



# Welcome to First Grade!

Please take some time  
to read over the  
information and contact  
me with any questions!




# Contact Information:

**Teachers Name: Becky McCaffrey**

**Email: [mccaffrey.rebecca@cusd80.com](mailto:mccaffrey.rebecca@cusd80.com)**

**Website: <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/117177>**

**I am happy to talk about your child at any time, however, out of respect for the student's privacy, I do not discuss student's progress when I have other students in the classroom. If you wish to discuss your child's progress, please contact me to schedule a conference. Thank you!**



# \*A Little about me

## My expectations

- Singing to learn
- Fun and work hard
- Differentiation
- Family & hobbies
- I Communicate a lot via text, emails, website, phone calls, etc.
- Always available

## \*Packet contents:

-Go over

Fill out papers and leave them at school for me or return ASAP



A note from our  
principal  
Mrs. Heath

Please try to carpool. LINES ARE  
LONG!

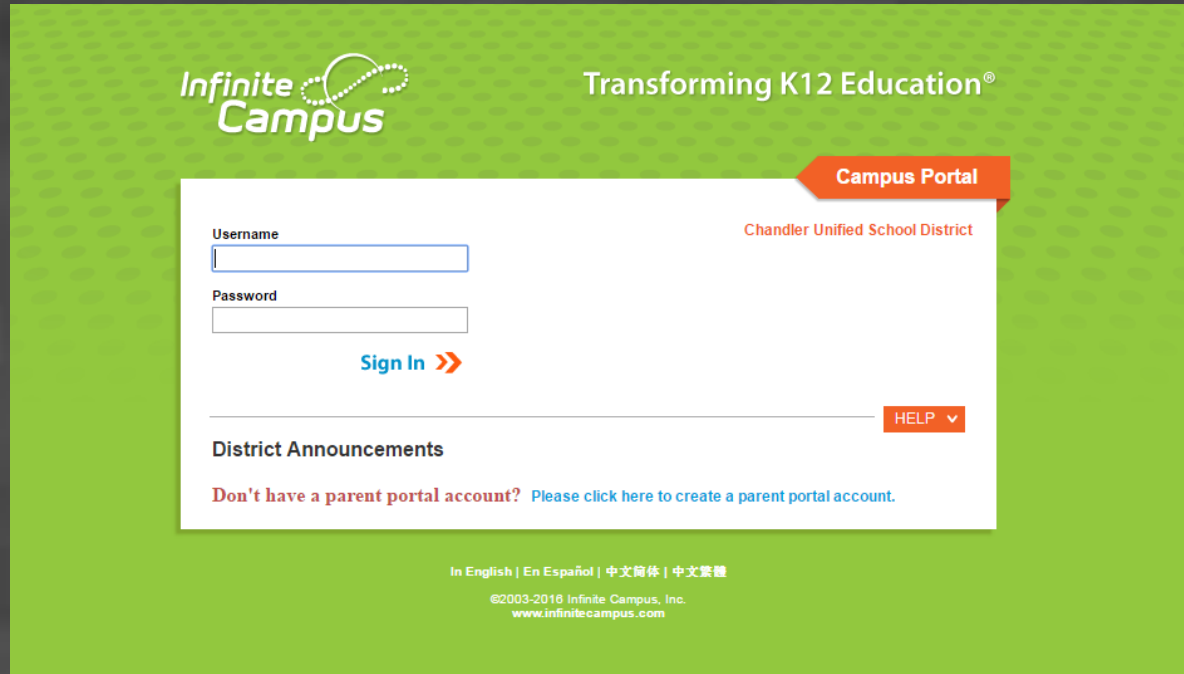
Our school is a closed campus  
Cell phones & electronic watches  
MUST be turned off or on airplane  
mode while on campus!



# Infinite Campus

Check your child's grades on the Parent Portal. If you do not have a log-in, please contact the front office.

