

August 24, 2026

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 especially want to welcome the new families to Blessed. For all first grade parents, I am so happy 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 27th 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 like part of the bigger Blessed Sacrament family and that you grow to love it here. This is my fifth year back in first grade after being in Kindergarten for 9 years. I have taught Kinder, first, second and third grade all here at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School.

As we enter the beginning of our 2026-2027 school year, my most important goal is to focus on having your child build and experience 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 the academic goals students will be achieving this year are:

- Write their first and last name and the months of the year
- Identify the difference between long and short vowels
- Blend letter sounds to become first grade readers
- Write complete sentences
- Begin to read with FLUENCY and EXPRESSION
- Count to 120 by 1's, 5's and 10's
- Identify and create 2D and 3D shapes
- Solve addition and subtraction problems within 20
- Understand and solve word problems
- Develop 21st century skills to meet the challenges of our changing world

If you need to reach out to me for any reason, please do not hesitate to call the school office, email me at daguilar@blessedschool.com or send me a message on the ClassDojo 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 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 8:00 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 Class Dojo 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 the elementary students are seated in their spots, we pray together and then students begin eating. The first 10 minutes of lunch are designated as Quiet Ten 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.
- **Elementary 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.

Water Donations: We are currently in need of small bottled water donations for the students who forget their water or run out of water before we can refill them. 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? Several years ago the elementary level 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.

Whenever possible, I will use Restorative teaching to help students work through their normal everyday issues. However, there are times when your child may receive consequences such as being written up or visiting with Mr. Fierro (principal) in the school office if the behaviors are of a more serious nature.

How will I know about my child's behavior?

On Monday through Thursday, your child's behavior will be tracked in his/her Communication Folder which can be found in your child's BULLDOGS folder. If I need to give more information, I will send you an email, a message in ClassDojo or a phone call. Also, if I need to reach out about behavior issues on Friday, I will send you an email or message in ClassDojo.

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.

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 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. I will try to send the work from the previous week home every Wednesday in the Wednesday folder. If unable to do so, I will reschedule the day and let parents know when to expect graded work.

Important Late Homework Notice: If homework is late, I will deduct five points for every day that it is late.

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 Class Dojo

We use the Class Dojo app to be able to get messages to me in a timely manner and to receive messages throughout the year. This is the best way to communicate with me after the school day has ended because it comes straight to my phone.

NOTE: Instructions on how to join our class are on a separate sheet in this folder.

Toys and Trinkets

Please make sure that your child leaves all toys and trinkets (hair clips, fancy pencils and erasers, squishies) at home daily. Periodically, we will have a designated day where students will be allowed to bring something to share with their friends.