# The ABC's of First Grade

**A Parent Resource**

2022-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Consistent attendance is a key component to success in 1st grade. Arrival time is between 8:30-8:45am. Please arrive as close to 8:30 as possible to maximize instructional time.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Birthdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Students will have their birthdays recognized over the morning announcements. If you wish, you may send in a small, non-food item for your child to share with his/her classmates.</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conference Day</th>
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<td>C</td>
<td>We will meet to discuss your child’s progress on Wednesday, November 23rd. Keep an eye out for sign up information.</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Dismissal Changes:</th>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Please send a note to school to inform us of any changes in your child’s dismissal. <strong>We are unable to let your child go home with a friend or change their usual dismissal procedure without written permission from you.</strong> Students may only ride home on their assigned buses. If a change in dismissal procedure occurs during the school day, you must call the office as we are not always able to check our email during the school day.</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Email:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Our email addresses are:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Wilkins: <a href="mailto:dwilkins@bcps.org">dwilkins@bcps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Barnes: <a href="mailto:acastinobarnes@bcps.org">acastinobarnes@bcps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Rickels: <a href="mailto:srickels@bcps.org">srickels@bcps.org</a></td>
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</table>
| **F** | **Field Trips:**  
We plan to go on one or two field trips this year, most likely in the spring. More information will follow once details are confirmed. |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **G** | **Grading Scale:**  
All Baltimore County students in grades 1-3 will be graded using these Primary Achievement codes:
- CD = Consistently Demonstrating (80%-100%)
- P = Progressing (40%-79%)
- N = Needs Development (0%-39%) |
| **H** | **Homework:**  
Your child will have homework Monday through Thursday (beginning after the first few weeks of school) to reinforce skills and concepts taught in class. Weekly assignment charts will be glued in their homework book. Worksheets/activities will be found in your child's take-home folder. Homework is due at the end of the week (usually Friday) and each assignment should take no longer than 30 minutes. Your child may spend less or more time completing an assignment depending on the level of difficulty. **Please check your child’s homework book at the beginning of each week for that week’s assignments.** |
| **I** | **Important Information:**  
Please follow the links below in order to provide us with necessary information such as: your child’s daily dismissal routine, your updated contact information, and an interest survey to help us get to know your child!  
**Dismissal Form:** [https://forms.gle/YunQ5dDYp3CEJG7j7](https://forms.gle/YunQ5dDYp3CEJG7j7)  
**Parent Contact Information Form:** [https://forms.gle/7YKmkfp5xwrif85u6](https://forms.gle/7YKmkfp5xwrif85u6)  
**Student Interest Survey:** [https://forms.gle/Qo8vVmDoVucCMDdPA](https://forms.gle/Qo8vVmDoVucCMDdPA) |
| **J** | **Jobs in the Classroom:**  
Students will be assigned a classroom job that promotes independence and responsibility. |
| **K** | **Keep Updated:**  
You can stay updated by reviewing homework, checking email and Schoology (for grades), reading our class newsletters, and signing the calendar in the Mindful Manors folder. |
| L | **Lunch:**  
Lunch time for first graders is 11:55-12:25. |
|---|---|
| M | **Mindful Manors:**  
We utilize a positive approach to social and emotional behavior using our Conscious Discipline curriculum. A “Mindful Manors” folder with monthly calendars will come home daily to inform you of your child’s progress with our school pledge; *I will take care of myself, I will take care of others, I will take care of our school.* Our goal is to help students practice and apply these ideas. Please review and initial your child’s calendar each night.  
In addition, we utilize “Houses”, a school wide character education, relationship and community building program. Each student can earn tickets for their House color by exhibiting the virtue of the month or behaviors expressed in the school pledge. |
| N | **Newsletters:**  
Classroom newsletters will be emailed monthly. The newsletter will provide updates of the skills and concepts we are working on in class as well as other important information. |
| O | **Our Schedule:**  
8:30 – 8:50 Arrival and Announcements  
8:50 – 9:05 Morning Meeting  
9:05 – 11:00 Phonics/ELA/Writing  
11:00 - 11:50 **Special**  
11:55 - 12:25 **Lunch**  
12:30 – 12:45 ELA  
12:45 – 2:00 Number Corner/Math  
2:00 – 2:30 Recess  
2:35 – 3:10 Science, Social Studies, Health  
3:10 – 3:30 Pack Up and Read Aloud  
3:30 - 3:45 Dismissal |
| P | **Parties:**  
Classroom parties TBD. |
| Q | **Questions:**  
We can be reached by phone (443) 809-5947, by note, or by email. **Please do not email time-sensitive information, such as dismissal changes as we cannot guarantee we will be able to check our email throughout the day. Please call the office if there is a last-minute change.** |
|---|---|
| R | **Room Parents:**  
Each first grade class will need several room parents to work as a collaborative group to coordinate events and share information with parents. |
| S | **Specials:**  
First graders will have daily specials that consist of Art, Music, P.E., and Library. |
| T | **Take-Home Folder:**  
This folder will come home every day. Please check the folder each night for important information as well as some of your child’s daily work. Items on the **LEAVE** side should be taken out and left at home. Anything on the **RETURN** side can be read, possibly signed, and returned to school the following day. Please help your child remember to show you this folder each night and bring it back to school the next day. |
| U | **Using Technology:**  
Students will be using their devices in the classroom for a variety of purposes, including skill practice, research projects, and some assessments. Students will bring their devices home nightly. Devices should be charged each night for use in class the next day. |
| V | **Volunteers:**  
Anyone wishing to volunteer must complete a volunteer training session. We will need volunteers for field trips, preparing classroom materials, and possibly to help with class celebrations, etc. |
| W | **Website:**  
Please monitor Schoology to check your child’s grades and other communication. |
X, Y, Z

XYZ:
We are excited to work with you and your child this year! Make sure he/she gets plenty of zzzz's each night as we have exciting days planned this year!