- \*Pay fees
- \*Check grades
- \*Access progress reports & report cards



The screenshot shows the Infinite Campus Parent Portal interface. At the top left is the Infinite Campus logo with the tagline "Transforming K12 Education®". Below the logo are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". A "Sign In >>" button is positioned below the password field. In the top right corner, there is a "Campus Portal" button and the text "Chandler Unified School District". Below the login area, there is a "District Announcements" section with a "HELP" dropdown menu. At the bottom, there is a link: "Don't have a parent portal account? Please click here to create a parent portal account." The footer contains the text: "In English | En Español | 中文简体 | 中文繁體", "©2003-2018 Infinite Campus, Inc.", and "www.infinitecampus.com".

# What Does It Take To Fund A Field Trip, Performance, or On-Site Activity?



**Cost of Sample Field Trip:**  
**1st Grade Childsplay Performance**  
(Based on 120 Students)  
Admission: \$1,200.00  
Transportation: \$ 550.00  
Total Cost: \$1,750.00

## Funds Come From:

### 1. Extra-Curricular Activity Fees

EXAMPLE: \$5 per student, per activity fee is charged (with the exception of extended day or overnight trips).

Fees must be charged **BEFORE** a student attends trips, etc. according to Attorney General's opinion.

&

### 2. Tax Credit Donations

## Why Do We Need Both ECA Fees & Tax Credit Donations?

Extra-Curricular Activity Fees Do Not Cover Total Costs of Trips. Example:

\$5 Activity Fee X 120 Students = \$600.00

Total Cost of Trip: \$1,750.00

Activity Fees Collected - \$600.00

Still Needed To Fund Trip: \$1,150.00

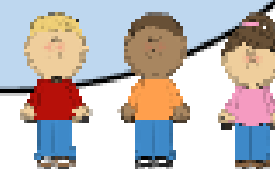
\*If we do not have tax credit donations to cover the remaining cost of trip, there will be no trip.

## Who Can Make A Tax Credit Donation?

Any Arizona taxpayer (Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Neighbors!) can make a tax credit donation, regardless of whether or not they have children in school or live in the Chandler Unified School District.

## How Do I Pay ECA Fees & Make A Tax Credit Donation?

Parents/Guardians will pay fees and make donations through their Parent Portal account.  
Others can make donations through the tax credit online site provided on our website @ [www.chandlerdonations.org](http://www.chandlerdonations.org).





# STUFF

Water Bottles-Keeping our kids hydrated! Send in a water bottle daily. We have refill stations.

- Snacks- students need to bring their own snack daily

(Any allergies?) NO Peanut products please

- STAR STUDENT-weekly & journal (random selection)

- Birthdays- store bought food only

- Volunteers - Stay tuned!

- Homework Folders - they will come home daily

- Newsletters-weekly

- Forms - Please return ASAP

- Rainy Day Procedures

- Tax Credit - [www.chandlerdonations.org](http://www.chandlerdonations.org)



# Birthdays

- Feel free to send in store bought treats (school policy).
  - Suggestions: small cupcakes, popsicles, cookies, donut holes, etc.
- Please only send party invitations to school if you are inviting our whole class. I will provide a class directory for those interested. (This can be used for birthday party invitations, play dates, etc.)
- Summer birthdays kiddos will have an opportunity to celebrate with the class in May.





# Supplies

**IMPORTANT:** This list will be a bit different than the one provided by the school, but it has our specific classroom needs. Please refer to this list instead, if you have not already bought supplies. Thank you so much!

\*Please do not write your child's name on the supplies. (headphones-Yes, put your child's name on them)  
All other supplies that are donated will be used by the class.

This is not a mandatory supply list. Any supplies received will be greatly appreciated!

- Headphones to fit into the iPads
- Disinfectant Wipes, \*\*NOT baby wipes
- 2 boxes of markers
- Crayons 24 pks
- Tissue boxes
- Glue sticks
- Ziploc bags gallon size

## TEACHER WISH LIST ITEMS

Here are extra items we could use. (It is completely optional).

