

# FIRST GRADE HANDBOOK

## Welcome to First Grade!



I am very excited to begin this exciting new school year, where we will learn a lot, but also have lots of fun! Parents, please read through this packet so you have a thorough understanding of how our class will run this year. It is important for us both to be equally involved in your child's education so that they may reach their highest potential. You may reach me any time with questions or concerns by email (preferred, as phone may interrupt important learning time) or phone:

**email:** [rachel.pearch@mybedford.us](mailto:rachel.pearch@mybedford.us)

**phone:** (734) 850-6661

If an emergency arises (such as a change in afternoon transportation), please call the **JRE Office @ (734) 850-6600**

I also have a **classroom website** with more information and resources, where this Handbook can be found:

<http://mrspearch.weebly.com/>



as well as a **Facebook page**, where I will post frequent updates on the fun things we are learning and doing in First Grade!

[www.facebook.com/mrs.pearchclass](http://www.facebook.com/mrs.pearchclass)



## ATTENDANCE

As students really grow academically in First grade, it is very important that they are at school as much as possible. Missing days interrupts the stability they need for academic, social, and emotional growth.

**If your child must be absent, please call the JRE office at (734) 850-6600 and send in a written explanation when they return.**

## END OF THE DAY TRANSPORTATION

There are 4 options for afternoon transportation at JRE:

- 1) The bus (our recommended form of transportation)
- 2) The pick-up loop (registration required)
- 3) Sign-out in the cafeteria (ID required at sign out)
- 4) Latchkey (registration required)

\*To make it easier on your child, you, and us at JRE, please try to keep your transportation schedule as consistent as possible.

### Picking Students Up:

Students who will be picked up daily will need to fill out a card from the office and get a loop number. You are asked to pick up in the designated area which will be at the cafeteria in the loop. If your child is going to get picked up and usually does not, please send in a note (as I am not always at my computer, please DO NOT send an email the day of a transportation change). If they do not bring in a note I will have to put them on the bus as usual. Your child's safety is our #1 priority!

## **BLUE FOLDERS**

The blue plastic folders you received at open house will be sent home every day with student work, but also important notes from the office or me, and occasionally homework as well. PLEASE return these back to school **every day**.

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

I will send home a Weekly Newsletter every Friday to update you on school and classroom events, reminders, schedule, etc. for the following week. The spelling list for the next week will be sent home with the Weekly Newsletter as well.

## **READING**

Your child will grow leaps and bounds in many academic areas in First grade, but especially in the area of reading. To help in their growth in reading, we ask that you please read with your child at least **20 mins** *five nights each week* (or at least 100 minutes of reading each week total). Your child will select at least 2 "just right" books from our classroom library and be able to take them home. I will provide each student a gallon bag labeled with their name to keep their books in **at all times while not being read**. Please make sure this bag-o-books is returned to school **every day**. We will also be working on mastering our sight words, so sight word booklets will be sent home in their bag-o-books as well for extra practice.

## **Homework**

Because I value time outside school for your child to spend playing (which is valuable learning itself) and with family, I do not assign homework every night. However, we do ask that students spend time reading each night (see above). I also hope for students to practice their

sight words and spelling words each week. Some math practice is usually sent home each week, but students are given multiple days to complete it. It is especially important for this reason to check your child's blue folder **every night**.

## LUNCH

Your child may either pack a lunch from home or buy a school lunch. If packing, please label your child's lunch box with their name in permanent marker. To buy a lunch, you may set up an online account and pay through there ([www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com)), or send money in. Lunch is \$2.75, breakfast is \$1.30, and milk is \$0.50. Lunch menus can be found online at: <http://www.bedford.k12.mi.us/food-service.html>.

**\*\*\*When bringing in money, please put it in a Ziploc bag labeled with child's name, what the money is for, and "Mrs. Pearch,"** and place in your child's **blue folder**, as mornings are often hectic and loose money is easily misplaced and/or the owner is unknown. \*\*\*

## SNACK

We will have snack every day around 10:15am. JRE has a "fresh is best" policy, where, for snack only, we ask that it is only a FRESH fruit or vegetable. This does NOT include packaged items or dips. We also have nut allergies in our room, so please **do not send in any food containing tree nut products**. Snack should be separate from lunch to prevent cross-contamination and allow students to get to it easily. Examples of appropriate snacks include: apples, oranges/cuties, grapes, berries, bananas, melon, carrots, cucumbers, celery, cauliflower, etc.

