

The ABC's of 1st Grade

Welcome 
to
1st Grade

Ms. Amber Barry

McAuliffe Elementary

Room 153

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<http://barryfirstgrade.weebly.com>

651-480-7390

The ABC's of First Grade

Everything you need to know about your child's

1st grade experience!



Absences - Please notify the school office at 651-480-7390, if your child will be late or absent. Please limit doctor or dentist appointments to after school hours when possible. Many of our activities are hands-on and require that your child participate in order to benefit rather than working on a worksheet at home. Due to our hands-on approach, I ask that you make every effort to plan family trips or vacations during our school breaks.

Allergies - Please let me know immediately if your child has any allergies that will impact his/her school experience.

Arrival - The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m. Students may begin to enter the building for breakfast and class. At 8:50 a.m. all students are expected to be unpacked and seated at their desks to begin our day.

Art - Your child will attend art class with Ms. Jenna Teich. Please refer to specialist calendar for days your child will have art class.



Backpacks and Folders - Please make sure your child brings a backpack and their Take Home Folder to school every day. Backpacks should be big enough to hold a regular sized folder and library book. Please check your child's folder and backpack nightly and go over any papers and/or notes with your child. When emptying your child's backpack, this is a great opportunity to talk about his/her day.

Behavior - Students are expected to follow McAuliffe's school rules in addition to the rules of our classroom in order to ensure that every child can productively learn. Should your child repeatedly choose to not follow one of the rules a behavior notice will be sent home. Please read it with your child, sign it, and send it back to school.

Birthdays - Our class does celebrate birthdays. Our district has adopted a policy to promote healthy eating. Families may no longer send treats (cupcakes, cookies, ice cream, candy, etc). Your child may bring a healthy snack - fruit, cheese, crackers, Chex-Mix, Goldfish, etc. If you send in a healthy snack, please make sure to send in napkins and/or plates, forks, etc. Parents are welcome to come in and help serve their child's snack and read the class their child's favorite book. Please let me know in advance if you are planning on coming in to celebrate. If your child has a birthday on a weekend or break please contact me to arrange another day to celebrate. For summer birthdays, we will celebrate on your child's half-birthday. If your child is having a birthday party and wants to pass out invitations, please have your child either invite the whole class or all girls or all boys to avoid hurt feelings.

Book Orders - I will send home Scholastic book order forms for you and your child to look over every month. Book orders offer books at reduced prices. It's a great way to build your child's home library and it earns books for our

classroom at school as well! You may order online at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/> . Enter our class activation code: NCWYD . You may order online or send in the flyer. Make checks out to Scholastic Book Clubs. If you order from two separate flyers, you may add the totals together and write a check for the final total.

Breakfast - Children eating breakfast at school should report to the cafeteria upon arrival at school. Breakfast costs \$1.30 for students or is free for those who receive a reduced lunch. Breakfast is served from 8:30a.m. - 8:45 a.m. each morning.



Checking Out - If your child needs to be checked out of school early for any reason, please report to the office. The school secretaries will assist you.

Computer Lab - Your child will have computer lab with Mrs. Shofner. Please refer to the specialist calendar for our scheduled computer lab days.

Conferences - Parent-Teacher conferences will be held twice a year. During this time, we will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress in 1st grade. If you need to meet with me at any other time during the year, send a note, call, or email me and we'll set up a time for you to come in. I am always more than happy to meet with you to discuss your child's progress.



Dismissal - Dismissal begins at 3:25 p.m. It is important to notify me if there are changes in the way your child will be going home from school. Without parental permission, I will send your child home in the usual manner. 1st graders can be easily confused and I can't take their word that they are going home a different way unless I receive notification from you. If your change in plans is last minute (after 12 p.m.) please contact the office (651-480-7390) so that they can ensure I receive your message.



Email - The easiest way to communicate with me is through email. My email address is abarry@hastings.k12.mn.us I will return your email as soon as possible! I check email multiple times daily but will not respond while teaching.

Environmental Learning - Please use the print around you to review concepts. Billboards, cereal boxes, signs, packaging, etc. are valuable resources, as the use of these every day materials will show your child how learning relates to their world.



Field Trips - The 1st grade team is planning fun and informative learning experiences for our students. Information about field trips will come home in your child's daily folder and will be detailed in the field trip permission slip and weekly newsletter. If you are interested in accompanying us on these trips, please fill out the form sent home with the permission slip.