\*GLUE STICKS- lots of them

\*Smelly markers

\*Paper towels

\*Gift card to Amazon for books/crafts



# Classroom Management

- Whole Brain Teaching & clip chart- see homework folders
- Kind Cards (1<sup>st</sup> semester)
- Money- McCaffrey Bucks(2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
- Homework folder...Check daily!

There will be consequences for students that CHOOSE to break the rules (changing their behavior card, writing a "Think" sheet, time outs, parent contact, or in extreme cases a visit to the principal's office, etc. )



# Whole Brain Teaching

We will be learning through Whole Brain Teaching, a research based system that utilizes all areas of the brain, keeps children engaged throughout their lessons, and helps them retain much more information than the standard lecture-discussion model.

Whole Brain Teaching is a highly interactive form of instruction that delivers information to students in short "chunks." Kids then teach what they have just learned to their partners, using hand-gestures to help remember specific vocabulary. While students teach each other, the teacher walks around the room to discover who understands the lesson and who needs more instruction.

Research shows that children retain more information when they have an opportunity to put it into their own words and use gestures to emphasize key instructional units ...plus, it's amazingly fun!



# Homework

Your child will bring home a personalized homework folder each day. This folder will help your child learn to be responsible and organized. It also provides a place to put notes or graded papers your child needs to take home. Please check the folder every day!!!!!!!

First graders are also expected to read a book of their choosing for 15 minutes per night. Research has shown daily independent reading to be one of the most important factors in predicting student success in school.

Homework will be due every Friday.

- Differentiated packets-Second Quarter



# Sight Word Lists & Baggy Books

Your child will need to practice sight words weekly. The goal at the end of 1st grade is that your child knows at least 200 sight words. There is a chart in your child's homework folder that you can look at to see what level they are on.

Your child will also be coming home weekly with a baggy book at his or her level. Please have your child read it to you, ask them questions about what they read, and then return it so they can get another one. I will assess levels quarterly and change book levels accordingly.



# Healthy Kids

A child must not be in school and will be sent home if the following condition(s) are present:

1. Fever 100 degrees or higher. A child must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication before returning to school.)
2. Persistent cough.
3. Sore throat with fever and/or white spots on the throat-if strep throat is diagnosed, the child must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. Rash with fever illness, such as chicken pox, measles, etc.
5. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. A child must be free from symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.
6. Red, itchy, and draining eyes. If conjunctivitis or "pink eye" is diagnosed, the child must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
7. Prolonged headache and/or stomachache.
8. Swelling or pain at a level that may interfere with learning.
9. Earache.
10. Toothache.
11. Head lice - A child must remain at home until treated with medicated lice shampoo and the nits are removed. The child must be cleared through the health office before returning to school. CUSD enforces a no-nit policy.



# Reading

HMH provides students with a wealth of opportunities to read a rich variety of texts. It provides explicit, systematic phonics instruction to build word recognition skills that enable students to become efficient decoders.

Comprehension instruction in HMH is rigorous, developmental, and spiraled. Students are instructed in whole groups, small groups, or independently. There are leveled books for additional practice, reinforcement, and enrichment.

- Reading groups will switch after fall break



# Reading & Writing

FUNdations is a research based systematic and comprehensive program in which phonemic awareness and word study contribute greatly to fluency, vocabulary development and the applications of strategies for understanding text. Additionally, FUNdations sets the foundation for writing with the direct teaching of handwriting.

