

First Grade Handbook

2016-2017



Brooke Keefe: 720-972-3984, Brooke.E.Keefe@adams12.org

Laura Thal: 720-972-3981, laura.c.thal@adams12.org

Caitlin Cash: 720-972-3983, Caitlin.m.cash@adams12.org

Johanna Allshouse: 720-972-3982, Johanna.n.allshouse@adams12.org

Dear Families,

Welcome to First Grade! We are excited to be working with your child this year. It is a journey that we will take together to help your child grow to his/her fullest potential.

We hope this handbook will give you valuable information about our First Grade policies and procedures. Please reference this handbook throughout the school year.

BIG CHANGES

First grade can be a challenging transition for many children. The days are long and the work is significantly more rigorous than they experienced in kindergarten. Your child may come home exhausted, so it is important to make sure they get plenty of rest. It may take quite some time for your child to become adjusted to the new routines. Your child might experience anxiety about school due to a variety of factors such as: a new teacher, a new room, schoolwork, new classmates, etc. We are here to support you and your child during this transition, so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Lunch/Recess

Recess- 11:05-11:25

Lunch- 11:25-11:50

Literacy

For literacy instruction, we follow the district units of study.

Teachers collaborate to create authentic, engaging lessons that follow the District, State, and Common Core Standards.

In addition to observations and frequent monitoring, we also evaluate the students' reading levels using the PALS assessment at the beginning, middle and end of the year. By the end of the school year, students should be reading fluently at a First Grade level (DRA level 16).

For spelling, we will be piloting a new program called Words Their Way. Additional information will be sent home as this year gets under way.

Math

Math will be taught using the Everyday Math Program. This is a quick-paced, spiraling program based upon the Common Core Standards. We will often introduce a new concept, and then move on to another skill before most students have mastered that concept. The concepts are reintroduced and reviewed many times throughout the year. In each unit, there are certain skills marked beginning, others developing, and still others as secure. There is a Math Home Link with most daily lessons. These are homework pages reviewing the skill worked on that day. The Home Links always have a brief description of the skill for parents. It is important for students to follow the steps learned at school for completing the Home Links, so they do not become confused. The homework reinforces that day's lesson and should not take much time at all. Starting around Units 2 and 3, we will be including an optional challenge math homework that will be found on the backside of the Home Link for that day.

Units of Study for Social Studies

Language of Time

My Family

Geographic Tools

Connections Through Geography

Jobs and Income (Personal Financial Literacy)

Symbols and Leaders

Units of Study for Science

Organisms, Offspring and Survival

Earth Materials

Solids and Liquids

R.E.A.D.

Silver Creek Elementary embraces the idea of educating the whole child. As part of this commitment, we want to continue to improve our students' literacy skills, and foster a love of reading. Our staff and students will Read, Enjoy, And Discover numerous aspects of literacy. Each school day will begin with a "soft start" at 7:25 A.M. All students are expected to be here before the bell rings at 7:35 A.M. The students will R.E.A.D. until 8:00 A.M. Each teacher will create a literacy focused time for their classroom depending on the needs of the students. This will be an important time for students to continue to

build a love of literacy and for teachers to build in supports and extensions for students' varying reading abilities.

Standards Based Grading

This year your child will be assessed using the following scale:

4 - Advanced Understanding of the Standard

- The work may not be perfect, but it includes complexity, sophistication, originality, depth, synthesis, and/or application that clearly exceeds what would be expected to meet the standard in the assessment.

3 - Meets the Standard

- The student has shown competent work that demonstrates the essential skills and knowledge of that standard.

2 - Approaches the Standard

- The student has demonstrated a substantive attempt to meet the standard of a given assessment, but needs more time to achieve competency.

1 - Does Not Meet the Standard

- The student does not demonstrate substantive progress toward meeting the standard associated with a particular assessment.

Lunch Money

First graders are always excited to experience eating in the cafeteria. If your child will buy his/her lunch, you may pay for the lunch in a few ways. The children may bring money/checks to us in a sealed envelope

and we will send it to the cafeteria. To prevent confusion, please put your child's name and lunch number on the envelope and/or on the check. You may also place money, electronically, in your child's account and check the balance online at

<http://www.silvercreek.adams12.org>. Lunch menus are also available online.

Toys

Per district policy, toys are not allowed in the classroom or at lunch/recess (see school handbook for sporting equipment exceptions.)

Medicine and Prescriptions

Please send all prescriptions and medications to the School Health Aide, Amber Jacques. Classroom teachers are not able to give your child medication and students cannot keep medicine in their backpacks.

Birthdays

We celebrate birthdays at the end of the school day. You are welcome to send individual treats with your child in the morning. Please communicate with your student's teacher prior to the special day about classroom policies concerning treats. Please no cakes or large cupcakes.

