

Saint Boniface Catholic School

1st Grade Handbook

Mrs. Sharum

2018-2019 School Year

August 15, 2018

WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE!

This is the beginning of an exciting new school year for you and your child. This year will open many new opportunities that are the basic foundation of your child's education. Together we

can make this a very successful and rewarding year for our new first graders. This letter will help inform you about the classroom management and some of the ongoing activities.



BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY: The school doors will be opened at 7:30. If your child enters the building between 7:30 and 7:50, he/she will be watched by the duty teacher in the front foyer. At 7:50, I will open the classroom to the children. From 7:50 to 7:55 as children come into the room, they will be expected to quickly unpack their backpacks and then settle down to familiar reading. The first school bell rings at 7:55. The second bell rings at 8:00. Any children who are not in the room at the time the second bell rings are considered tardy.

It is essential to the start of the day that when the children come in every morning they get settled as quickly as possible. Parents, it is not necessary that you walk your child to the classroom after the first couple of days of school. If you absolutely feel that you must walk your child to the room, please drop your child off at the classroom door. I am happy to make an appointment to talk with you during my planning periods or after school—just call to make an appointment. If you must speak to me about something in the morning,

please motion for me to come to the door. The children settle down to their reading quicker when it is only us in the room, because that is our normal routine.

END OF SCHOOL DAY: School will dismiss at 3:10. Every day I will walk the children to our designated area on the sidewalk. Please meet us there. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!** I will not dismiss a child to you until all of my students are in this designated area. My number one priority is to get all of the students to this spot. Then, and only then, will I start dismissing children. Please be patient with this rule of mine. Please don't stand by the school doors and "take" your child out of my line. This is very frightening to me to leave the room with a certain number of kids and not have that same number at my destination.

HOMEWORK FOLDERS: Almost every day your child will bring home a Homework Folder. One side of the folder will be labeled "Take Home." The other side will be labeled "Return to School." This is an organization tool for your child (and you). I will teach them at school to put papers and notes for parents, Homework Sheet, Brain Booster, etc., in the Homework Folder on the Take Home side. You, at home, teach them to do the same. Homework, notes to me, etc., go in the Homework Folder on the Return to School side. There is a pencil bag in the Homework Folder. Please use that for sending money or small notes. Please check your child's Homework Folder with him/her every night.

HOMEWORK: The homework in first grade is called Brain Boosters. I will begin sending it home the first Friday of the school year. Your child will bring one home five Fridays in a row and then they will have a week off. Each Brain Booster corresponds to the story in the Reading book. There is a section for your child to do each night, beginning Sunday night and going through Thursday night. The Brain Booster is due on Friday. Please see that your child does each section each night. The sections shouldn't take more than a few minutes. The point is to teach the daily concept of homework. Don't wait until Thursday night and let your child complete the whole packet. Along with this, your child needs to read the story in the Reading book every night. Also, it's never too early to begin working on Math facts (addition and subtraction).

FRIDAY FOLDERS: I will send home the Friday folder every Friday. Please take the time to go over your child's work with him/her. Ask your child what he/she did on the papers. Take interest in your child's work. On the left side of the folder, I will always place important information (letters/forms from the office, letters from me, etc.). Please go through these as well. Some of these may need to be returned; you know where they go by now!!

PARTIES: We will have three scheduled parties during the year which the homeroom parents help organize. These are All Saints Day, Christmas, and Easter.

Your child may bring a treat to share with the others on his/her birthday. The school asks that no balloons or special gifts be sent to school on children's birthdays or other special days (i.e., Valentine's Day).

ABSENCE: Please call the office to let us know if your child is not coming to school or will be late. If you have another child in our school, I will try to send any missed work home with that child.

If you need to pick your child up early, please send a note that morning to let me know. That way, I can have the child packed up and ready to go when the office calls for him/her. When I don't know that a child is leaving early, then we waste your time trying to get your child packed up to leave school.

MEDICAL PROBLEM: If there is a medical problem or anything else that I need to know about, please let me know as soon as possible. I need to be aware of things that could have an effect on the child's ability to do his/her work, or take part in physical activities.

