

**Hi there! This is your First Grade Information Packet, which will include several items that will help you see how the classroom is run.**

**If you have any questions about anything in this packet, please don't hesitate to call me at school at 949-1690 ext. #225. Thank you!**

**There are many things that we do in first grade, but the most important one is that we learn how to read and write! Some children come into first grade already having the ability to do this...great! My goal is to challenge each student at his or her level. I take the students from where they are at this point and go on from there.**

**The month of September is a month for assessment and understanding where I need to start teaching for your child. If this first month of school may seem easy to your child, be reassured that this will change.**

**In this packet is important information that I thought it would be nice for you to have. If I have left out anything that is important to you, please let me know.**

### **Rules in First Grade**

**I have a simple set of 5 rules posted in the classroom**

- 1. Follow directions the first time.**
- 2. Hands and feet to yourself**
- 3. Raise hands**
- 4. Inside voices**
- 5. No putdowns (tattling, name calling, etc)**

### **Classroom Procedures**

**I will spend the month of September going over the procedures in the first grade classroom. It usually takes about four weeks to implement these procedures so they become natural for your child. Procedures for the classroom include: pencil sharpening, STAR Folders, lunch bags, hanging up one's backpack, where finished work goes, doing one's best on class work and homework, how to line up quietly and nicely, etc. Learning these procedures increases your child's sense of responsibility, thus increasing his or her self-esteem!**

### **Field Trips**

I do four field trips per school year and they tend to be tied in with what I'm teaching about. I will send home a field trip note to you explaining the nature of the field trip and it should be signed by you and sent back by the date indicated. We love parent chaperones!

### **Seating Arrangements**

I usually change seating arrangements in the classroom once a month. If, for any reason, your child is upset with where he or she is sitting, please contact me. I like to have children sit by new friends to help broaden his or her circle of friends. If there seems to be too many distractions for any child in the classroom resulting from where he or she is sitting, then of course, I will make changes in seating for that child.

### **Share Time**

I will have a weekly Share Time where five students will bring in something from home to share or tell us about something special that happened to him or her. You will get a note with my Friday Newsletter if your child is one of the next week's Share Time students. I will begin this with this week's newsletter.

### **Birthdays**

I encourage celebrating birthdays in first grade! We make a special birthday book for the birthday boy or girl and we sing "Happy Birthday." If you'd like to have your child bring in a treat, that would be fine. I usually like to have the treats handed out either at 9:40 (snacktime) or in the afternoon. I celebrate half-birthdays for those who have summer birthdays. I will let you know the schedule for those.

### **School Supplies**

Please make sure that you have checked over your school supply list and your child has brought everything he or she needs. You can get a supply list at the office or at [www.stpaul-school.org](http://www.stpaul-school.org).

## **Special Classes**

We are truly fortunate to have exceptional gym, art, computer, Spanish, library, and music programs here at St. Pauls. Mr Lance Gransow is our gym teacher, Mrs. Gloria Burns is our art teacher, Mrs. Barb Kopfensteiner and Mrs. McDaniels both teach computer classes. Our Spanish teacher is Sra. Saumier, Mrs. Armock is in charge of the library and Mrs. Balke is the music teacher/Resource Room teacher. Mrs. Julie Mollan, our school psychologist, will be here weekly to talk with children who need an extra “listening ear.”

## **Special Class Schedule**

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Computers 12:05-12:55 PM (Kopfensteiner)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Library 8:30-9:30 AM (I will need moms!) Art 1:00-1:45 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Computers 8:05-8:50 AM (McDaniels)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mass 8:30-9:10 AM Spanish 10:30-11:00 AM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Gym 8:05-8:50 AM Spanish 10:15-10:45 AM Music 12:35-1:05 PM</b>

**\*\*Library books are due back every Tuesday!!**

## **Homework**

I will be sending home a homework packet each Monday. It will be included with a checklist to make sure that everything gets covered. Homework is due on Friday. Spelling words (beginning in November) are due on Thursday.

**There are some fun projects I do throughout the school year which have different types of due dates. I will let you know as the time approaches!**

**Reading Envelopes are constantly going back and forth home. This will be explained further with the note that goes home with these. Monthly Reading lists are due at the end of the month.**

### **Behavior Sheets**

**I send home daily behavior sheets with your child from now til the end of the first marking period. Then they go home as needed. This shows a great track record on how your child is adapting to the new first grade classroom!**

### **Anti-bullying**

**Under no circumstance do I tolerate any form of bullying in the classroom or on the school grounds. Bullying can take the form of rolling eyes at someone and sticking out their tongue, to punching/kicking/poking someone. Put-downs (name calling, mean remarks, threats, talking back to the teacher/adult in charge, etc.) are also not acceptable behavior for the Jesus-centered classroom. I will work with your child if need arises.**

**I enforce the classroom rules in a positive, kind, yet structured atmosphere. Children flourish when they know what the limits are and the consequences as well. If I need to take disciplinary action, here are my steps:**

#### **Disciplinary Plan**

**First Step--Warning**

**Second Step-A 22 (the child waits 22 seconds with me while the kids play outside. This is actually very effective).**

**Third Step-Recess inside the office.**

**Fourth Step-Talk with Ms. Salva**

**Fifth Step-Call home to parents**

### **Personal Items**

**I discourage the practice of bringing iPods, cell phones, and expensive video game toys to school. Please let me know if it's unavoidable for any reason and I can have these toys in the office during the school day. The school is not responsible for the loss of these items, since they should stay at home where they are safe.**

**If your child wishes to bring a special toy for recess, they may bring one only. It stays in their backpack for teaching time and may come out at recess, snack or lunch time.**

**Car seats may be left in the office during the school day for after school use.**