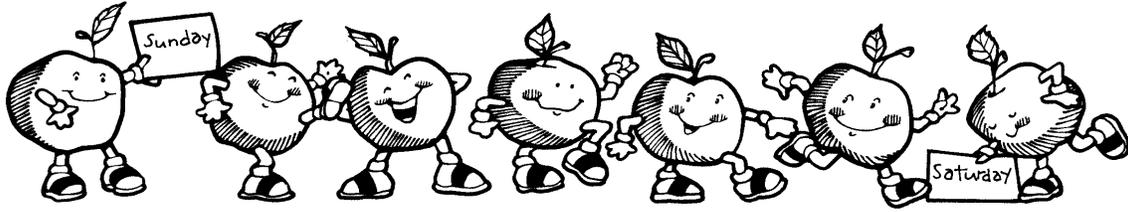




**Welcome
to
First Grade!**

**1st Grade Team
Lincoln Academy
2016-2017**

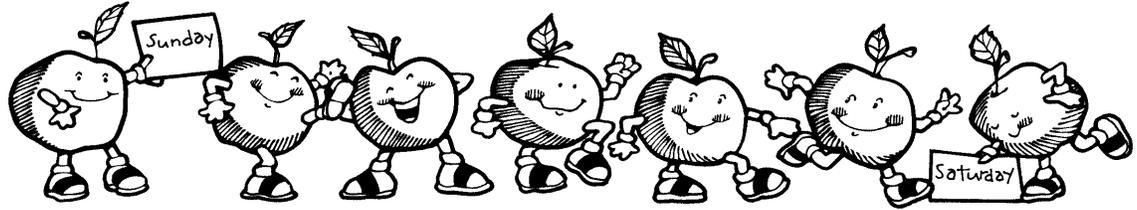


Dear Lincoln Academy First Grade Parents,

We hope you had a great summer and are ready to start a new year. We are very excited about teaching your children and cannot wait to meet all of you. Our first grade team has high expectations for your child and we are looking forward to all the learning opportunities your child will have this year!

First grade is a turning point in your child's educational career, a year of great growth and new activities. We believe **reading is a critical part** of your child's educational career and therefore will spend all morning on reading instruction, language arts and writing. The reading curriculum we use is Open Court and it is pretty fast paced. The program teaches all the short vowels first along with all of the consonant sounds. The long vowel sounds are taught later along with many other sound blends such as *ar, er, aw* and *oi*. Most weeks several small Open Court decodables will come home. These decodables emphasize the sounds and spellings that we are practicing each week. ***The books are considered your child's reading homework each night and can be counted toward their reading requirement.***

Another part of our first grade is the Core Knowledge part of our curriculum which includes Science, History and Geography. Each unit is full of academically enriched content, exciting lessons and creative projects.



We believe that a positive communication link between school and home is vital and necessary. The major part of our communication will be our **First Grade Webpage**, which is updated weekly. The webpage will contain important weekly reminders, our unit study guides, and will outline what your child will be learning in reading, math and core knowledge. Additional links are provided for your child's enrichment and will give other useful information. The link for the webpage will be sent via email **every Monday!** *Please take the time to read this over carefully.* * If you do not have computer access, there is a computer available in the parent corner by the front office.

Also, at the beginning of each week, a Monday folder will come home. It will contain all the graded papers from the prior week, school communications, event notices, etc. Please review the papers and return the **EMPTY** folder the next day (Tuesday.)

As parents, we feel you know your child best and we would love for you to share anything that you feel is important for us to know about your child. We will have a parent questionnaire for you to fill out about your child ***the first week of school.***

We are glad to have you and your family with us at Lincoln Academy. As always, we look forward to a successful year for our team of students, parents, teachers, and staff. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to write us a note, email, or give us a call.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills taught at school. If good study habits are established early on, your child will learn the importance of time management, organization, and responsibility in the learning process.

