

August 20, 2024

Dear First Grade Parents,

I am so excited to have your child in my class this year! I want to welcome your family to the first grade class at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. I am so excited to have the privilege of teaching your child this year and I want to welcome the new families to Blessed. I am so glad that you have chosen to entrust your child to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few things about myself. This will be my 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Blessed Sacrament. I love the community here and this has truly become my home away from home. I hope that you and your family feel welcome and that you grow to love it here. This is my second year back in first grade after being in Kindergarten for 9 years. I have taught Kinder, first, second and third grade here at Blessed.

As we enter the beginning of our 2024 - 2025 school year, my most important goal is to focus on building positive relationships. I want your child to continue to build a positive relationship with God because He is at the center of everything we do. I also want to build a positive relationship with each student in my classroom and to help them build relationships with one another to create a safe and comfortable learning environment. My third goal is for each student to understand that we are growing and learning new things daily.

My favorite word for the class is the word YET because I teach the students to believe in the power of yet. I wholeheartedly believe in a growth mindset which allows students to understand that just because they can't do something today, does not mean that they will never be able to do it. They will learn that they must not give up but keep trying because practice makes everything better.

Some of our academic goals for that first grade students will be achieving this year are:

- Write their first and last name
- Identify the letters of the alphabet and their sounds
- Produce rhyming words
- Read CVC words
- Write complete sentences
- Read sight words
- Begin to read with FLUENCY and EXPRESSION
- Count to 100 by 1's, 5's and 10's
- Identify 2D and 3D shapes
- Solve addition and subtraction problems within 20
- Understand and solve word problems
- Develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to meet the challenges of our changing world

If you need to speak to me, please do not hesitate to call the school office or email me at [daguilar@blessedschool.com](mailto:daguilar@blessedschool.com). You can also reach me through the Remind app. I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner.

My hope for the year is to help your child continue to have a successful learning adventure throughout his/her first grade year. I want us to work together as a team to make it an outstanding year for you and your child. If there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know. I am here for you and your child! Remember, we are in this together!

Sincerely,

Ms. Davina Aguilar

# Welcome to First Grade

## Important Information

- Any student that arrives between 7:05 and 7:30 should be dropped off directly at the school gym.
- Anyone arriving after 8:05 a.m. must go to the school office to sign in for the school day.
- If you need to pick up your child early, please send me an email or a message via Remind so that I can have your child ready and in the school office waiting for your arrival.
- Our lunch period begins at 10:55 a.m. Once Kinder through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is seated in their spots, we pray together and then students begin eating. The first 10 minutes of lunch are designated as Quiet Time so that everyone can focus on eating their lunches. After the ten minutes, if students are finished eating, they may quietly talk to their table mates.
- First grade students are not allowed to use the microwave at lunch. Please make sure your child has a lunch that does not need to be warmed. Thank you!

## Snack Information

- **First grade students have two snacks daily.** Please make sure your child's morning snack is a healthy choice and that your child knows which snack is their morning snack. I remind them that their morning snack should be a healthy snack but it helps if they know which one is their morning snack ahead of time.
- **Snack and Water Donations:** We are currently in need of snack and bottled water donations for the students who forget their snack or eat all their food before our afternoon snack. **If you want to donate snacks, please make sure they are individually wrapped.** Thank you in advance!
- **Extra Snacks at Lunch:** Mr. Fierro has decided that PK3 - 3rd grade students will only be allowed to buy snacks at lunchtime from the Crave lunch crew on Fridays.

## Classroom Rules and Procedures

- **What are the class rules?** The students have learned our five class rules that tie into Restorative Teaching. Your child has agreed to focus on following these five rules throughout the school year. The rules are:
  1. **Always listen to your teacher.**
  2. **Follow directions quickly.**
  3. **Keep your hands and feet to yourself.**
  4. **Clean up your own mess.**
  5. **Be a friend. Use your manners.**
- **What is Restorative Teaching?** I have decided to focus on building strong relationships and making positive Teacher-Student and peer-to-peer connections. It also means focusing on helping the students understand how to work through problems and learn coping strategies.
- **How will I know about my child's behavior?** Daily, your child's behavior will be tracked in his/her Communication Folder which can be found in your child's BULLDOGS Binder. If I need to give more information, I will send you an email, a message in Remind or a phone call.

## Homework Policy

- **Why do I assign homework?** I believe homework is important because it is a valuable tool that helps my students make the most of their experience throughout the school day. Homework helps reinforce what has been learned in class, prepare students for upcoming lessons, and teaches responsibility. Please note that some homework will be assigned on Seesaw or Imagine Math so your child will need access to the Internet at times.
- **When will homework be assigned?** Homework will be assigned on Mondays and Wednesdays. However, students are asked to read at least fifteen minutes daily.

- **What are my child's responsibilities?** I expect students to do their best on each homework assignment. I expect homework to be neat and completed by the beginning of the day it is due. Please make sure your child **completes his/her homework in pencil!**
- **What are the family's responsibilities?** Family members are the key to making homework time a positive experience for their child. Therefore, I ask that you make homework a top priority at home, provide necessary supplies and create a quiet work environment for your child to be able to study. Set aside a time everyday when homework should be done, provide support and contact me if you notice a problem or need some help.
- **What are Ms. Aguilar's responsibilities?** I will check all homework assignments and record grades in a timely manner. I will also support good homework habits by giving praise and other incentives.

### **How Can You (Parents) Help?**

- **Our goal is to develop your child's mind, body and spirit. To accomplish this we need your help.**
- **To do list:** check your child's BULLDOGS Binder daily, establish a bedtime routine, make sure your child eats breakfast, pack healthy snacks, read and pray daily.

### **Why & How to Sign Up for Remind**

- We use the Remind app to be able to get messages to me in a timely manner and to receive messages throughout the year. This is one of the best ways to communicate with me after the school day has ended because it comes straight to my phone.
- **Text @273cfdk to 81010.** You'll immediately receive a text confirming you've joined our class (Ms. A's Firsties). If you don't already have the Remind app, click the texted link to download it. If you already have the app on your phone, open it to see our class.

# Toys

Please make sure that your child leaves all toys at home daily. We will have a designated day where students will be allowed to bring a specific toy to share with their friends.

## School Uniform Information

### Uniform Shoes

- Must be all black solid black dress shoes or black, red, white, blue, or gray athletic shoes. Athletic shoes may be a combination of approved colors.
- All shoes must have rubber soles
- **Velcro or slip-on required for students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade.**

### Socks

- Boys: Solid White or Black Crew Socks without emblems. **Ankle Socks are not allowed.**
- Girls: Solid White or Navy Crew Socks, Solid White or Navy Knee-High Socks, Solid White or Navy Tights, Solid White or Navy Bobby Socks (**No Emblems**)
- Chica Scholar Socks (White, Navy, Gray, or Red) May Be Worn

### Belts

- A black or navy belt must be worn with the boys' long pants or walking shorts. **Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and**

**First Grade are strongly encouraged to wear a Velcro or magnetic belt.**

## Skirts

- **Female students wearing skirts or jumpers must wear solid color shorts underneath their skirts or jumpers.**

## Bulldog Spirit Dress Guidelines

- Students may wear a Blessed Sacrament Catholic School or Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church CYO or a University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) polo, t-shirt, or jersey with their uniform pants, uniform shorts, uniform skirt, or uniform dress and tennis shoes. **Blue jeans, blue jean shorts, cargo shorts, Capri's, or other non-uniform dress may not be worn on Bulldog Spirit Dress Days unless noted on Spike's News.**