

The ABC's of 1st Grade

A

Regular school **attendance** is essential for your child to make the most of his/her education. Please make every effort to have your child at school on time everyday. If your child will be **absent** from school, please call the school office.

If your child has **allergies** to food or other things, please inform the school in writing so that we may be aware.

Mr. Pierce will teach your child **African American Studies** on Fridays.

B

Your child's **birthday** will be a special day in our room! Each child will sit in a special birthday chair and wear a special birthday hat. We will sing Happy Birthday! Parents are invited to come and read to the class to celebrate their child's birthday. Please contact me a couple of weeks before to schedule a time for you to come and read. Please do not send treats to pass out to the other students. Many families choose to donate a book to the classroom in honor of their child's birthday. Please feel free to contact me for a list of "wish list" books if you are interested in donating a book.

Your child's **backpack** should be big enough to carry folders, notes, projects, and books to and from school. Please check your child's backpack DAILY. Rolling backpacks are not allowed.

Please make sure that your child eats a healthy **breakfast** each morning. I urge parents to feed their children close to school time because lunch begins at 10:50.

Box Tops are a great way to raise money for Obama. Please take the time to clip and bag these items and return them to your teacher.

C

Conferences are held on November 16th and March 22nd. Conferences can also be scheduled at any time at your request or mine.

D

Dress your child appropriately for the weather. When cold weather comes, students will be going outside to play unless the temperature is below zero, so warm, waterproof mittens and boots are important along with a hat, scarf, and snow pants. Please label everything your child plans to bring to school: jackets, shoes, bags, mittens, etc. That will help your child's things find their way home! It is most important that they are dressed for the weather and that they can get dressed by themselves. Recess is not very long, so we don't want them to miss it because they are struggling to get ready!

At

At Obama we practice *silent dismissal*. This means students are dismissed from their classrooms using technology rather than announcements over the loud speaker.

Dismissal is at 2:55 pm. Students can be picked up from the Parent Pick up door located in the cafeteria. The rest of the scholars will be walked to the bus area daily.

If you need to pick up your children during regular school hours please sign them out in the school office. The office staff will notify the teacher. Children cannot be dismissed to parents from the classroom during the school day. Please know that these procedures are in place to keep your child safe while at Obama.

E

I can be reached by **email** at marlo.corletto@spps.org

F

Your child's red PIRATE homework **folder** should come to school with your child every Wednesday and be send back home on Friday. (PIRATE stands for prepared, informed, ready, and together every day.)

We will take some educational **field trips** during the year. One in the fall months and one in the spring months. All chaperones will need to have an approved background check on file at the school.

G

All 1st grade scholars have **gym** with Mr. Linbo every Monday and Wednesday and must wear tennis shoes. Please make sure that your child wears shoes that they can put on themselves. Be sure to practice tying shoes at home.

Obama supports a **growth** mindset in our scholars. For more information please check the link below.

H

Homework will be provided in your Friday folders. Please return the packet every Wednesday all students are encouraged to return it each week it is assigned. Parents are responsible for helping their children with their homework and making sure that it is returned each Wednesday to school. Homework is not meant to be difficult for the students and is meant to support the learning that is done in class. It is a review of what we did in class that day and it is a way to help the parents know what your child has been learning. Your child should complete this work by himself, under your supervision, and return it the Pirate folder on Wednesday! Completing and returning homework helps build a sense of responsibility and prepares him for the homework he will have to complete in later school years. Homework should be your child's best work.

I

Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a temperature of 100 or above. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be called to come and get your child. **Children can not return to school until they have been temperature and vomit free for 24 hours.**

J

This year is sure to be an incredible **journey** for your child and I am so glad that I get to share it with you and your family. We will cross many milestones together and face many new challenges.

K

Students in our classroom are expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with **kindness** and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

L

We have **learning lab** time each day where the students get to use a variety of hands-on materials to help them learn. We have language arts, math, science, geography, and sensory learning labs.

M

The **Math** curriculum provides students with experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics. We employ a hands-on, problem solving approach.

Ms. St. Cyr will teach your child **Media** every Thursday.
Mr. Cozzolino will teach your child **Makerspace** every Tuesday.

N

The **Gem Jar** is our class behavior system. Before every subject (morning meeting, reading, math, media, library...) the class has a chance to earn 10 gems. If individuals are making poor choices (being too loud, not focusing...) then the class loses one gem. At the end of the subject, we put the gems in a jar. When the noodle bowl is full then the students get a "gem" party and we watch a National Geographic movie or vote for another activity such as extra recess, etc.

O

We will send home book **orders** most months. They are completely optional. Please visit the following website if you wish to order books for your child.

scholastic.com/readingclub
Our class activation code is MTNVN

P

1st Grade is a nut free grade level. **Peanut and other food allergies are life threatening.** The children and I will be talking about this in class and what we need to do as a team to keep all of our friends safe and healthy. Please talk with your child about this issue. It will help to reinforce the fact that we all need to be responsible for keeping our learning environment safe for all children. Please have your children wash their hands and face thoroughly before leaving for school.

