

Mrs. Hixson's

First Grade Class 2019-2020

Contact Me: You can email me at kwaller@portlandk12.org or call the school's main office at (517) 647- 2991.

ClassTag is also a great and quick way to reach me. **Sending a note** in your child's Take-Home Folder is another option. You may also reach me via my **website:** mrshixsonsclassroom.weebly.com.

Daily Schedule (subject to change as needed):

8:45 School Starts

8:55-9:10 Number Corner

9:10-9:40 ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction)

9:40-10:15 Wonders (literacy)

10:15-10:40 Writing

10:40-11:40 Daily Five/Snack

11:46-12:18 Special

12:20-12:30 Heggerty (phonemic awareness)

12:30-12:50 Reading Interventions

1:00-1:35 Lunch

1:40-2:45 Math

2:50-3:07 Recess

3:10-3:50 Science/Social Studies

4:00 Dismissal

*Thursday- Technology 10:00-10:30

*Friday- Library 1:40-2:10

Snack: We will have time allotted for snack each morning. Be sure to send in one snack each and every day for your student as they will not be provided. Please try and send nutritious snacks; our snack is supposed to help keep our brains going until lunch at 1:00. Bringing in a water bottle with a *secure top* for students is a great way for them to stay hydrated. Next week will be the last week I will allow kiddos to get forgotten snacks from their locker/lunch bags after our room has started learning. It is their responsibility to bring it in and place it on their desk. I have a checklist for them to use in the morning to make sure they've completed their tasks, and I give them multiple reminders as they're unpacking in the morning. If you need assistance providing snack for your child, please reach out to me.

If you still wish to periodically send in snacks for the class, I would gladly hold onto them for those weird mornings where mostly everyone forgot, or for kiddos I have set up a snack system with per parent requests.

Homework: There is NO daily required homework in First Grade. We will occasionally send homework that CAN be completed for extra Raider Rewards. If your child isn't completing most of their work during the day, I will send it home with a note asking for it to be completed and returned. I provide plenty of time for our work to be completed if we are focused and on task. It is encouraged that you to spend 15-20 minutes each day reading with your child.

We will also have a Home Connections workbook for our new math curriculum. This is not required work but I would recommend completing these pages to provide your child with extra skill practice. These workbooks will stay at home and I will never ask for you to send in completed pages. Thank you for supporting your student's learning at home!

Folders: Take-Home Folders are utilized daily. Please make sure your child has a folder that they will bring to school each day. It is a part of our morning routine where they take out any notes to give to me and put their folder in their mailbox to retrieve at the end of the day. The amount of mail they receive may vary. Please contact me if you need assistance in getting a folder.

Important Dates:

10/31 Halloween Party (more info to come)

12/19 Christmas Party (more info to come)

2/14 Valentine's Day Party (more info to come)

*Field Trip dates will be determined and sent home at a later date.

Dress "Code:"

- No flip-flops. Make sure shoes can stay on the foot while at recess.
- Wear shorts under dresses or skirts.
- Wear shoes your child can put on themselves. If your child cannot tie their own shoes yet, make sure their shoes are double knotted tightly before arriving at school.
- Send appropriate outerwear for the season.
 - Spring/Fall- Light Jacket
 - Winter- Winter Coat, Snow Pants, Gloves (multiple pairs), Hat or Ear Muffs, and Snow Boots
- Send a change of clothes to keep in your child's locker if necessary. In the winter, I would really recommend this. Kids tend to come in wet after playing in the snow even when wearing snow pants.
- If jewelry (bracelets, watches, necklaces, etc) become a distraction, it will be put away or held onto by me until the end of the day.

Lunch Money/Field Trip Money: When sending money in with your child, please make sure it is in a sealed ziploc bag or envelope. On the bag or envelope, please put your child's first and last name and what the money is for. This will ensure that the money makes it to the correct place. If it is money for a field trip, it is helpful to attach the money to the signed permission slip or to put the permission slip in the envelope or ziploc bag with the money. This ensures that I know which student it belongs to.

Scholastic Book Orders: Scholastic Orders will be sent home periodically throughout the year. They can be done online or through the book order I send home. I do not set deadlines for orders; I process them as they come in. Our classroom code is **RRB8p**. If you place an order online, please use this code so that I will be able to finalize your order. The code also earns our class bonus points and can be used to purchase new books for our classroom library! If you have any questions, let me know.

Behavior Management: Our school believes in a Positive Behavior System. We try to reinforce the correct behaviors with positive consequences. Some positive consequences are: Raider Rewards (can be saved and turned in for prizes), Positive Office Referrals, Whole Class Rewards, and lots of positive praise! However, there are times when a negative consequence is needed. Some negative consequences may be: Note or Phone Call Home, Office Referral, Reflection Sheet, Silent Sustained Lunch or Recess, Missing out on fun activities, etc. I do my best to refrain from keeping students in from recess. If necessary, I will keep a child in for a few minutes to have a discussion, but then will send him/her out as quickly as possible. If a negative consequence is given, I or another person from the school will notify you of the situation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.