

Welcome to St. John Fisher First Grade 2009-2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to first grade at St. John Fisher! I am very eager to get to know your children. We will be very busy in first grade, but I promise to make the transition from kindergarten as easy as possible.

For those of you who do not know me - This is my 27th year teaching – that’s right I started when I was 4 yrs. old! My husband Mike and I have been married for 26 yrs. and we have three children: Molly is a first grade teacher, Caitlin is a graphic designer and Michael is a senior at Eastern and is a P.E. / Education major.

I have previously taught grades preschool - third grade. I hope the children are as excited as I am to have a wonderful year!

First Grade Curriculum

I. ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

A. Language Arts:

Reading: Scott Foresman Reading Series

This is the same series that the children used in kindergarten here at St. John Fisher last year. Since we are using the same series as last year I think the transition from kindergarten should go pretty smoothly. The children will again have word wall words to study. Some words will be repeated from kindergarten and others will be new. I will let you know which words need to be reviewed at home and when we will be covering them. I would like each child to have a set of index cards with the words written on them to study each night! This year the children will also have Spelling words to learn – they are listed in our Reading Series.

Phonics, Writing and Handwriting will be incorporated into our Language Arts program. The following are the series’ that we will be using:

Phonics: Sadlier

Handwriting: Zaner-Bloser

B. MATH: Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley Series:

The following are some of the skills we will cover this year: graphing, addition, subtraction, strategies, geometry and fractions, patterns, place value, money, time and measurement.

C. Religion: RCL Benziger Series:

The children will attend mass regularly along with learning about the following: Our Church as a Community, God the Father, God’s son Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Jesus’ Church of Followers, and several prayers throughout the year.

D. Social Studies: Scott Foresman

The children will be introduced to the following: School, Community, Jobs, Our Earth, Our Country and Our World

*** SNACK:** Children are to bring a small snack and water or a “clear” juice for snack each day.

OVER

II. BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Our classroom management program utilizes a traffic light system. The traffic light reflects the child's individual behavior in the classroom.

Each child starts out on the green light at the beginning of the day. If a child breaks a classroom rule they receive a verbal warning. The second time the child breaks a rule he/she writes their name on the yellow light. If a child continues to misbehave he/she writes their name on the red light.

Consequences: Yellow Light- sits out 10 minutes of Center Time

Red Light- sits out all of Center Time (hitting someone or fooling around during a fire drill and/or church are automatic "red lights.")

* The children are told that Centers are their reward for following the rules. They have to earn it. On RARE occasions I may send home a note or make a phone call if someone has had a really bad day.

Most children respond well to the management plan. We do not tease or go home and tell on our friends who may have had a bad day! EACH DAY IS A BRAND NEW START and all students begin on the green light! -* Unless someone misbehaves at dismissal. They would then have to be on the yellow at the beginning of the following day. This is rarely the case!

III. LABELING:

PLEASE be sure to label all personal items (including sweaters, gym sweatshirts, etc.) with your child's name in permanent marker.

IV. BIRTHDAYS:

A birthday is such a special time in your child's life. We welcome birthday treats and will help your child celebrate in style. It's usually a good idea to send in a few extra treats in case some get "broken." We have 23 children in our class this year. If you are having a birthday party for your child I can put invitations in their folders, but ONLY if your child is inviting the whole class OR your son or daughter is inviting ALL the boys or ALL the girls in class.

V. DAILY FOLDERS:

The children are to bring in "three" two-pocket folders. We will keep one in school for class work. Your child's other folder will be sent home each day. All school mail and your child's papers will come home in this folder. It may be empty at times, but please check it each day and return it the next. Also, if you have any mail to send to me or the office please put it in the folder as I will check the folders daily. The third folder is in case we need an extra at some point!

VI. HOMEWORK:

I will be sending home weekly letters to inform you about what is planned for each week. The letters will list the skills that we will be covering for each subject area. You can work with your child at home by reviewing the skills. *Reading to your child is very important. So, please have someone in your family try to set aside five or ten minutes each night to read to them- big brothers and sisters can be a great help with this. I will NOT be sending home a lot of busy work for homework. HOWEVER - The children need to review word wall words, spelling words, and math facts each night. I am a big believer in flash cards and repetition. It really is easy to tell who works at home so, please keep up with this! If your child brings home a worksheet with an H at the top of the page it is to be done for homework and returned the following day. These pages are work that your child SHOULD be able to do with very little if any help from you. If this is not the case please just jot me a quick note at the top of the paper so I can go over it with your child.

Your children are God's most precious gift and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to get to know each and every one of them. I will do my very best to make our classroom the next best thing to home. I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nancy Fanjoy