Good Behavior - Your child is responsible for making good choices in the classroom. They are held accountable for their actions. They will be praised for good behavior and redirected when making poor choices.



Homework - Homework assignments will vary and will be sent home in your child's Take Home folder. Students are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes every day at home.



Illness - While regular attendance is important, please do not send your child to school if he/she is ill. If your child is sick, please call the office before 8:30 a.m. that day. We ask that you do not send your child back to school until he/she has been fever/vomit free for 24 hours.

Independence - Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. First graders are very capable of doing many things on their own, and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following self-help skills at home with your child: zipping, tying, and cleaning up materials.



Keep Updated - Keep updated by reading the classroom newsletter every week and checking your child's Take Home folder every day for other notes and information. Our classroom website can be viewed at

<http://barryfirstgrade.weebly.com/>. Here I post newsletters, helpful information, and pictures and videos of our learning and fun in 1st grade. Your child will use the digital resource, Seesaw, to post pictures and videos of his/her learning.



Library - Your child will visit the school library following their Computer Lab time. Make sure your child keeps library books in a special place at home so that finding them when it is time to return them is not difficult. Please refer to our specialist calendar for our Computer and Library days.

Lunch - Please make sure your child knows each day whether he/she is eating school lunch or lunch from home. The lunch menu is available monthly on McAuliffe's school website. 1st Graders have the choice of a hot entrée, sandwich, or chef salad. If your child brings his/her lunch, soft drinks are not allowed. Milk may be purchased in the cafeteria. Full priced lunch for K-4 students is \$2.70. Parents are welcome to join their child for lunch. Adult lunches are \$3.80.



Math Facts - Help your child master their addition and subtraction facts through 10. Students should be able to quickly state the answer to an addition or subtraction problem. This will greatly help as we move into more complex concepts.

Medication - Prescription medication must be given through the nurse's office and not brought into the classroom.

Medical Concerns - Please let me know of any medical concerns your child may have so appropriate accommodations can be made. These can include medications needed or a change in your daily routine that may affect your child. Please also let me know of any food allergies. Mrs. Wenker is our school nurse. We are lucky to have her all day every day. Please contact her at 651-480-7395 or pwenker@hastings.k12.mn.us with any health concerns.

Money - Money sent for any reason such as field trips, picture money, or book orders should be sent in a sealed envelope with the child's name, teacher's name, and purpose.

Music - Your child will have Music with Mrs. Garner. Please refer to the specialist calendar for days when we have music class.



Newsletter - A classroom newsletter will be emailed every Friday. I will also post a copy of our newsletter on our classroom website <http://barryfirstgrade.weebly.com/>. Please let me know if you would prefer a paper copy to be sent home weekly.

No School - Please listen to the radio and television for weather announcements. Hastings' School District One Call system also calls families.



Office - If you visit the school during the school day, please always check in at the office. You will need to sign in. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please check in at the office as well. They will notify me in the classroom and I will send your child down. This helps reduce distractions in the classrooms.

Open-Mindedness - First grade is a whole new world! Your little one is really growing up now! There is a lot more work involved in first grade, which may seem a bit overwhelming in the beginning. We will be diving into reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing! So, please have an open mind and always come to me right away with any concerns.



Parties - We will have celebrations for Halloween, Winter, 100th Day, and Valentine's Day. I will be looking for volunteers and donations for these parties.

P.E. - Your child will have Physical Education with Mrs. Dehmlow. Make sure your child dresses appropriately on P.E. day with sneakers/tennis shoes. Please refer to the specialist calendar for P.E. days.

Personal Items - Personal items such as backpacks, lunch boxes, and coats/jackets must be labeled with child's name. Please help make sure your child does not bring any extra items (toys) in his/her backpack. Throughout the year our class will earn room rewards for great behavior. Those are the only days when your child should bring a toy or stuffed animal to school. An email and note will be sent home further explaining those special reward days as they approach.

Phone Calls - The office will not interrupt teachers' instructional time during the day for phone calls. All phone calls will be sent to my voicemail unless they are received during my planning period (2:15-3:00). Our number at school is: 651-480-7390. Sending an email is the easiest way to communicate with me. Through email we can set up a time to connect via telephone if necessary. abarry@hastings.k12.mn.us

Portfolio - In addition to your child having a digital portfolio using Seesaw, I will also prepare a special portfolio box that includes your child's first grade work. Your child will share his/her portfolio box with you at our 1st Grade Portfolio Sharing Party. Families are invited to join us for this afternoon event that occurs towards the end of the year.