- Sight Words
- Look in homework folder for correct formations





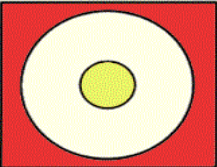
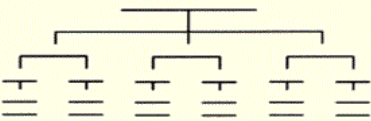
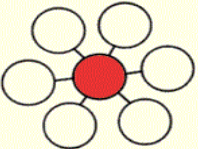
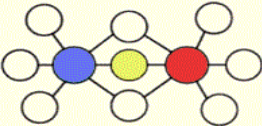
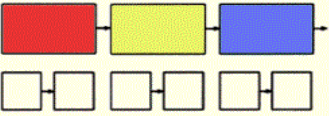
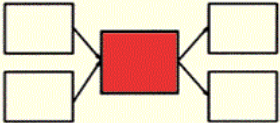
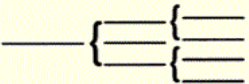
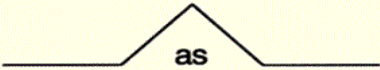
# Writing

Writing is the process of children expressing their thoughts in written form. They begin expressing their ideas through words and pictures and putting these ideas into writing. This is a developmental approach to writing and helps students build confidence in their ability to put thoughts on paper without getting caught up in the mechanics. As time goes on, we will build upon their skills. We also incorporate writing in all other academic areas throughout the day. We will be using FUNdations, Writers' Workshop, HMH Writing activities and personal journals to promote writing skills. We will be using FUNdations letter formation to teach students to write legibly.     *\*Family Journals*

# Thinking Maps

## Thinking Maps

Thinking Maps are visual teaching tools that foster and encourage life long learning. They provide students with the skills to be successful thinkers, problem solvers, and decision makers.

<p><b>CIRCLE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR DEFINING IN CONTEXT</p>	<p><b>TREE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR CLASSIFYING AND GROUPING</p>
<p><b>BUBBLE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR DESCRIBING USING ADJECTIVES</p>	<p><b>DOUBLE BUBBLE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR COMPARING AND CONTRASTING</p>
<p><b>FLOW MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR SEQUENCING AND ORDERING</p>	<p><b>MULTI-FLOW MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR CAUSES AND EFFECTS</p>
<p><b>BRACE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR ANALYZING WHOLE OBJECTS AND PARTS</p>	<p><b>BRIDGE MAP</b></p>  <p>FOR SEEING ANALOGIES</p>



# Spelling

First Grade provides instruction and practice in spelling, grammar usage, and mechanics in daily lessons. Spelling instruction is linked to phonics instruction. All skills of conventions are applied in purposeful writing activities. Students will be evaluated through their daily writing, as well as teacher prepared assessments. A weekly spelling list that coincides with the weekly reading selection will go home with the homework packet. Please practice these words with your child.

- Tested weekly
  - Practice words
  - FUNdation words



# Math

"My Math" involves the students conducting investigations and solving problems in a variety of ways.

We will be focusing on computation, problem solving and reasoning.

Most activities involve the use of hands-on manipulatives. These manipulatives help the children to learn and understand math concepts.



# Science

First Graders will be introduced to the following:

- Inquiry process
- Life science, physical science, earth and space science
- Health promotion, human body, environmental health



# Social Studies

First Graders will be introduced to:

- Families
- Friendships
- People from other cultures
- People today and long ago
- Holiday origins and traditions
- Responsibility of citizenship in a free society
- Symbols, icons, and traditions of the United States
- Maps and globes
- Life skills

\*\*Experts throughout the year



# P.E. & Shoes

Please make sure to check the specials calendar (found on my website and in your child's homework folder) to ensure your child comes to school each day with proper shoes and clothes for running, jumping, climbing, and participating in physical education activities, especially on P.E. days.

- If your child isn't wearing shoes on their PE day, they will not be able to participate.
- Tying shoes- PLEASE practice!



# Grading

Instruments for assessing your child's progress include:

- Informal & formal grades on work
- Progress Reports
- Quarterly Report Cards
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (August & February)
- Teacher emails/notes when needed to communicate individual student achievements, misbehaviors, or academic concerns.





# Tests

- Students will not receive letter grades in 1st grade. However, much of their work will be scored using a percentage scale in order to determine level of mastery.
- Every week the children will be assessed in reading, spelling, and mathematics. These tests will usually be administered on Fridays.
- Please take the time to look over your child's grades each week and review any skills or areas in need of improvement with your child.