



**CLASS SYLLABUS
FIRST GRADE
2016-2017**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Teachers:** *Ms. Christine Vincent and Lacy Holder*
- B. Conference Times:** *According to our schedules during Special Subjects and PE.*
- C. Subjects Taught:** *All subjects taught by self-contained teacher.*

II. SUBJECT/ CLASS DESCRIPTION

- A. Language:** *The SHURLEY Method English Made Easy-Lessons are taught in class and there is no written homework. Students can practice and review SHURLEY jingles as needed. Tests are given at the end of units.*
- B. Spelling:** *Scientific Spelling will be used. Each week we will have a new spelling rule that we will follow. The spelling lists will not be sent home as we want the students to learn the rule instead of memorizing words. We will send home the spelling rule with examples on the weekly homework sheet.*
- C. Writing:** *Whitney's Writing Academy will be used. The Writing Academy process is a comprehensive approach that "inspires student authors one lesson at a time". The writing process will be utilized through the reading curriculum and SHURLEY Method. Creative writing will be an on-going process throughout the year.*
- D. Reading: Harcourt Incorporated-Trophies in addition to Neuhaus**
 - I. Students will be introduced to a variety of themes, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension skills. In addition, cross curricular learning centers will be a focus for differentiated instruction. Students will use basal materials which include: Phonics Book, Practice Book, Volumes I & II, five basal readers and a variety of supplemental "mini" books. There will also be assigned fun-filled Family Home Projects.*
 - II. First Graders will participate in Accelerated Reader (A.R.), an interactive, computer-based, reading program. Students read books at their reading range and take computer assisted tests on books read. Points are earned based on the percentage correct on each quiz.*

- III. *Students will read their A.R. books at school and at home.*
- IV. *Students will also be responsible for learning DOLCH words. Each student will progress through their DOLCH lists at their own pace. These will be reinforced both at school and home.*
- E. **Handwriting:** *“Handwriting Without Tears” by Jan Z. Olsen, OTR and Emily F. Knapp, OTR/L is used in first grade. Students will be taught correct letter formation on a daily basis, as our school encourages good handwriting.*
- F. **McGraw Hill Everyday Math:** *Home Links will be sent home with directions listed on each page. Home Links are designed for parents and students interacting together. Students are encouraged to practice their fact families nightly, in preparation for Friday’s “Banana Split Fact Quiz.” My Reference Book (MRB) is a book used in class and at home. It assists in enriching mathematical information.*
- G. **Social Studies/ Science McGraw Hill- My World and Harcourt Science:** *A variety of themes and skills are correlated with the reading basal. Students will also engage in cross-curricular learning centers.*

III. **ROUTINES**

- A. **Responsibility:** *First-grade parents are primarily responsible for reading child’s Homework Sheet and ensuring that daily assignments are completed. As partners in your child’s education, we need to develop independence. Children will be responsible for arriving on time, unpacking backpacks (folders, calendars, homework, snacks, etc.) in preparation for morning exercises. We ask that parents please allow children to do these activities on their own. Teachers will assist the first two weeks until students adapt to these procedures.*
- B. **Parent Expectations:** *Assisting and monitoring the returning of papers, notes, forms and calendars, etc....*
- C. **Binders:** *Binders will be sent home daily. Please review and sign any papers. Conduct sheets will be sent home daily in binders to be initialed by parent(s).*
- D. **Homework:** *Suggested time frame for the following subjects are:*
Math Facts...5 minutes
Reading (stories/ A.R. books)...at least 15 minutes

IV. **GRADING POLICIES**

- A. **Grading Policy:** *The students will be given an E, S, or N for progress in each subject. Furthermore, for progress reports, we will break down the subjects into standards and will give an additional E, S, or N. For certain subjects, the progress report will also address if the student is approaching grade level, on grade level, or above grade level. Please remember that grades are only one aspect of measuring a student’s progress. Progress will be generated by participation, handouts, teacher observation, and unit tests or quizzes.*

- B. Grading policy for conduct and work habits (N's):** *If a student receives more than 5 yellow marks on Behavior Calendar per 9 week period for any specific conduct or work habits, he/she will receive an "N" on the report card.*

V. OTHER

- A. Party sign-up sheet:** *Parents are encouraged to sign up and help plan classroom parties during the year. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the first-grade bulletin board in each classroom. Reminders will be sent beforehand.*
- B. Snacks:** *Please refer to Parent Handbook for a suggested healthy snack list. Both classes have a scheduled mid-morning break everyday. Please send plastic spoons and napkins as needed. Snacks should be sent in Ziploc bags with child's name.*
- C. Religion classes will meet once per week for 30 minutes under the supervision of Mrs. Katherine Uhlhorn.** *Class activities and discussions are based on Judeo-Christian values and their applications to everyday life. Mrs. Uhlhorn will use readings and stories from the Bible, the Episcopal prayer book, and other resources. Students in 1st through 6th grade will explore their relationship with God and each other.*