PTC- Please consider attending the monthly Parent Teacher Connection meetings. Information will be in our classroom newsletter.



Questions- Remember you can always contact me at abarry@hastings.k12.mn.us or send a note in your child's Take Home folder or call me at school 651-480-7390.



Recess - Your child will have recess daily from 11:37-12:00. Please dress your child appropriately. Children will be outside for recess daily unless the temperature is below 0 or raining. It is important that your child has a coat, snow pants, boots, gloves, and a hat. Please label all of these items. Your child is responsible for keeping track and taking care of his/her belongings.

Report Cards - Report cards will be sent home at the end of each trimester.



Seesaw - Your child will have his/her own digital portfolio on Seesaw. You can sign up to get notified when your child posts items. It's completely private --- only you can see your child's portfolio outside of our class. This is a great way to strengthen our home and school connection.

Severe Weather - In the event of weather so severe that there is a possibility schools may be closed, parents are asked to stay tuned to their radio or television station for information.

Snack - Each day our class will have a short, 10 minute snack break. About once a month you will receive a note asking you to provide a community snack for the whole class. This snack should be for 25 children. Individually packaged snacks are preferred. Examples include granola bars, crackers, string cheese, pretzels, etc. Please send in napkins and any utensils your snack requires.

Spring Break - Spring Break is March 16-20. Enjoy!



Tardy - Students will be marked Tardy if they are not in their seats ready to begin learning at 8:50 a.m.

Transportation - If your child has any changes in their transportation please let me know as soon as possible by writing, by email, or by calling the office. This includes riding the bus home with a friend, having a relative pick your child up, or riding the bus if your child is normally a car rider. If your change in plans is last minute (after 12 p.m.) please contact the office at 651-480-7390 so that they can ensure I receive your message.

Toys - Many children wish to bring toys to school to share with their friends during recess. These toys can be easily lost/broken, etc and are a distraction in class. Please make sure your child does not bring any toys to school. We will occasionally have special reward share days where your child may bring one small item. Watch your child's Take Home folder for more information.



Understanding - Parents of first graders need to be understanding. Your child will be facing many new experiences, both academic and social. Letting your child know that you understand their feelings (we've all been there!) will help them to open-up and discuss their concerns and fears, as well as their joys!

Unique - Every child in our class is a unique individual. We try very hard to respect everyone for who they are and we do not allow unkind words or behaviors in our classroom. It is important to me that we make everyone feel as special and valuable as they truly are.



0 - No Talking
1 - Whisper (Only the person you are talking to can hear you)
2 - Small Group Voice (Only the 2 or 3 people around you can hear you)
3 - Presentation Voice (Speaking to the whole class)
4 - Outside Voice (Playing on the playground with friends)
5 - Emergency Voice (Shouting to receive help only during an emergency)

Voice Levels - Students and staff will use the following voice level indicators to identify the appropriate volume level in common areas and classrooms.

Volunteers and Visitors - Volunteers and visitors must sign in and out in the office. Once we develop our classroom routines, I am looking for volunteers to come in and assist children during independent reading time. I also am always looking for a parent to help with prepping materials. This mostly includes cutting out laminating, sorting, stapling, and folding. This may be done at home or at school. Please let me know if you are interested in being a regular volunteer or if you have one day that you are able to help.



Water Bottles - Students are allowed to have water bottles in the classroom. Only water should be in the bottles.

Website - Make sure to visit our class website to find out what we're learning at school and to view important information and view our newsletter. I also regularly post pictures and videos of our day.

<http://barryfirstgrade.weebly.com/>



eXit - Parents and family members may eXit and enter via the main school entry.

eXplore - 1st grade provides an opportunity for your child to learn through "doing". You will find that many of our learning activities occur through hands on activities.



You! - You are the caregivers, the nurturers, the true teachers. You make this, and every year so special to your child. I look forward to meeting you and helping your child grow to be the very best first grader they can be!

Younger Siblings - During classroom events and when volunteering in the classroom, please do not bring younger siblings.



Zzzzzzz - 1st graders are busy people at McAuliffe! It is so important that your child has a consistent bedtime. Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest so that he/she is ready to have a great day at school.