

First Grade Classroom News

Miss Reilly



Attendance

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office at 518-438-0066. It is also imperative that you send in a note when your child returns to school so we may keep a note on file.



Go Home Folders

Students should bring their Go Home Folders back and forth to school each day. Nightly homework and papers are sent home in this folder. Please be sure to check them each night for any important information. Anything you wish to return to school may go in this folder. Please empty the folders each night. On the back of the folder you can find important contact and log-in information for programs like Mathletics and Scholastic Book Clubs.



Homework

Homework will be given Monday thru Thursday most weeks. Homework will reinforce skills learned in school and is due the next day. It should not take more than 10-15 minutes. As a part of daily homework, students should share their classroom work with you, practice their spelling words and sight words, read or be read to for at least 15 minutes, and practice math facts. The 1,000 Book Club can help you with the reading homework. Please check your child's homework agenda for homework and assignments for quality and completeness. Please sign it each night. Neatness, handwriting, and correct letter formation are important.



Birthdays

Families are welcome to send in a small birthday treat for their child's birthday. Please keep it simple and no goody bags. Please contact me ahead of time so I know you are planning to bring something in. Please provide necessary

supplies (i.e. napkins, spoons or cups if needed). Summer birthdays will be celebrated in June. Also, please do not send birthday invitations to school unless everyone is invited.



Scholastic Book Orders

Each month I will send home a Scholastic Book Order. Scholastic offers a variety of books and this is a great way to build your library at home. Please fill out the form and make checks payable to Scholastic Book Club. If you are ordering a book as a gift for your child and do not want him/her to see it, please just let me know and I will get it to you. Also, each form will come home with an online code to order online. Our code is HCB6Q.



Spelling/High Frequency Words

Spelling lists will be given out on Mondays with a test on the words on Friday. Students will be placed on list 1 or list 2 depending on how they did on Monday's pretest. Your child is responsible for spelling these words correctly as well as two bonus words that follow the pattern taught. Students will also write two sentences on the test - one dictated and one they make up. Additionally, your child will receive individual sight words each week based on their reading progress as to challenge all students at their level. Recognizing these words automatically will help aid comprehension and fluent reading. Please work with your child at home. You can make it fun!

During writing, students are encouraged to try to sound out the words they want to write. While they are responsible for spelling word wall words correctly, they are encouraged to use inventive spelling during the drafting phase. This is so they apply the skills they are learning. They are also more likely to take challenges. It is important that a child is willing to take risks (i.e. trying to spell kitten rather than cat just because they know how to spell cat). We will talk in class about how when we publish our work, we need to make the necessary corrections.



Mathletics

Mathletics is a math-based subscription that the school has paid for that is aligned to the curriculum for each grade level. There are lessons and games that students can utilize from anywhere. During Live Mathletics, students can practice their math facts against other students in our class, the school, or world-wide. Each student has his/her login information on the back of his/her Go

Home folder. Students can earn certificates by scoring a certain number of points per week. We do go to "Mathletics" every Friday during our open lab time.



Clothing

Please label all clothing that your child wears with special attention to sweaters and sweatshirts. They often get misplaced and it's easiest to know what article of clothing belongs to whom if it is labeled.



Field Trips

We do take field trips throughout the year. If you are interested in chaperoning, please let me know. We would love to have you! Just a reminder that you do need to be Virtus trained to chaperone. The amount of chaperones on field trips will sometimes be limited, so we will do our best to include as many parents and opportunities as possible.



Dismissal

Please send in a note if your child's dismissal plans change, whether it be that they will not be riding the bus, a change in who is picking up your child, if he/she is or is not going to after school, etc. This is for your child's safety.



1,000 Book Club

The 1,000 book club is a reading program for the Pre-K to first graders. Each child borrows a bag containing 10 different books and reads them at home either by him/herself or with his/her family. When completed, he/she returns the bags and checks out another. You can bring in the bag any day - not just library days. The goal is to complete all 100 bags (or 1,000 books!). It is a great way to support reading at home.



Math Facts

By the end of first grade, students are expected to know their math facts fluently - as quickly as they know their names. Please consider buying or making flash cards and go over them every night. An extra 5 minutes of repetition with addition and subtraction facts can make a huge difference.



Religion

Religion is taught daily with an emphasis on "The Golden Rule". Students continue to build on the traditions and beliefs of our faith through a variety of activities. This year we will be journaling about our faith. These journals will go home at the end of the year.



Daily 5

The Daily 5 is the framework in which we structure our ELA block. It consists of 5 different elements in which your child will be engaged in – Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, and Word Work. Students will also meet in small groups and individually with me to continue to build on each child's needs. You may notice a decrease in the written work that is coming home as students are actively engaged in actual reading and writing in their word work and writer's notebooks.



Guided Math

In first grade, we use the Envisions program that follows the Common Core Standards to teach math. However, we utilize a guided math approach to help meet the individual needs of the students. In this approach, students work through different stations to practice skills, fluency, writing, and mathematical reasoning after participating in a mini-lesson. They include Math with Ms. Reilly, Math with Someone, Math by Myself, and Writing About Math. During each unit, students will keep a math folder of their work. At the end of the unit, there is usually a summative topic test and their independent work from the unit is corrected. You will see a rubric come home attached to their work that also talks about all elements of the guided math approach and your child's participation, math journal, etc.



Home Support

It is important that we work together to support your child this year. Please help your child throughout the year by continuing to instill confidence in him/her and setting a positive learning environment. Please continue to work on spelling lists, high frequency words, math facts, and homework with your child. Together we can help your child make many gains this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at school. Your child is my number one priority.



Contact

Please contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. I am here to help make this a positive experience and help your child grow as a learner. Please feel free to stop in, call school and leave a message, or send me an e-mail. My e-mail address at school is:
jreilly@ascaalbany.org



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All Saints Catholic Academy is committed to providing the highest quality Catholic education emphasizing faith formation and academic development within a safe and compassionate learning environment.

Star Student

Each week we will have a Star Student. Every child will get one turn during the year. This gives each child an opportunity to teach the rest of the class about him/her. During the week, it is asked that you and your child work on a poster together that your child will present to the class on Friday. The students may be as creative as they want with their posters. They may include drawings, photographs, etc. Some suggestions might be to tell about family, friends, favorite foods, favorite activity/sport, something he/she is good at, what he/she likes about school, his/her favorite book, etc. Please **NO** tri-fold boards - they don't hang up. This should be kept simple and doesn't need to be big.

When it is your child's turn, I will send home a reminder on Monday. The poster should be brought in on Friday (or before if you want). It will be on display that Friday and the following week and returned the following Friday.

Your child's Star Student week is a special time for your child. The children always feel a great sense of pride when their poster is displayed. Thank you in advance for helping to make your child's star student week extra special.

Schedule

Oct. 20	Benjamin	Jan. 26	Maxwell
Oct. 27	Mikaella	Feb. 2	Khyreion
Nov. 3	Zariah	Feb. 9	Mi'Angel
Nov. 17	Gurjot	Mar. 2	Giulianna
Dec. 1	Aliyah	Mar. 9	Giana
Dec. 8	Devin	Mar. 16	Melina
Dec. 15	Jeremy	Mar. 23	Josephine
Jan. 12	Jolin	Apr. 20	Donnial
Jan. 19	Mitchell	Apr. 27	Hannah