

Welcome to FIRST GRADE!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Horky and I am thrilled to be your child's first grade teacher this year! This will be my second year teaching first grade at Hancock. I also have ten years experience teaching 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades.

Some background about me:

- I graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Elementary Education. GO LUMBERJACKS!!
- I am not an Arizona native but have lived in Arizona for over 40 years!
- I have been married for 21 years to my husband John and three wonderful kids: Emilee (19), Natalie (17), and Ryan (14).
- I was a Hancock parent for 12 years! All three of my children attended K-6! I love this school and the teachers here so much!

Included in this packet is some basic information about what to expect for your child's first grade year. I hope you will find this a helpful reference throughout the year. I am looking forward to working with you and your child to help him or her reach his or her full potential this year!

First Day Tips:

- School begins at 8:35.
- Be sure to let me know how your child will be going home.
- Please have your child bring a water bottle everyday.
- Students may buy a lunch or bring one from home.
- Be sure to check your child's daily folder everyday.
- Come in with a big smile ready to learn!

ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent for any reason, please contact the front office at (480)-883-5900. You are welcome to contact me as well, however this is not required. If your child will be absent for an extended period of time, please let me know as soon as possible. I will be happy to put together a packet of work together so he or she doesn't miss out on any important learning.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special occasions! If you plan to send treats for your child, please let me know in advance. District policy requires that food must be store-bought; no homemade goodies are allowed. Balloons are also not allowed at school. You are more than welcome to send in birthday invitations as long as every student is invited. I understand it may be impossible to invite everyone. If this is the case, please try to deliver these outside of school to avoid hurt feelings. Thank you!

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

In our class, we stress respect for others, self-control, responsibility, quality work, and good listening. I believe that children learn through a positive and encouraging, yet firm approach. Students are expected to follow class rules in and out of the classroom. Hancock follows the 4 step Ladder of Behavior program.

All students will begin each day at a Level 3. Students will level up to a 4 if they go above and beyond. Students will level down to a 2 or 1 when they are unable to follow classroom rules and procedures. Please check your child's behavior chart (located in his/her daily folder) everyday to see how he/she is performing in the classroom.

COMMUNICATION

I believe that a good parent-teacher communication is essential for maximum school success. Throughout the year, I will communicate with you through our weekly newsletters, email, phone calls, your child's daily

folder, report cards, as well as parent-teacher conferences. If you ever need to contact me, email is best. My email is: horky.michelle@cusd80.com. You can also contact me by leaving a message at (480) 883-5950. I will return your call as soon as possible. My phone will go straight to voicemail during school hours, so please contact the front office if it's urgent.

CURRICULUM

Learning objectives are set by the Chandler Unified School District and are aligned with the Arizona State Standards. You may access these objectives through the CUSD website.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Our daily schedule includes whole group and small group activities. We also work in leveled math and reading classes, so your child may have a different math or reading teacher than his or her homeroom teacher. Our school is on a 6-day rotation for specials which include: Library, P.E., Music, and Technology. Our schedule will sometimes include Art Masterpiece (once a month).

EXTRA CLOTHES

All 1st grade students should have an extra set of clothes (socks, underwear, top, bottoms) in their backpacks for those occasional clothing mishaps.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills taught in the classroom, as well as to develop good study habits. Homework packets will be sent home on Fridays and will be due back the following Friday. Homework should be fully completed and reflect quality work. Please contact me as soon as possible should your child have any difficulty completing the homework assignments. I know sometimes things happen and students are unable to complete their homework on time. If this is the case, please let me know. Otherwise, it will be counted as incomplete and reflected on report cards

Homework packets will include your child's spelling list, a menu page, and a math page. Please help your child study his/her spelling words for the test which will be held each Friday. In addition to the homework packets, students should also read a minimum of 15 minutes daily. Reading at home can consist of you reading to your child, with your child, or by listening to your child read to you by him/herself.

LUNCH

Students may buy lunch from school or bring their lunch from home. The cost of lunch for all elementary students will be \$3.25. Free/Reduced lunch applications are available. If you would like an application and did not receive one, please let me know.

MEDICATIONS

The health office will administer all medications. Please contact the health office if your child needs medicine during school hours or if you have any questions. Please do not send medicine to school in your child's backpack.

SNACKS/WATER BOTTLES

Our class will have one snack time each day in the afternoon during recess. Snacks are optional and must be brought from home. Students may not share snacks due to allergies. Please make sure the snack is healthy and non-perishable. It is helpful if the snack is packed separately from their lunch to avoid confusion. Send only what your child can eat in a few minutes.

Water bottles should be brought to school daily. Only water is allowed in the classroom.

STAR OF THE WEEK

Every child will have the opportunity to be celebrated as Star of the Week. Students will be selected at random. The Friday before your child's turn, he/she will bring home a letter explaining all the details as well as a poster

to be decorated/completed over the weekend. Students love being Star the Week! It's their time to shine as well as build our classroom community.

TRANSPORTATION

Please make sure you let me know how your child will be going home. If you wish for him/her to go home a different way than usual, please contact me as soon as possible by email. You may also contact the front office who will then let me know of the change.

In first grade, students will be walked out by teachers during the first week of school only. After that, students will be dismissed from the first grade building. Please note that first graders are not allowed to walk or bike home alone; they must be accompanied by an adult.

VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers here at Hancock! Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas:

- Art Masterpiece
- Working with students in the classroom
- Chaperoning field trips
- PTO

Classroom volunteers, with the exception of Art Masterpiece, will begin after the first quarter once we have established our routines. At that time, I will send out information to see who might be interested/available to help. Thank you in advance! I couldn't do it without you!

FINALLY...

In order to have a successful and productive day, please make sure your child gets plenty of rest, has a good breakfast before school, and arrives to school on time. I am looking forward to a great year working with your child! If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for all your support throughout the year! 😊

Supply LIST

- Pencil box
- 1 composition book
- 1 pkg glue sticks
- 1 box 24 count crayons
- 1 pkg dry erase markers: fine tip
- 12 count #2 pencils (Ticonderoga preferred)
- 1 scissors
- 1 pkg pink erasers
- 1 pkg Clorox wipes
- Kleenex
- Headphones*
- Backpack

*over the ear headphones such as these are preferred

