Mrs. Powell’s

2017-2018

Parent Handbook

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Bobbie Powell

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Welcome to first grade! We have so much material to cover, many discoveries to make, and challenges to meet. Your child will accomplish a great deal this year!

**Communication Binder**

Every student will use a binder in order to house everything students and parents need to keep up-to-date with what is going on at school and in our classroom. Please check your child’s binder **every** night because it will have homework and very important papers in it. One side will have **“Take Home”** on it and the other side will have **“Bring Back”** on it. Please take everything out of the **“Take Home”** side and either hang it up or dispose of it. The **“Bring Back”** side will have homework worksheets or papers that will need to be returned the following day. Your child’s agenda will also be kept in the Communication Binder so students are better able to keep up with them. In addition, there will be a “Money and Notes” Pouch, which is a 3-prong pencil pouch we will use to house notes “for the teacher” and notes “for parents” – it is also an ideal place to put money for Frozen Friday, lunch, milk, and field trips. Communication Binders will be sent home every night. Please return them to school every day.

 **Communication/Agendas**

Your student will receive an agenda. Please check this every night, as this is where I will be communicating with you about your student. Please check and sign the agenda nightly. This is also a great place for you to send communication to me, as I will be checking the agenda each morning as your student arrives at school.

**Meeting with the Teacher**

Always feel free to contact me if you have a question or concern about your child’s academics or social interactions at school. You can send a note to school or an email (bopowell@paulding.k12.ga.us). Keep in mind that some days I will not have an opportunity to check email until after dismissal. You can call the school and leave a message.

If you need to meet in person, call to make an appointment. **Please do not drop in before/after school or during the school day to discuss your concerns.** Unexpected interruptions take away from preparations for the school day and welcoming the children to the classroom.

**Homework**

Students will take their Communication Binders home every afternoon. Their homework for the week will be in the “Bring Back” pocket of the folder and instructions for homework, as well as the list for the week, is provided in the First Grade Newsletter which will be distributed on Monday of each week. All homework should be completed neatly by the student, in pencil, and checked by an adult. The students should correct any mistakes. Homework can be completed nightly and I will check each day or you can keep it for the week and return the completed homework for the week on Friday. I will not assign homework over the weekend. However, they will still bring their binders home.

**Reading**

Reading homework should be the child reading aloud to an adult. Use material appropriate to your child’s reading level (if you do not have books available at home please let me know and I will allow your child to borrow some). We strongly recommend that parents read with and to their children in addition to the time required for homework. Fluent reading takes lots of practice. There is a direct correlation between reading aloud daily and reading success!

**Student Expectations**

Clearly defined and stated expectations of behavior will help our classroom run smooth and with success. I set my first grade classroom up as a family. Students understand and appreciate that if we work together as a team, we will accomplish awesome things together.

I will be communicating with you daily about your child’s behavior. The following outlines the behavior management system that I will use in the classroom:

Green (Ready to Learn): Every morning, students’ clip will begin the day on green. Your child’s behavior and actions will determine whether your child will move up or down on the chart.

Clipping up

Students who meet our behavior expectations will have the opportunity of “clipping up” on our behavior chart. There are three (3) levels on the behavior chart that are above Green (Ready to Learn). The levels are Orange (Good Day), Blue (Great Job), and Pink (Outstanding). Each time a student makes the right choices in the classroom or school, he/she will have the opportunity to clip up on the behavior chart.

Clipping down

Students who do not meet our behavior expectations will have to “clip down” on our behavior chart. Obviously, this is something we all want to avoid. There are three levels below Green (Ready to Learn). The levels are Yellow (Think About It), Purple (Teacher’s Choice), and Red (Parent Contact). Our goal is that no student ever finishes the day on any of these levels.

I always believe in second chances. Students, who move to a level that is below Green, will have a chance for the rest of the day to earn a chance to “clip up”. At the end of the day, students will mark in their agenda the color they end on at the end of the day. Again, please check and sign your child’s agenda every day to see how your child’s day went.

**Classroom Expectations**

* Keep your hands and feet to yourself
* Be kind
* Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking
* Use an inside voice while in the building
* Do your best

**Consequences**

1. Verbal/non-verbal warning
2. Clip down
3. Time out at recess
4. Parent Contact
5. If same behavior continues consistently your child will be sent to an administrator

**Rewards**

We will use a positive reward system. This allows each student to earn “tickets”. Tickets will be drawn from a bucket at the end of every week, and when a child’s name is drawn, he/she will earn a “coupon” of their choice. Some examples are, no homework, golden horseshoe, no shoes in the classroom, sit by a friend, bring a toy, etc. A coupon will be clipped to his/her agenda and/or written in there so parents will know that it’s ok to bring/do these things. Students will need to keep up with the coupon and present it to Mrs. Powell to cash in on their reward. We will brainstorm ideas as a class so they are able to earn things they are wishing for or wanting to do.

**Snack**

We will have snack around 8:40 daily. I **do not** provide snack for the children, so if you do not send a snack with your child they will not have a snack. Please note that this will be a **working** snack, meaning students must be able to work and eat their snack at the same time. Please plan on sending snacks that are appropriate for students to do this. **Please do not allow your child to bring candy or drinks.** We have a water fountain in the classroom they can use anytime.

**Money**

All money sent to school needs to be in a **labeled envelope with your child’s name and purpose.** That will help to ensure that all money is spent only where it was intended to be used for. Money can be placed into your child’s Money and Notes Pouch, which can be found in their Communication Binder.

**Excuses/Transportation changes**

Please write any sick excuses or transportation changes on a separate piece of paper and place it in the Money and Notes Pouch in the Communication Binder. When sending in an excuse or transportation change, please include your child’s full name, my name, the date, and your signature. Any changes in your child’s transportation **must** be made in writing. I cannot just take your child’s word for it. I am also unable to receive transportation changes via email. If you forget to send in a note, please call the office as soon as you remember or fax a note in if you are able to. Absence excuses must be turned in **within 3 days** from the student’s absence.

**Lunch**

We will be eating lunch from 10:55-11:25. Please feel free to join your child for lunch anytime.

**Bringing Items to School**

Children are not supposed to bring toys, electronics, or anything that may distract them from learning. In an effort to prevent your child from getting into trouble please talk with your child about what they are allowed to bring to school. I do not allow children to play with toys from home during recess or any other time of the day. The only time they are permitted to bring something special to school is if they earned a reward and that would be clearly written in their agenda.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the information in the handbook, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to an amazing year!

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