We will study the **PBIS** behavior model here at Obama. Be responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. You will receive information on each element as we talk about it in class. Please feel free to discuss this wording with your child at home and encourage them to be responsible, respectful, and safe every day at school.

Q

Please contact me if you have any **questions** regarding your child's education. I will make every effort to meet with you and discuss your concerns.



Is every student **reading**? No! We have just a few who are reading, and many who have a good grasp on the letters and sounds. It is so exciting to see all their potential!!!! All 1st grade scholars will participate in a Reading Workshop program. This means I will be having small groups of scholars meet with me for guided reading.

Students will be assessed for reading and will be instructed at their independent reading level as we meet in small groups.

1st grade scholars have **recess** every day before lunch.

1st grade scholars will have a **read aloud** time after specials. We will let the scholars save a snack from breakfast to snack on in the afternoon. Chapter books are read to them during this time. We will also be working on retelling facts such as recalling which characters are in the story and where the story takes place.



Schedule of Day

8:15-School Begins

Morning Meeting

Reading or Handwriting

10:30-10:50-Structured Play

10:50-11:15-Lunch

11:15-11:40- Writing

11:40-12:20- Science and Social Studies

12:20-1:10- Specialist Classes

African American Studies, Media, Maker Space and Phy Ed.

Snack time and read aloud

1:10-2:40 Math

3:40-Dismissal

Students will have a peanut free **snack** mid-afternoon. (We will be having them save an extra part of their morning breakfast to have during this afternoon snack time. A calendar will be sent home with each student assigned to be the gem master for the day.

The 10 **Step** Chart is our classroom behavior system. Every day, the students come into the classroom and check in on the pocket chart to show that they are “ready to go.” Teachers or another staff member will notice that your scholar is being respectful, responsible, and/or safe. At that time your child will be able to move their clothes pin up on the 10 Step Chart. Once they get to 10 they will be given a small prize such as a pencil, or eraser, etc. We will also spot light your child in class with a classroom cheer or chant. Sometimes if behavior is unsafe or affecting the learning of other students in the room, their clothespin might stay the same or moved down one step. They might have to take a break in the classroom or in the buddy room. In addition to the 10 Step Chart every table group will have a treasure box. Ms. Corletto will add pennies to the treasure box for scholars showing virtuous behavior. The group with the most pennies at the end of the quarter will receive a special lunch time with the teacher either in the lunch room or the classroom.

T

Toys from home are not allowed. Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings will be hurt. Students may bring in books that are clearly marked with your child's name.

Tiger Paws will be collected and given to classes that show exceptional behavior in the hallway or the cafeteria. Once our class reaches 100 we will be able to select a classroom reward such as extra recess or another fun activity.

U

Each month we study various science and geography **units**. Enrichment students make projects and learn facts based on our unit. One way that you can enrich the curricula at home is by checking out books at your local library that correlate to the monthly topic. Please check my website monthly to stay current on the units being taught.

V

I welcome parents to **volunteer** their time and talents in the classroom. All volunteers, including field trip chaperones, are required to undergo a criminal background check at their own expense. Please contact () for more information regarding background checks. Please fill out the classroom volunteer form and send back in your child's red folder if you have an interest in volunteering in our classroom.

W

I want your child to stay hydrated during the day and **water bottles** are a convenient way to get water quickly. Please make sure that your child's water bottle is clearly labeled. Water bottles will be sent home in their backpacks nightly. Don't forget to send them back each day.

I have a classroom **wish list** of supplies. I will post these on my website and outside my classroom door. It is not required that you donate items or your time in the classroom, but I would gladly appreciate anything that you could help with or any donation you would like to make.
Website: www.corlettosclass.org

X

As accidents can sometimes happen, please send an **X'tra** set of clothing that will be kept at school for the year. These types of accidents may be from waiting too long to go to the bathroom, going down a wet slide, spilling milk at lunch, or whatever the case may be. It helps the child feel more comfortable about the situation when they have a set of their own clothing to change into. It does not need to be a uniform but should be dark pants and a white, red, or blue shirt if possible. Please clearly mark each item with your child's name and keep them in their backpack.

Y

You can help to make your child feel successful this year. Reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do. It encourages them to become good readers. Another important way to help your child is to discuss the school day with them. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?", "What did you work the hardest on?", or "What are you getting better at?" These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information. Don't let them tell you "nothing." Ask your child about learning labs, media, gym, reading, or math work. It is also very important that you work with your child on the homework that is assigned each day. Encourage your child to ask questions about school. Show enthusiasm for learning, it is contagious!

Z

ZZZZ's Help your child to get plenty of sleep each night so they are rested and ready for a busy day at school. Set a bedtime and be consistent. It is so important for your child to be alert and ready to learn each day.

**Thank you for partnering in education to help your scholar
think, learn, and grow!**

-Ms. Corletto :)

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