****If your child has any specific allergies, please send in a box of treats that the teacher can give to your child so that he/she can participate on celebration days throughout the year.**

Homework

The children are assigned homework to reinforce what we do in class. Homework will come home Monday through Thursday in a daily "Homework Folder" and may include such items as Math Homelinks, Handwriting and Spelling. The Math Homelinks and Handwriting should be returned the following day. Spelling will be due every Friday.

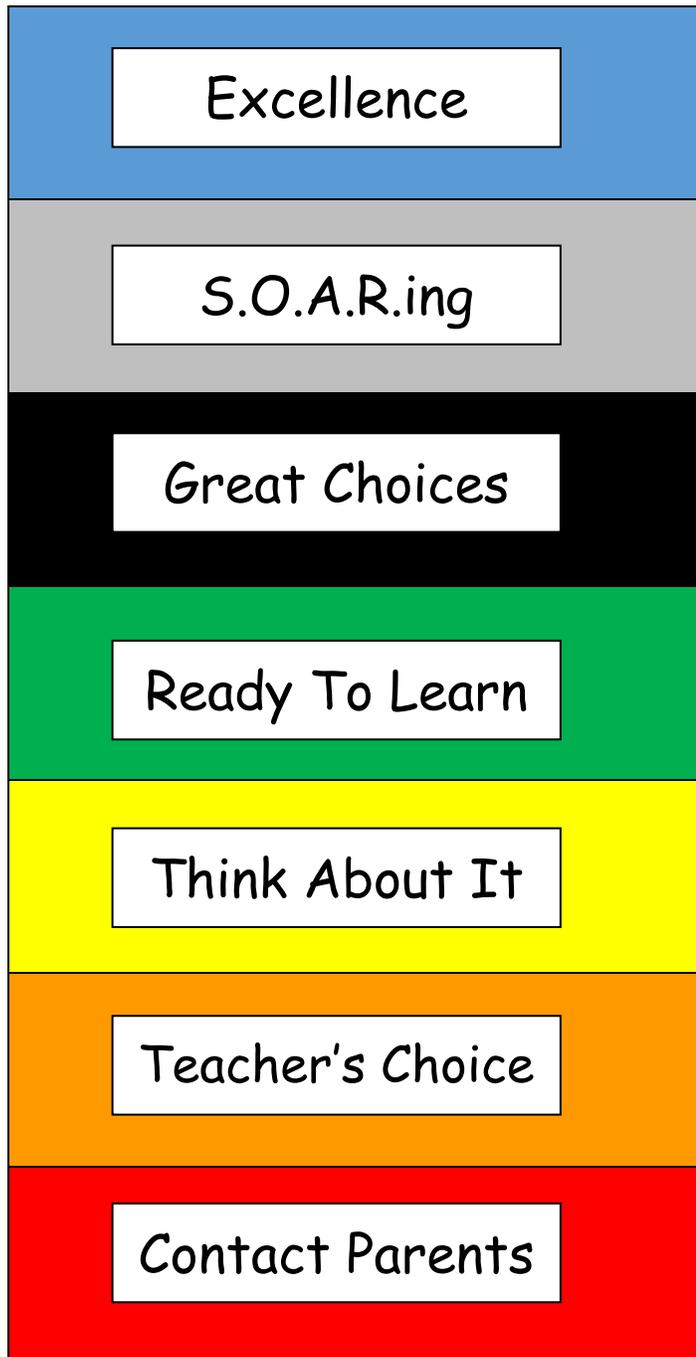
Friday Folders

We value communication between families and school. You know your children best and are an excellent resource for us to better understand your child. Because this partnership will strengthen the education process, we will be sending folders home on Fridays. The folders will include work from the week (homework, center work, and assessments) as well as information from the office.

Water Bottles

Water bottles are allowed, but please consider the following guidelines for use of water bottles in the classroom:

- *Please make sure it is a reusable water bottle
- *Bottles must have a re-closeable, spill-proof lid
- *Water only (NO sugar beverages)
- *Close water bottles tightly so leaking water doesn't ruin papers and books in your child's backpack.



Behavior

This year Silver Creek will be using a comprehensive, school-wide visual cueing system to help monitor daily school behavior. During the first few days of school we will discuss as a class what it looks like and sounds like to SOAR at Silver Creek (Safe, Organized, positive Attitude, and Respect). We will write and define our rules together on a chart and refer to them frequently throughout the year.

Each child will have their own "clip" that will start at "Ready To Learn" each day. When a student exhibits great choices, they will be able to move their clip up. If a student does not follow the rules or expectations, their clip will move down. This will be a fluid chart and your child will be able to move up or down throughout the day. Each day your child will bring home a behavior chart documenting the last color their clip was on for the day.