

1st Grade Reference Section

Please refer back to this section for questions you may have. Hopefully I will clarify information for you for each subject and for the overall class. Please know that you are welcome to contact me with any questions you might have.

1. Contact Information

- **Email:** I check my email twice daily at the beginning and end of the day Monday - Friday and will get back to you as soon as possible. aprilsmith@clps.info
- **Notes:** I will check turned in homework/assignment sheets for any notes you write about the progress or struggles of the assignments.
- **Emergencies only:** You may contact the school and ask them to get me a message.

2. "Mrs. Smith Lingo"

- The 2 days of CLPS classroom school are called "Day 1 & "Day 2."
- Homeschool days are called "Satellite Classroom Day 1, 2, & 3."

3. Assignment Sheets

- *Assignment sheets for Satellite Days 1,2, and 3 will come home on "Central Class Day 1."*
- Satellite Day work times: I have indicated on the assignment an IDEAL time that each subject should take. Some students will finish faster, some students will need a bit longer. Please let me know if your student is regularly taking an extended amount of time more than what is listed. ****Expect that it may take longer at the beginning until your routine is established. Don't panic, and give it time.**

4. Turning in Satellite Day Work

- **Staple** Each Satellite Day Packet in the top corner.
- Clearly **label** packets with student **FIRST AND LAST NAME**.
- **Grade** (number missed) **and parent initials** in colored ink on top of EACH PAGE
Example: -3/ML
- **Late Work:** Please label with a Post It note on the front that says LATE or write in pen.

5. CLPS First Grade Webpage

- *You will have access to CLPS First Grade Webpage, which will contain helpful links for you to use throughout the year.*
- *Use this page to refer to class procedures and general information, as well as specific grade-level information that will be updated as needed.*
- *Find the list of click-and-go links to all of our YouTube videos that we use in class and on Satellite Day assignment sheets so that you don't have to search YouTube for them.*

6. Missing Assignments in Satellite Packet

- *Don't Panic!!!!!! "If you don't have it, you can't do it!"*
- *Make a notation on the assignment sheet that you did not receive the needed materials. You may also email me and I can hopefully get it to you.*
- *Please remember that I am human and will make mistakes from time-to-time!*

7. Teacher Mistakes

- *You will not be held accountable for teacher mistakes. You cannot do what you don't have. This being said, please do work with other parents whenever possible to get your needs met...for example... someone (including myself) can often use their camera phone and email a picture of what is needed.*

8. Struggling?

- ***Don't panic! Give yourself a few weeks to settle in and establish your routine.***
- *Ask for help! I cannot fix a problem that I do not know about. Let me know what is going on.*
- ***There are many families who can give valuable tips on what they do to have successful Satellite Days. Utilize them! Together, we can help you.***

1st Grade English Reference

1. Shurley Grammar- Digital Language Arts Curriculum

- Assembles a unique combination of features and strategies in the areas of grammar, phonics, and reading.
- **Parts of Speech** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.)

***Please make sure your child understands these **as they are introduced**. You can do things such as regularly acting out the parts of speech and relating back to the jingles they will learn for each one. Don't rely on just the jingles because a child can memorize something **WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING**.*

- **Shurley Grammar practice pages**

We will do these practice pages both at home AND in class.

****Important** we will be using a new & improved version of Shurley Grammar...digital! We will learn it together in parent training provided by the school!**

2. Phonics - The phonics we will be learning are a part of the Shurley Grammar curriculum.

- **Phonics Cards-** *You will be receiving phonics cards that follow the Shurley curriculum. You need to review any of these daily that have been introduced, but not mastered, especially focusing on the new sound being introduced for that week. Push your child to explore new words fitting that phonics skill each day. I will let you know when to add a new card in the assignment sheets. We will be covering a total of 74 different sounds over the span of the year.*
- **Phonics Journals-** *We will use a phonics journal in the classroom each day. These will stay at school.*
- **Home Reinforcements-** *You will have reinforcement worksheets as homework, some reading lessons, and daily diction.*
- **Dictation-** *Dictation skills must be built!!!! If a child is not an auditory learner, this will be a challenge. HOWEVER, it is a **VERY IMPORTANT** skill. If your child struggles with this, feel free to contact me for help. You do not need to turn this in and may keep it in a composition book if you so choose for your child to review. We may need to work on creating visuals to help your child. Please consult me if needed.*
- **Sight Words-** *You will be receiving sight words on a regular basis. **PRACTICE DAILY.** I will give 2-3 weeks practice time before orally assessing in class. I will list them in the Satellite Assignment sheet as well as the week I will assess.*

3. Spelling

- Using a curriculum that focuses on reliable spelling generalizations.

***The Spelling workbook will **STAY HOME**. It does not need to come to school. They will be taking their test on a page that will come back to me each week.*

The way it will look each week.....

