

Classroom basics:

Morning Routine - get ready for the day, read a book, work on activity given

Morning Meeting - a time to get to know each other and start the day. Each morning meeting has four main sections:

- Greeting
- Sharing
- Group Activity
- Morning Message

Group activities focus on building teamwork and/or working on different concepts being explored in the different areas of the day.

Math – we use the Bridges math curriculum. A typical day includes the number corner, a main lesson, and work place time.

Writing – we use a writers’ workshop approach with mini-lessons and students working on creating their books. Mini-lessons focus on writer’s craft through the use of mentor texts.

Spelling – we use the Words Their Way program. It allows the students to work at their pace and level while discovering patterns found in words.

Handwriting – we use Handwriting without Tears program <http://www.hwtears.com/hwt/parents>

Reading Workshop – we use a workshop approach within the Daily 5 framework. There are mini-lessons to introduce students to new concepts that are then reinforced during small group reading time. Reading groups will meet during this time. We are beginning to introduce the five choices and build stamina in each of them.

Science/Social Studies – we are studying animals, plants, and communities. The study of birds will be woven throughout the year.

Need to Know Information.....

Conferences - Parent/Teacher are November 20th and 21st and Student-Led are March 8th and 9th. We use a website called You Can Book Me to book conference time slots. All 4 classes will send out the sign-up information on the same day. It is scheduled on a first come basis. So, if you are limited to a certain time frame, please sign up as soon as you can. Otherwise, the time slots will fill up quickly.

Buddy Class – we are buddy classes with Mrs. Neil’s 5th grade. We try to meet at least once a month. We will be doing not only reading activities, but environmental activities, as well.

Solo Spots – we have our Solo Spots at Prairie Smoke Pond. We try to get over to them every week especially during the warmer months. There is a rubric that has been made by Ms. Naomi and will be used to assess Nature Journal entries once a trimester.

Behavior System – A majority of the behavior system this year is focused on creating a positive classroom

culture where the students know how they can help each other and work as a team. We start every morning with a morning meeting and end it with a closing circle. Throughout these first few weeks of school we have been working on what our classroom should look like, sound like, and feel like...no matter where we go. We have established procedures and expectations that we practice every day. We use Hawk Tickets as a recognition when students are following what they are supposed to be doing throughout the school day. We use a natural consequence system if expectations are not being met. This includes practicing some more the correct behavior we may need to strengthen. Hawks tickets can be collected and turned in for several different types of prizes.

Assignment Notebooks – please initial these each night so that I know a parent is aware of any homework or notes. Basic homework will be to read. There will be math sheets sprinkled in along the way along with some spelling.

Lockers – students should have rain boots and a raincoat in their locker/backpack at all times. Please make sure that they also have an extra set of clothes – including socks. :)

Snack/Lunch – we would ask that these be Trash-free and please be mindful of peanut/tree nut products – if an item contains **traces of peanut/tree nut** this are considered peanut items and will be treated as such during lunch. We ask the students to eat their peanut/tree nut products during lunch time so that we are following the peanut procedure only 1x a day.
Microwave should be used for only reheating.
Popcorn should be popped at home.

Birthday Celebration - We ask that there not be any food items brought in for birthday celebrations. As an alternative to food treats, you might like to present a gift to your child's classroom. Some examples are: books, games, puzzles, recess equipment, craft supplies, pet food for the classroom pet, or even party favors of pens, pencils, or other school supplies.

Power School – grades are posted on Power School if you need your password please contact Ms. Verenski

Raz Kids – we will use Raz Kids to encourage reading at home. Students will also use this at school. I will have to set up students new to the school and classroom. Their log-in information will be sent home in their Friday Folder next week.

E-mail – We will make sure to reply to emails within 24 hours. During the school day, please know that we don't always check email regularly or have immediate access to our computers. If there is something we need to know that day, your child's assignment notebook is a great place to leave a note! Students take them out each morning and at the end of each day.

Newsletter/Webpage – there is a classroom newsletter that will come home every other week. Each Tuesday and Friday (at a minimum) will also see a webpage blog entry.

Parent Volunteers – If you go to our classroom webpage and click on volunteer, you will see times to come volunteer for lunch and recess. Once we have had the Daily 5 running smoothly for a while, we will also have times during ELA to come and volunteer.

Parent Coordinator - Mrs. Halverson is our parent coordinator for the classroom