

Dear Parents,

Friday, August 18, 2017

Welcome back! We are excited about looping with our Kindergarten students and can't wait to start a new year. Our class has small additions from other Kindergarten classrooms or from other schools, so we want to take a few moments to review some of our routines that will continue this year.

### Routines

- Okie Reports—Each student will bring home a behavior report every Friday in their folder. Parents sign and return these to the teacher in the empty folder Monday or the next school day.
- Friday Folders—Students will bring home all work and notes (unless they need to be sent home immediately) along with a newsletter every Friday in a plastic colored envelope. Please return with only the signed Okie Report the following school day.
- Birthday treats are welcome but must be prepackaged with ingredient labels. Please do not bring any cakes, cupcakes, or cookie cakes for birthday treats.
- Homework Calendars—Beginning in September, students will bring home a month-long homework schedule much like last year. Activities will go along with the curriculum and be more sophisticated than last year, but shouldn't take more than a half hour (including reading time). There are 2 parts to the homework calendars in first grade. The math page includes word problems to use with the main homework calendar. If the homework calendar requires paperwork, teachers will send that home in the Friday Folders the week prior to the assignment. The calendar will have a place for parent signature, and any

paperwork can be attached to the calendar when it is returned. Children who return their homework calendars receive a reward.

- Book Logs- Students will choose their own books and check them out in the classroom, and every child will have a book bag with a book log inside. Completion of the book log involves reading 20 picture books (they don't have to be from the classroom!) or 20 chapters. Each returned book log means a sticker on the incentive chart, and earning 5 stickers means a book prize! The Pizza Hut Book-It program will resume in October, and the book logs will count toward that as well. If you ever need a book log, you can find it on our websites!
- Filling Buckets- Oakland Elementary has a school-wide program that involves the use of paper buckets to promote positive behavior. Buckets might be earned for positive behavior in the classroom, the bus, special classes, or any other place in Oakland. Kids who earn buckets in our classroom get to put marbles in our marble jar. On Friday, the teacher picks two paper buckets from the big bucket and those two kids get to choose a prize out of the treasure bin.
- Marble Jar-We put marbles in a jar as a form of positive reinforcement, then take a class vote to determine the special activity earned when it is filled. When a child earns a bucket they automatically put a marble in the jar.

Discipline Systems-We are using a new behavior management tool this year called Clip Up/Clip Down. Every child will have a clothespin with his/her name on it and every child will begin the day clipped onto the green area. The main difference is that children can move their clothespins upward and down on the chart throughout the day.

The color codes are as follows:

Red-Outstanding

Orange-Great Day

Yellow-Good Day

Green-Ready to Learn

Blue-Think About It

Purple-Teacher's Choice

Pink-Parent Contact

- Child of the Day-This person is the line leader and special helper all day. Children are selected randomly (except for birthdays!) but must have earned a green card or higher the day prior.
- Free-Choice Center Time-Children who keep their cards on green, yellow, orange, or red all week and finish weekly assignments earn free-choice time at the end of the day Friday!
- Snack-We eat lunch at 11:30 this year and plan to continue to offer snack in the afternoon. We will send a snack calendar home letting you know which day to send in a snack. Please remember we have students with peanut allergies in our class!
- Lunch-The children have more options this year, and will make their selections first thing every morning. Options include: hot lunch; grilled cheese sandwich; yogurt, cheese and crackers; sunbutter and jelly sandwich; salad; turkey and ham sandwich; lunch from home. This may be confusing for the students for a while, so please help your child with this process.
- Morning Assembly-This begins at 8:55 in the cafeteria each morning, and we go to our classrooms at 9:00. If students arrive after 9:00, they need to stop in the office and get a late slip. Three tardies result in a detention. If your child is absent, please call the office.

- Schedule:  
Monday-LMC 10:40-11:20 & PE 1:00-1:30  
Tuesday-Music 1:30-2:00  
Wednesday-Art 1:00-2:00  
Thursday- Music 1:00-1:30 and P.E. 1:30-2:00  
Friday- P.E. 1:30-2:00
- Dismissal-As first graders, the students will go to buses/daycare vans without escorts. Please make sure your child knows their bus number. If plans change during the day, please send a note, e-mail, or call.

### New Procedures:

- Sight Words-Each story in our reading series introduces sight words. We will review those during the week and add them to our word walls. We are attaching a list of those words and will provide reminders of the upcoming words in our newsletters. Flash cards will come home every Friday for the subsequent week!
- Writing-Instead of journals this year, we are planning to work on one piece/paragraph every week. We will practice writing narrative, persuasive, and informative text, with all students writing on the same topic the same week. All writing will be collected and assembled in a writing portfolio and shared at various times throughout the year. Students will be held accountable for sight words that were previously taught and posted. We still encourage brave spelling, but want to help writers transition into more conventional spelling. We will also hold them accountable for punctuation and grammar rules previously taught, beginning early editing skills.

- Centers–We will teach guided reading lessons each day and while we teach guided reading the students will work at three centers daily. The centers will rotate, and each child will go to each center two times a week.

Please feel free to contact me at [Kalitzkya@district87.org](mailto:Kalitzkya@district87.org) or you can call the office at 662-4302. You can find additional information about my classroom on my website at <http://www.kalitzkya.weebly.com>

We look forward to seeing you on orientation night on September 5<sup>th</sup>!

Lexi Kalitzky & Raquel Loerzel