



**CLASS SYLLABUS
FIRST GRADE
2017-2018**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Teacher(s):** *Mrs. Lacy Holder*
- B. Conference Times:** *According to our schedules during Special Subjects and PE.*
- C. Subjects Taught:** *All subjects taught by self-contained teacher.*
- D. Contact Information:** *lholder@stalbansharlingen.org*

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:** Students will be doing a variety of writing using a combination of paragraph frames, creative writing resources, and the Shurley Method. Most writing assignments will be done in class and will include four styles of writing (narrative, how-to, classificatory, and persuasive), research papers and all of the technical components (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) necessary to make students' writing successful.
- 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. Students 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. Knapton, 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 from morning exercises. I ask that parents please allow children to do these activities on their own. The teacher 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 Conduct calendars, etc....

C. **Binders:** Binders will be sent home daily. Please review and sign any papers. Conduct calendars will be sent home daily in binders to be sign by parent(s) at the end of the week.

D. **Homework:** Suggested time frame for the following subjects are:

Math Facts 5 minutes

Reading (stories/ A.R. booksat least 15 minutes.

Dolch sight words or Dolch phrases 10 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, I 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: Your child will receive S, N, or U each 9 weeks according to the guidelines on my Classroom Behavior Plan.

C. Grading Policy for Special Subjects - Students may earn "S", "N", or "U" in special subjects. Special subject teachers will be using discipline forms. If a discipline form is sent home it must be signed by a parent and returned the following day. Three discipline forms signed and returned during a nine week grading period will earn a "U" on their 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 bulletin board in the classroom. Reminders will be sent beforehand.

B. Snacks: Please refer to Parent Handbook for a suggested healthy snack list. There is 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.