I'm looking forward to working with your child this year. I believe we're going to have a great year!!

If you need to get in touch with me, my home phone number is 221-2452. The school number is 783-6601.

Thank you.

Mrs. Sharum

“Let the little children come to me...”

PROCEDURES

BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS: The children will come into the room and unpack their backpacks. The children will put their backpacks in the cloakroom. They will put away any books, check their Homework Folder for notes, money that needs to be turned in to me, and put their Homework Folder in their desk. They will then be expected to take out their familiar reading bags and read until the first bell rings.

MORNING LITERACY BLOCK: We will transition from time spent working at our desks to time spent working at the carpet. This transition from desk to carpet will occur with teacher direction. The first hour of the morning will be spent in whole group work. After that, we will break up into small groups. I will work with one group at a time; the other groups of kids will be at corners. The kids will be dispersed to corners by the sound of a doorbell.

LINING UP: When it is time to leave the room as a group to go somewhere, I want the children to straighten up the papers on their desks. Any workbooks need to go inside the desks, library books need to be put inside the chair pocket, and supplies need to be put in the supply bag. The area around each child's desk needs to be picked up free of papers and trash. When I call the child, or the child's row to line, the children are to line up quickly and quietly, facing the front of the line. The children are not to talk to others in line. Their hands are to be clasped behind their backs.

AFTERNOON WORK: For most of the afternoon, the children will be in their seats. The children will be expected to raise their hands when they have a question or to answer a question. We will take a bathroom break sometime during the afternoon.

DISMISSAL: After the afternoon prayer, I will tell the kids what they need to take home with them. Then I will send kids to get their backpacks. We will leave when the bell rings.

OTHER PROCEDURES:

INSIDE RECESS:

1. Use inside voices.
2. Be sure to put up what you got out.
3. No writing on the marker board.
4. When the lights are turned off, talking is to immediately cease and cleanup is to immediately begin.

AUDIENCE PROCEDURES:

1. Remain seated.
2. Stay quiet.
3. Focus undivided attention on the speaker.
4. Save your questions until the speaker asks for them.
5. Only one question can be asked at a time.
6. Listen to the questions and answers of other students because that student might have asked your question.

P. E. PROCEDURES:

1. Going to and from P.E. is a no-talking time.
2. Any arguments between students will be settled before returning to class.
3. Report all injuries to P.E. teacher.

BATHROOM PROCEDURES:

1. Do not play in the bathroom.
2. Do not waste toilet paper, soap, or paper towels.
3. Flush the toilet after each use.
4. Wash your hand with soap each time you go to the bathroom.
5. Place all trash in the trashcan.
6. Get a drink at the water fountain before returning to the classroom.

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION: I will be drawing from a variety of Catholic resources to teach Religion. Some of the main areas of focus will be the mysteries of the rosary, the order of the Mass, Bible stories, the Eucharist, and forgiveness. Religion will be taught every afternoon. First graders will take turns carrying up offertory gifts at the school masses.

READING: The text we will be using is McGraw-Hill. We will go through six Reading books during the year. As part of the Brain Booster homework, your child will be asked to read the story each night. This is very important to helping your child learn to read.

We also participate in the Accelerated Reading program. This is a program in which a child reads a book (or you can read a book to them), takes a computerized multiple choice test, and accumulates points. This program helps increase reading comprehension.

MATH: The text we will be using is Sadlier-Oxford. We will learn many concepts this year. You can greatly help your child at home by working with him/her on addition and subtraction facts (up to 20), telling time, and counting money. These seem to be the hardest concepts to grasp.

SOCIAL STUDIES: The text we will use is Harcourt. We will study many different units, including learning about our world, presidents, the land around us, all about people, the history of our country, and the jobs people do.

SCIENCE: The Science textbook is Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. We will study many different units, including plants, animals, weather, planets, earth, matter, force/motion, and magnets.

HANDWRITING: Manuscript style is taught in first grade. We will use the Universal Publishing workbook after the first few weeks of school. I will stress neatness, correct letter formation, and spacing.