Parents may best help by: 1) setting aside a consistent time for completing homework, 2) providing a quiet work area, 3) having a special place to keep his/her backpack and homework folder and 4) *helping your child be responsible for returning their folders and backpacks each day.*

Homework Folders

Your child will have a *red* homework folder *that must be returned to school daily.* One side of the folder will be for homework, and the other is for the parent, containing classroom work. Periodically we may send home graded work with a "sign and return" stamp. Please look over that assignment, sign and return.

Reading Homework

Open Court decodable books will come home most every night and are considered your child's reading homework. Reading logs will also be sent home every Monday, due on the following Tuesday. *Our requirement is 65 minutes per week. Please make sure the back side of the log is completed also.*

Homework continued

Reading/Spelling Homework

Beginning the *second week of school*, there will be reading/spelling homework. This *pink* packet comes home on Monday, and is due back on Friday. We do realize the kids will probably need some help in completing these packets. A homework completion grade will be given each week on these packets. The grading scale is: 100% - turned in on time, 87% - one day late, 0% - if two days late. After spring break, we will have spelling tests on the words from these packets.

Saxon Math Sheets

There will be a Saxon Math Side B homework sheet almost every night, **Monday - Thursday**. *After your child completes side B, please check it and then initial it in the top right hand corner.* Saxon fact homework will begin to come home in the second trimester. Have your child complete the B side and return it the next day.

A homework completion grade will be given each week. The grading scale is: 100% - turned in on time, 87% - one day late, 0% - if two days late.

Other Homework

Periodically there may be homework for science, history, and geography. Details on these assignments will be on our webpage.

Grading

First grade uses a written report card that comes home three times a year. It will reflect your child's progress for each subject taught in first grade. Our grading scale uses: E = Exceeds Expectations, M = Meets Expectations, P = Progressing Toward Expectations/Additional Support Needed and I = Below Expectations/Intensive Support Needed. For numeric grades, our ranges are: A = 92-100, B = 82-91, C = 72-81, D = 60-71, F = below 60. Additional assessments and mid-term progress reports will also come home throughout the year.

Discipline

To ensure all children have an equal opportunity to learn, we expect children to be good listeners, follow directions, stay on task, and be respectful of others.

Positive reinforcement will be used to encourage appropriate behavior in our classrooms and school wide. However, we will adhere to the Lincoln Academy Discipline Policy found in the Parent/Student Handbook when necessary. The system we use incorporates opportunities for your child to refocus and/or redirect their behavior for a more positive outcome. We will have refocus forms to help with this process and also to keep you in the loop. Our school also uses the basic principles of *Love and Logic*. We have Love and Logic resources available for check out.

Campus Messenger

Email communication is processed through the JEFFCO school messenger system. Information on this will come from the office at the beginning of the year. Please make sure your email is correct. If you need help with this, please call the office.



Snack and Recess

We will have a morning and afternoon snack each day and would like to encourage you to send *nutritious snacks* for this time. Please send in simple to eat snacks and also provide spoons if needed as we do not have them. Because we have a long academically filled afternoon, we will also have a short second recess. ***Please have your child bring a water bottle each day to keep them hydrated and to use during recess and lunch.***

Birthdays

If you would like to send in treats for your child's birthday, please let us know. They will *be shared during the afternoon*. If cakes are sent, please have the pieces cut in advance as we do not have knives in the classroom! If cupcakes are sent, we ask for the *smaller bite size*. Thanks! Summer birthday students may choose a day during the school year or we'll celebrate on their half birthday.

If your child has any food allergies, please provide a supply of alternative snacks for me to give them when birthdays are celebrated.

Class Volunteers

Volunteer help is always welcome! Beginning in September, if you are interested in volunteering in your child's class, please email their teacher. Here is a partial list of activities to choose from to fulfill your volunteer requirement.

- Two Party organizers (Christmas and Valentine's)
- Scholastic Book Club organizer
- PTO representative
- Classroom help
- Work at home projects
- Lunch/Recess monitor when aide is unavailable
- Classroom assistant when aide is unavailable
- Library assistant as needed
- Parent volunteers may go to specials with the kids

Sincerely, 1st Grade Team