



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to first grade! I am so excited to begin a new school year together. Thank you for entrusting your child to my care and allowing me to be a part of their learning journey. I know this is going to be an amazing year filled with learning, growth, and wonderful memories!

Faith & Mass Attendance:

- Our Catholic faith is at the center of all we do. I encourage families to make Sunday Mass attendance a regular part of your week. Attending Mass helps your child stay connected to Christ and to our parish family.
 - This year, our class Saint is Saint Juan Diego, (the patron Saint of Indigenous Peoples & Evangelization) who showed humility, trust, and courage when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to him. Like St. Juan Diego, we are called to listen to God's voice and share His love with others. We will be learning more about Saint Juan Diego in the coming days and for the rest of the year!
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Meals & Daily Schedule

- **Breakfast:** 7:00–7:20 a.m. Free for all students. No outside food permitted.
- **1st Grade Recess:** 11:00–11:30 a.m.
- **1st Grade Lunch:** 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Regular School Hours (Grades K–8):

- 7:00–7:20 a.m. – Students enter (unless in paid before-care)

- 7:30 a.m. – School begins
- 2:00 p.m. – Dismissal

Absent Note Policy- If your child is absent, please send in an absent note upon their return.

Homework, Grading, and Tests

Homework is an essential part of our instructional program. It reinforces learning, helps students practice skills, and builds independence. Students will have their own homework folder that I will provide. It will be sent home Monday with homework packets inside that must be turned in on Friday.

- Homework always includes **15 minutes of reading** (or being read to).
- First grade homework should take around **30 minutes daily**.
- Assignments will include practice in reading, writing, Religion, math, social studies, and science.

I know that family schedules can be busy and there may be times when homework doesn't get finished. If that happens, just send me a quick note explaining the situation. Your child will be given the chance to turn it in on Monday without it counting as a missed assignment.

Grading Breakdown

- **Homework= 10%**
- **Classwork/Participation= 20%**
- **Projects/Portfolios= 20%**
- **Test/Quizzes= 50%**

There will also be a **mix of project-based learning** throughout the year. I believe in using a variety of approaches because every student learns differently. At times, I may also use verbal assessments as part of formative assessment. This helps me check for understanding in different ways and allows students to show their knowledge in a way that best fits their learning style.

- Spelling tests will be given each Friday. At the beginning of the year, students will have 5 words, and as we get more comfortable, this will increase to 10 words. Each Monday, I will post the spelling list for the week.

Spelling homework will follow the same routine.

Example:

Monday: Write words #1–5 three times each

Tuesday: Write words #6–10 three times each

Wednesday: 1-5 3x each in a different color and pick one word to make a sentence.

Thursday: 6-10 3x each in a different color and pick one word to make a sentence. Please review the words at home to prepare for each Friday's test!

Tests:

- Spelling tests every Friday
 - I will write the test schedule on the website weekly.
 - For all other tests, there will be at least 5 days in advance notice to study for a test.
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Specialty Classes

Monday- Gym (Ms. Wonica)

Tuesday- Creative Movement (Ms. Wonica)

Thursday- Music (Mr. Butler)

Water Bottles

Students may bring a water bottle to school, but **only water is allowed in the classroom**. Metal water bottles are permitted as long as students take care of them and do not drop them, as they can be noisy and disruptive.

Birthdays

- Birthdays are such a special time! If you plan on bringing in a treat to celebrate your child's big day, please give me a little heads-up so I can let the office know.

- Your child may dress down for free on their birthday.
 - You may bring small, individually wrapped treats such as cupcakes or brownies.
 - Please do not send favors or “goodie bags.”
 - We also ask that all families remain mindful of food allergies when sending in birthday items.
 - **We have 17 students in our 1st grade class.**
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Handle with Care

- If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details—and that’s okay!
- If your child has had a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please send me a quick message on the Remind app that simply says “**Handle with Care.**” Nothing else will be asked. This will let me know that your child may need some extra time, patience, and care during the day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, my email cdemuro@frcapodannocatholicacademy.org

Our Class Remind Code:

1fvcca26

Blessings,

Ms. Caitlyn DeMuro