- **Day 1:** Introduce words for the week, review words and any phonic rules, complete 1st page of workbook for the week.
- **Day 2:** repeat day 1, except do 2nd page of workbook for week, finish with a practice test. If your child makes a 100 on the practice test, you may record that grade for the final grade and be done for the week.
- **Day 3:** review words and test. **RECORD SPELLING GRADE ON THE ASSIGNMENT SHEET.**

Ways to study: *Have fun and be creative! There are apps such as 'Spelling City' that allows you to input the words and take tests. There are many tactile ways also, such as shaving cream, sidewalk chalk, sand, etc.... Explore!*

4. Handwriting

- *The handwriting that will be done on Satellite days will come from the D'Nealian Handwriting workbook. ****This workbook will STAY HOME.***

- **YOU MUST** be the one that monitors your child's handwriting. I am not there to remind your child to make the letters correctly, sit at their desk correctly, or hold their pencil correctly. If you want your child to have good handwriting, **YOU will need to be diligent!**
- Finger trace letters: These letters are in flash card form and will be loaned to you to keep at home throughout the year.

5. Reading

- **DAILY READING IS SO IMPORTANT!!!!** For those children who don't like to read, **READ ANYWAY!**
- Guided Reading: You will receive a Guided Reading form weekly as part of the expected daily reading. It will be turned in with Satellite Day 3 work. **I will take a grade on this each week.**
- ABeka Readers: I will be assigning a reader to your child according to reading level. I require that the children complete the first grade readers through number 1.9 (unless stated otherwise by the teacher.) Then, they may switch to the class chapter books that they will probably find more exciting. Some children can do this after a couple of months while others may take a bit longer.
- Other books: Yes, your child can read other books of interest **IF** on an appropriate level. **HOWEVER**, please do so **AFTER** reading 15 minutes in the assigned reader. I have your child in assigned reading to ensure he/she is getting the skills needed.

***You will receive a Guided Level Reading form with your Satellite Homework packet each week. This is part of the expected daily reading, and it will need to be returned with Day 3 Satellite Work. **I will be taking a grade on this each week.**

- Special Literature Readers: Your child will come home with special readers several times throughout the year. Help your child with these on his/her level. Some kids will not need much help while others will need to share the reading. Often these books have historical basis to them.

6. English Composition

- First Semester : Being a Writer; Personal Narrative; Nonfiction;
Second Semester: Opinion Writing; Fairy Tales & Realistic Fiction; Poetry
- You will receive a Writing Composition binder at the beginning of the year. This binder will contain the needed lessons for Satellite Days.
- **The binder will come back and forth from school and home EVERY day.**

IMPORTANT! Please make sure that you complete the lesson on Satellite Days because Class Days will follow what has been done the day before. If your child doesn't do their Satellite work with you, they will be behind on class day.

****Please hold your child accountable for all things learned! ****

This is so important! Whether it be phonics skills, sight words, spelling words, handwriting, or anything to do with grammar. Once a concept has been taught, you should **EXPECT** it from them, **EVERY TIME**. They will rise to the occasion and will be more consistent if YOU are consistent in what you expect.

1st Grade Math Reference

1. Math Facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication)

- **Flashcards**

You will be provided an addition and subtraction set of flashcards that comes with Saxon Math. I will tell you what you need to cover each day on your assignment sheet. Review ANY needed facts or areas of weakness, even if it isn't the assigned area for that week. We will not get to multiplication until the end of the year.

- **Fact Apps or Computer games**

Most students enjoy learning on the computer. Please find and share apps or programs that work for your child. Fun learning=learning that sticks!

A great App for virtual math manipulatives is called **Envision Math Tools. You'll love it!!*

One other is "Random Number Generator**"- This is dice that roll and allow the student to quick add.*

- **Fact Families** Help your child daily with understanding how math facts can be turned around. This is part of number sense. Number Sense is so important in the foundational stage of learning math concepts.

- **Timed Tests**

Timed tests are a necessary part of the curriculum. We will take one once a month in class. This stresses out some children. I will work with you if your child struggles and we WILL get him/her past it. I work in the class to reduce stress and know how to help you with the same. NO WORRIES!

2. Number Sense- ** VERY IMPORTANT!

- *Number sense is when a child understands without memorization how numbers work, fit together, and can learn visual numbers and groups of numbers without seeing them. Did I mention this is **VERY IMPORTANT?** 😊*
- **Grouping Numbers**
 - *Always have your child count groups of numbers when possible. We want to move your child past counting every number one-by-one. For example, if there are 7 dots, group them into a group of 4 and a group of 3.*
 - **Daily practice:** drop out a group of objects and have your child group them in different ways and WRITE those math facts down.
 - **Students with strong number sense soar in higher math!!!!!!** Help me make sure your child is one of those kiddos!
 - **There are great apps for building number sense. Just Google it!**

3. Clock

- **Practice Clock** – you will receive a practice clock in your 'home math box.' We start with hours, move to half hour, quarter to, quarter after, increments of 5, then by minutes, throughout the year.
- **Clock videos** – I use clock videos in class and you will find them on the assignment sheets. Please use them and feel free to explore other videos.
- **Clock apps** – Feel free to find them and use them. Please share exciting finds.