## BIRTHDAYS

Due to many allergies, JRE does not allow "birthday treats". Instead, students are welcome to donate a book to share with the class, or even a treat that is not food for their peers, such as an activity book, stickers, pencils, etc.

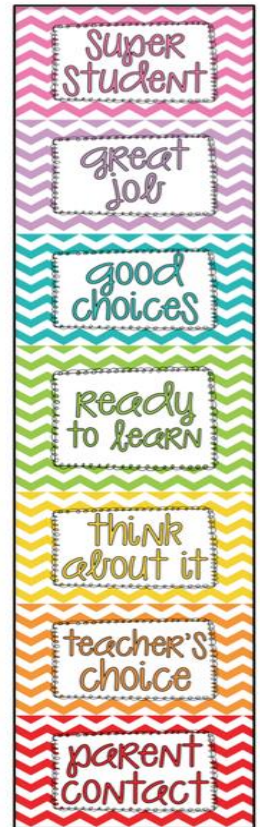
## HOLIDAY PARTIES

We will have 3 holiday parties this year (harvest, Christmas/holiday, Valentine's Day). We ask that **each child bring in \$5** to help cover the costs of these fun events, as it adds up quickly! Thank You!

## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

For individual behavior, I utilize a behavior clip chart (as pictured to the right). The students move their clip up for exceptional behavior. If they get past "Super Student" and go "Off the Chart", they will get a reward. Every day each student begins back on green, "Ready to Learn". By their choices and actions they choose to make, their clip can either move up or down. Yellow is a warning, orange is a loss of privilege (lose 5 mins of Friday Free time), and parent contact is a call home and miss Friday Free time.

For whole class behavior, we have a marble jar system, where we earn marbles for good behavior. Once we earn all the marbles, we get a classroom reward such as a movie day, pajama day, etc.



## CLASS DOJO

I have set up a Class Dojo account. Please see the attached paper for information on how to connect to our classroom. We will use this along with our behavior clip chart in the classroom. At the end of each day, I will give your child the appropriate amount of points depending on where they left off on the clip chart.

Pink (super student) = 3 pts  
Purple (great job) = 2 pts  
Blue (good choices) = 1 pt  
Off the chart = 5 pts  
Yellow (think about it) = -1 pt  
Orange (teacher's choice) = -2 pts  
Red (parent contact) = -3 pts

Students will also each receive 1 free point at the beginning of each day that they are in attendance at school.

## FLASHLIGHT FRIDAYS

To excite students about reading, we are going to have "Flashlight Fridays", where the students will read by the light of their flashlight, so \*\*\*Please bring in a flashlight labeled with your child's name.

## SCHEDULE

Specials: 10:45-11:30 (we rotate every 4 days between gym, exploratory, art, and music)

Lunch: 12:37 – 1:00

Recess: 1:00 – 1:22

Library: Wednesdays @ 9:10-9:35

## VOLUNTEERS

I would love to have you help out in my room this year, and I know your child would love to see you being involved in their education as well. Once we establish a routine in our classroom, I will send out more information about volunteering in our room.

This is going to be an excellent year and I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with your child. Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns. Our cooperation and communication will lead to the best success of your child.

For the love of learning,

Mrs. Rachel Pearch

### REMINDER

#### What does my child need to bring on the first day of school?!?

- Backpack
- Lunch (or money for buying)
- Blue Folder
- Fresh fruit/veggie for snack
- Any supplies forgotten to bring to open house
- Completed Student Information sheet
- Flashlight
- \$5 for holiday parties

### STUDENT ID

For personal reference and to create a lunch account, the student ID number for your child is listed below:

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

# STUDENT INFORMATION

Filling out the information below will help me get to know your child better through "your eyes," as you know your child best! 😊

\*Please **RETURN** this completed sheet on the **first day of school**.\*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like you to know this about my child:

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My child's interests or hobbies include . . .

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This school year, I hope my child . . .

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If there is any other information that you think I should be aware of in order to best meet your child's needs this year, please write it on the back. If you would rather have a phone conversation or meeting with me early on to discuss anything please let me know and we can make arrangements.