:30-1:00

Music

1:30-2:00

Tuesday

PE

8:30-9:10

*Bring gym shoes

Spanish

11:15-11:45

Library

2:10-2:40

Wednesday

Art

1:30-2:10



Thursday

Spanish

11:15-11:45

Choir

12:50-1:10

Friday

Mass

8:30-9:30

*Formal Dress

What We Will Learn

Language Arts

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
- Print Concepts
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics and Word Recognition
- Fluency
- Text Types and Purposes
- Production and Distribution of Writing
- Comprehension and Collaboration
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
- Conventions of Standard English
- Knowledge of Language
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Math

- Addition & Subtraction
- Word Problems
- Solving
- Place Value
- Compare
- 2-digit Numbers
- Measure
- Length of Objects
- Tell and Write Time
- Interpret Data & Graph
- Attributes of 2D/3D Shapes

Religious

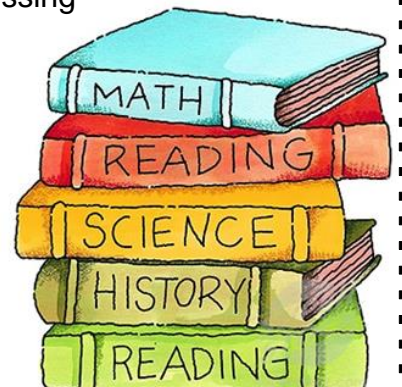
- Creed
- Worship and Sacraments
- Morality
- Social Justice
- Core Scripture
- Family Life
- Liturgical Year
- Christian Prayer and Practice
- Vocabulary
- Service
- Saints
- Church History

Science

- Waves: Light and Sound
- Structure, Space
- Systems: Patterns and Cycles
- Engineering Design
- Function, and Information Processing

Social Studies

- Community (Schools & Neighborhoods)
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Social Skills
- Create and Interpret Maps
- Economic Choices and Needs



Daily Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15 School Begins	8:15 School Begins	8:15 School Begins	8:15 School Begins	8:15 School Begins
8:20-8:30 Sign In	8:20-8:30 Sign In	8:20-8:30 Sign In	8:20-8:30 Sign In	8:20-8:30 Sign In
8:30-8:45 Calendar	8:30-9:10 PE	8:30-8:45 Calendar	8:30-8:45 Calendar	8:30-9:30 Mass
8:45-9:55 Math	9:10-9:30 Calendar	8:45-9:55 Math	8:45-9:55 Math	9:30-9:45 Calendar
10:00-10:15 Recess	9:30-10:00 Writer's Workshop	10:00-10:15 Recess	10:00-10:15 Recess	10:00-10:15 Recess
10:20-10:30 Snack/Read Aloud	10:00-10:15 Recess	10:20-10:30 Snack/Read Aloud	10:20-10:30 Snack/Read Aloud	10:20-10:30 Snack/Read Aloud
10:30-11:15 Power Hour	10:20-10:30 Snack/Read Aloud	10:30-11:15 Power Hour	10:30-11:15 Power Hour	10:30-11:50 Social Studies & Science
11:15-11:45 Writer's Workshop	10:30-11:15 Power Hour	11:15-11:45 Writer's Workshop	11:15-11:45 Spanish	11:50-12:10 Lunch
11:45-12:20 Lunch	11:15-11:45 Spanish	11:45-12:20 Lunch	11:45-12:20 Lunch	12:30-1:00 3 rd Grade Buddy Reading
12:25-12:35 Mini-Lesson	11:45-12:20 Lunch	12:25-1:25 Reading Centers & Word Work	12:20-12:45 Writer's Workshop	1:00-1:10 Pack Up
12:30-1:00 Computer	12:25-1:25 Math	1:30-2:10 Art	12:50-1:10 Choir	1:10 End of Day Activity
1:30-2:00 Music	1:30-2:10 Reading Centers & Word Work	2:15-3:00 Religion	1:15-2:15 Reading Centers & Word Work	1:15 Dismissal
2:05-3:00 Reading Centers & Word Work	2:10-2:40 Library	3:00-3:10 Pack Up	2:15-3:00 Religion	
3:00-3:10 Pack Up	3:00-3:10 Pack Up	3:10 End of Day Activity	3:00-3:10 Pack Up	
3:10 End of Day Activity	3:10 End of Day Activity	3:15 Dismissal	3:10 End of Day Activity	
3:15 Dismissal	3:15 Dismissal		3:15 Dismissal	



***Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Make sure to let me know in advance if you plan to stop by during the day. Also, Power Hour will not start until September 26.**

Please sign and return stating that you have read this packet:

Student Name: _____

Parent of Guardian Signature: _____