4. Money

- *Money is a big part of our curriculum. We learn pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Pennies and dimes are used to teach two digit math.*
- *NICKELS and QUARTERS are hard to tell apart. "Nickel five, nickel five, buys a pickle five." (silly but sticks in the mind) **We count by 25's in class as follows; "25, 50, 75, a dollar. 25, 50, 75, 100"***

- *Keep coins available in your work space at home to count and include them in opportunities to count the money when you're out and about.*

5. **Satellite Day Work:**

- Saxon Math Papers: When only one side of the Saxon Math papers is assigned, you may use the back as more practice if you see the need. Remember...GUIDED practice means you are sitting next to your child and providing assistance if they are struggling with a concept.
- Math Meetings: Math Meetings will occasionally occur as a way to cover several different skills at a time.

1st Grade Science Reference

***The Science Workbook needs to stay home all year.**

We use the Purposeful Design Science Curriculum

Our units of study are:

Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and Human Body

- Lessons will be taught on class days, with reinforcement pages and experiments done at home.

Nature Reader

- *This book does not follow the classroom curriculum. The passages are very short and teach about different animals.*
- *Videos: I have assigned short videos with most selections. They are OPTIONAL. Take time to view each one to assure that it is appropriate for your child.*

Home Experiments

- *I will send experiments home for you to perform at times. It is important that you look at the Satellite work for the week on the day it comes home. This will ensure that YOU are prepared and have time to go to the store for any supplies you might need. I will keep them simple! Remember that action speaks louder than words and makes Science 'way cool and more fun!!'*
- *If the experiment is optional.....I will state that it is optional. If not stated, please do. I do not assign things that I feel are not of value.*

Classroom Science

- Most classroom time is spent introducing things and learning by observing, discussing, and exploring the concepts. Occasionally, we will use the Science textbook, but it will mostly be used on Satellite Days.
- **Science Journals** – We put most of our science work in our science journals that will come home at the end of the year.
- **Experiments and Action** – We try to keep science exciting and fun!

1st Grade History/Geography Reference

History

Fall Semester History focuses on Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Around the World

Spring Semester History focuses more on America. We learn about a few US Presidents, early US history, learn from famous Americans and traditions, travel west in covered wagons, learn about the transcontinental railroad, and some important inventions/inventors.

The history portion of first grade is subject to adjustments as it becomes incorporated with the new Geography curriculum.

GEOGRAPHY

- Our Geography curriculum is vertically aligned throughout the elementary grades, meaning that students at different levels in school will be learning the same concepts, using the same standards. The Activity exercises and vocabulary is what will be designed differently to meet student expectations as listed by the National Geography Standards.
- National Geography Standards: The World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment and Society, and The Uses of Geography
- The Geography Binder will be kept at home throughout the year. I will send home periodic Binder Check Agreements to ensure all lessons are being completed.

First Grade Reference Acknowledgment Sheet

This acknowledgement sheet is for both fall and spring semesters of first grade. Please read and check off the following information.

___ I have read and understand the CLPS first grade grading policy as 60% summative assessments, 20% formative assessments, and 20% homework completion grades.

___ I have read and understand the Math learning results.

___ I have read and understand the English learning results.

___ I have read and understand the Science learning results.

___ I have read and understand the History/Geography learning results.

___ I understand that class includes presentations, details will follow as needed.

___ I agree to allow my child to take the leading role in projects. I remember that my job is to facilitate and guide, but NOT to do the project for him/her. ALL PROJECTS ARE ON A FIRST GRADE LEVEL. *(Yes, please help your child so he/she can grow and learn. Keep it simple and kid friendly.....seriously!)*

___ I have read and understand the absence and tardy policies listed in the CLPS student handbook, which is also listed below.

___ I also understand the following **CLPS late work policy**:

- Class Day Late: 10 point grade penalty
- 2 Class Days Late: 30 point grade penalty
- After 2 Class Days Late: No credit for the assignment.

Absences:

Students must regularly attend classes in order to successfully complete a course. A student must be present for 85% of the scheduled class days to receive credit for the class. A student attending a class 3 days a week for 17 weeks cannot miss more than 8 days of class. A student attending a class 2 days a week for 17 weeks cannot miss more than 5 days of class. For any student with more than 3 absences in a class for a semester, the final course grade will be reduced by five points. Whenever possible, arrangements for making up work should be made with the teacher prior to the absence. Students arriving to class more than fifteen (15) minutes late will be counted as absent.

Tardiness and Course Grade:

The final course grade will be reduced by one point for every two tardies a student accumulates in any given class. Thus the second and third tardies will result in a one-point reduction, the fourth and fifth tardies in a two-point reduction, and so forth. Parents will be contacted for a conference when a student exceeds 5 tardies.

Parent Signature: _____