

# Back to School First Grade

## Handbook

### **Welcome**

We look forward to working with you and your child this school year! As a first-grade team we have 40 years of experience. Your first-grade team is Mrs. Judd, Mrs. Maza and Mrs. Rodriguez. Your child will grow, laugh, experience and learn while in our first-grade classrooms. Welcome to an amazing year in your child's educational life.

### Contact Information

Mrs. Judd (GATE classroom): Room 18, phone number: 584-5565,  
e-mail [elizabeth.houston@tusd1.org](mailto:elizabeth.houston@tusd1.org)

Mrs. Maza: Room 17, phone number 584-5564,  
e-mail [holly.maza@tusd1.org](mailto:holly.maza@tusd1.org)

Mrs. Rodriguez , Room 26, phone number: 584-5573  
Email [ashley.montanorodriguez@tusd1.org](mailto:ashley.montanorodriguez@tusd1.org)

Mrs. Carpenter (ELD classroom): Room 16, Phone number: 584-5568  
Email [Kimberly.carpenter@tusd1.org](mailto:Kimberly.carpenter@tusd1.org)

# EXPECTATIONS

**Wheeler Expectations:** In order to ensure a positive learning environment, your child will be responsible for following Wheeler's Expectations and Behavior Plan. A description of this plan is going home for you to become familiar with. **Also, please have your child leave any toys or personal items at home.**

## Homework

**Homework:** Each week a homework packet and newsletter will be coming home with your child on Monday. We will begin home in week of August 15<sup>th</sup>. Homework is DUE every Friday. Homework should only take your child about 15 minutes to complete nightly. This does not include their reading time.

In the packet and newsletter, you will find your child's spelling words for the week. As well as, reading fluency practice and math.

**In addition:**

- 1) Reading** to your child, and/or having your child read independently 10-15 minutes a day is included as a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade homework. Throughout the week, your child will be bringing home rapid recognition pages. The rapid recognition pages are a way to reinforce letters, sight words and sentences. Your child should practice reading them with fluency.
- 2) Study spelling words.** Included in weekly newsletter will be the spelling words for each week. Spelling test will take place on Fridays. There is a list of 10 spelling words.
- 3) Authentic writing** opportunities--lists, thank you letters, journals, etc. As your child encounters writing this school year, remember to not spell words for your child. Instead, have him/her stretch and listen to the sounds in the word.

## Class Dojo

Each class will have a class dojo app. This app is use for communication as well as sharing classroom experiences with you. We ask that you please download the app. We will be sending home codes and/or email requests to join the class.

# Classroom Information

**Classroom Conditions:** It can be cool in the rooms, but still hot outside. Please make sure your child is dressed in a way to be comfortable both inside and out. Layers are a good idea.

**Absences and Tardies:** We know life happens and people get sick, but it is important that your child gets to school on time and ready to learn. If your child is tardy, please have them stop by the office before coming to class. If your child is absent, we will try in class to get them caught up but please check their folder for any makeup work that needs to be completed.

**Lunch:** This school year the students will have a grab and go station in the cafeteria. We eat lunch at 11:40-12:15.

**Dismissal:** Please pick up your child promptly from the west side of the building at 1:55 (early dismissal will be on Wednesdays at 12:55). We will always walk the students out the north doors and down to the drive thru pickup. Please stay in your car and wait patiently for your turn to pull up to retrieve your students. If you have an older sibling, they will come down our classroom for pick up, so there is only one stop for you to make.

**Birthdays:** We love to celebrate your child's birthday, but we are a healthy school. Cookies, cupcakes, candy, or sweets of any kind will be sent back home with your child. It is easiest to celebrate with non-edible choices (pencils, stickers, etc.)

**Field Trips:** Parents and guardians are welcome to come along of field trips, we do ask that you fill out a parent volunteer form in the office. If a grandma, grandpa, aunt or uncle would like to volunteer they need to fill out the paperwork and go down to the district office and get fingerprinted, it will cost \$20 to get this card.

**Title One:** We are a title one school and with that we as a school receive great support, we are pleased to say we have a councilor, a Dean of Students as a reading coach as well. We will also have support from NAU with our grandparent readers, who come to help support our reading time.

# GATE

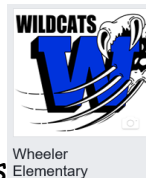
**GATE classroom:** This year we will be having a self-contained GATE (gifted and talented education) classroom. This class will be on the same learning plan as the other first grade classes but will have some differences. There will be some extra projects and learning experiences going on in the GATE classroom. As different times in the year, your child will be given opportunities for extra learning experiences, such as projects and outside resources. Your child may be sent home with an extra newsletter asking for supplies for projects going on in the classroom.

## Snack Time

We will be having a snack and P.E. break in the morning. Your child is welcome to bring a snack for that time. Please no candy for snack, they can save that for dessert during lunch. We are asking for snack donations for students who do not have snack. We would love pretzels, goldfish, crackers, etc.

## FACEBOOK

Follow our school Facebook page for the latest information about our school: Search Wheeler



Wildcats Wheeler Elementary

Follow our Wheeler PTA Facebook page: Wheeler Wildcat PTA



# Wish List and Schedule

## Wish list:

- \* 1- box washable markers
- \* 4- glue sticks
- \* 4- Odor Free wide tip dry erase markers (red, blue, green, or black)

## Optional

- \* 1- box Kleenex

## Daily Schedule:

- 7:45 Morning Business
- 8:15 Reading / ECRI block 1
- 9:00 P.E.
- 9:30 Reading / ECRI block 2 and 3
- 11:00 - Interventions
- 11:40 Lunch
- 12:15 Read Aloud / Cool Down
- 12:30 Math
- 1:30 Content Subjects (Science, Social Studies, Second Step)
- 1:55 Dismissal

\*Wednesday early out dismissals are at 12:55\*

**Specials:** This year we will be incorporating "specials" into our weekly schedule.

These specials include library, art, councilor, Dean of Students and OMA Opera.

The times for the specials will vary according to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade class your child is in.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. **As of right now there are no visitors or volunteers allowed in the school or classroom, only staff. If this changes we will let you know, thank you for understanding!**