

WELCOME!

August 5, 2016



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the world of First Grade! I would like to extend a special welcome to you and say how much I look forward to working with your child this year. I am also looking forward to working with you! Open communication is extremely important to me. Feel free to email (lwright1@wcpss.net), write me a note, or call (school phone is 557-2770) if ever a concern arises.

I do my best to check email daily, but there are times that I am unable. For this reason, please do not use email to communicate changes in transportation for the afternoon. If you ever need to change your child's way of transportation in the afternoon, you need to call the office or notify us by a note. We are not able to accept your child telling us he/she is getting home a different way in the afternoon. Thank you for your cooperation.

We have had a great first week of school! Students have adjusted well and are excited about learning. This week I have spent time familiarizing students with classroom procedure and students are learning the classroom rules that they are expected to follow. We have practiced our "BBB" behavior not only in the classroom, but throughout the school. Every student remained a "relaxing turtle" this week and earned their first Friday treat! What a GREAT class!!!

mCLASS assessments have begun! This assessment helps guide my instruction to meet the individual needs of each student. When all assessments are complete, I will send home a "Home Connect mCLASS® Literacy Progress Report" to show the results of your child's assessment. This report will serve as the progress report or interim for this quarter.

A classroom schedule will be available soon. Students will go to the same special for a period of time so that instruction is more consistent. We had Global Literacy this week and next week we will have Technology. I will send a Special schedule home soon.

First grade is not only an exciting year, but it is an important year for learning. We will be involved in many wonderful learning experiences this year. We will have at least one opportunity every quarter for parents and special guests to come and engage in some type of activity within the classroom. One of my many goals is to continue to help your child develop the love of learning. I also want them to become responsible students both in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

As you know, first grade is an important time for learning to read. As a parent you play a crucial role in building the strong foundations that are necessary for your child's success in all areas of study. It is absolutely essential that you encourage your child to read each night. In the weeks to come, I will be sending a reading book home as part of your child's homework assignments. Written comprehension is crucial to your child's development in reading. Please work with your child on restating the question in his/her written response for reading homework. For example, if the question asks, "How did the character feel in the story?" The correct response should begin, "The character felt..." Thanks so much for your help with this at home.

In addition to homework that was explained in the Meet the Teacher packet, every month I will be sending home a "Homework Calendar" which gives Monday through Friday activities. The calendar provides an assortment of fun activities that take minutes to complete, but will make a lasting effect on your child's learning. Please have your child complete at least **two** activities a week, of their choice, and check the lower right corner box when the activity is completed. At the end of the month, please complete the response journal and return the calendar and response journal to school. The August Homework Calendar is enclosed in your child's Homework Folder. Please keep in mind that this is an **optional** activity that will only enhance your child's learning. It is not a requirement.

I don't give daily homework the first couple of weeks in school as I try to get my students acclimated to the classroom and learn the responsibility of just turning in their Homework Folder every morning. We will start our regular weekly homework soon that will have four main assignments - reading, writing/Literacy, Letterland, and math. Homework is sent home every Friday and due the following Friday. Please let me know if you have any questions.

To insure a positive atmosphere in our classroom, we will have a class superstar, otherwise known as the "Student of the Week." The "Student of the Week" has his/her own special bulletin board! I will go alphabetically by first name to choose our VIP. When it is your child's turn to be our "Student of the Week," I will send an information

sheet home for you to read. I will also have a special information sheet for your child to complete. We would love to have you visit anytime, but especially during your child's special week! Mrs. Potter and I start off the year by sharing about ourselves and then we will begin with our wonderful students.

Thank you for the many supplies that were sent in! It is SO APPRECIATED!! We are still in need of small toys (McDonald's toys or the like) for our treat box. With such a WONDERFUL CLASS, we are going to go through the toys in our treat box quickly! It is not necessary to go and buy anything. 😊 Recycled toys are great! You may have some around the house that are not played with anymore. Toys your child may not want will become someone else's treasure! 😊 THANKS SO MUCH! Thanks in advance for sending in whatever you can!

I am very happy to have your child in my classroom! I look forward to a wonderful, challenging, and rewarding year!

Sincerely,
Leah Wright

