

First Grade Parent Information Night

Teachers: Ms. Bongiovanni, Mrs. Helm, & Mrs. McCormick

Welcome to First Grade! We are so glad you are all here and we have enjoyed getting to know your children over the past week. Our main goal this year is to continue to develop strong, self-confident readers and writers. We plan to accomplish this by using differentiated methods of teaching strategies geared to helping each learning style by using various projects, activities and STEM units. There are many fun activities that are ahead. Below are some important details that should guarantee a smooth, successful year.

Here is a quick overview of what we will be covering in 1st grade this year:

Math:

- Addition and Subtraction Strategies along with the basic facts up to 20.
- Time and Money
- Measurement
- An Introduction to Fractions and Probability
- We will also be creating an interactive math journal and **IXL**.
- Mrs. Hosea comes to each classroom during the week to help with content mastery.

Language Arts:

- Saxon Phonics is incorporated in our Reading Program.
- We use whole group instruction, small, guided reading groups, and a literature connection each Friday.
- We will be using the Write from the Beginning Writing Program in conjunction with our Thinking Maps.
- English /Grammar – complete sentences, punctuation, nouns, adjectives and verbs.
- Spelling words can be found on RenWeb each week (Sunday evenings). Our spelling tests will be each Thursday unless we are off on a Monday, and then they will be on that Friday.

Science:

- Life Science – plants, animals and their homes, Earth Science- our Earth, weather Physical Science- matter, motion and energy
- We will be conducting 4 major STEM projects on the following: apples, pumpkins, landforms and volcanos.

Religion:

- We are on a journey this year to become a disciple of Christ
- We will learn ways that God loves us.
- We will pray with the church community and live out our Catholic faith.
- We will focus on a saint and a virtue each month.

Handwriting:

- We will be using the Handwriting without Tears Program this year.
- Parent resources can be found at hwtears.com.
- We will be using the Handwriting without Tears Paper for spelling tests. We have attached a copy and suggest you make a copy so the children can use to practice for the first couple of tests.

Social Studies:

- We will discuss rules and manners
- Look at communities and jobs
- Talk about our Earth and her resources
- Discuss our Country and the World.

Here are some important reminders to keep close through-out the year:

- Plan to arrive at the school at 7:40am each morning entering through any door. Students must be in the classroom no later than 7:55am or they will be considered tardy. Should your child need early morning care, the cafeteria door opens at 7:15am with staff supervision provided.
- If you haven't already done so, students should bring a small photo of themselves for our bulletin board.
- Please label school sweaters, P.E. clothing and uniforms with your child's name.
- If for any reason your child will not be in attendance at school, please contact Rene O'Connor at 972-578-0610 or via email by 9:00 am at: rene.oconnor@stmcs.net. We also ask that you let your child's home base teacher know of absences.
- We call one of their folders their "T" or "Take Home" folder. This goes back and forth between school and home every day. Inside will be completed work to take out every night and a behavior sheet/homework sheet.
- The Behavior/Homework Sheet is very important to check and initial every evening. The homework side tells you what our homework is nightly and will tell you of upcoming tests that week. The Behavior side will let you know what kind of day your child had. This is a good place for communication between home and school.
- Check Ren Web often using the parent's tab. Look at the lesson plan tab, homework tab, and grade tab. Teach your child to check on Sunday evening to plan for their weeks' time management and print a copy of plans/homework for the upcoming week. Plans are subject to change and should be verified daily using child's homework sheet.
- Spelling tests are on Thursday. Spelling words are posted in Ren Web on Sunday.
- Students leave their class to go to P.E every day, and then to each of the following classes once a week: Computer Class, Computer Application (every third week), Music, Art, Library, and Spanish.
- Backpacks should not have wheels and be large enough to carry all books yet small enough to be manageable.
- If your child is sick, they will have three days to make up the work they missed. If they have an extended absence, their teacher will work with you as a reasonable amount of time to have the

work completed and turned in.***For work that is missing due to an absence, the grade will be marked as a "1" until the work is turned in.***

- Students have the option of purchasing lunch or packing a lunch. Lunch menus are provided at the start of each month and can be found here: <http://www.stmcs.net/lunch->.
- Parents are invited to come during lunch any day to dine with their child. Our lunch time slot is 11:30-11:55am.
- To set up a lunch account there is a cafeteria form to fill out and send in to school (can be found under the forms/links tab of the website). Then you can put money on the accounts the way you pay all other fees, using the line for cafeteria. If you need to put money on more than one student's account, put how much for each child in the comment box.
- Every Friday we have an all school mass at 8:30am. All parents are welcome. Please remember students must wear their sweaters to Mass, and no shorts ever.
- During the first two weeks of school, pick-up lines are long and a bit on the slow side so arriving between 3:35 and 3:45 might be helpful. At 3:45pm, students still not picked up are taken to the ASP room to wait for their ride and late fees begin at 3:50pm. Make sure you have a sign with your child's last name visible in the car window. Make sure the sign has large, bold print. Please be respectful and courteous to other families as well as our staff members, stay in your car at all times, and take turns.

***** If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at our email found on the School Website.*****