

First Grade

2023 - 2024



Mrs. Jen Dawson

Greenbrier Elementary School

2330 N. Verde Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Email: jdawson@sd25.org

Website: www.dawsonsgators.weebly.com

Phone: (847) 398-4272

August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to first grade at Greenbrier Elementary School. I look forward to the start of this ever-changing school year. I am thrilled to be your child's classroom teacher, and I look forward to helping your child grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of first grade. This packet of information has been prepared to answer many questions you may have. Please keep this packet handy and refer to it throughout the year.

Together, we are a team. If at any time you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact me. I look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,
Jen Dawson

Our Daily Schedule

Each day will consist of the following with the exception Social Studies, Science and Specials, which are on a rotating schedule.

Morning Meeting - Attendance, greetings, review daily schedule and morning work

Literacy - Schoolwide curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears, Fountas & Pinnell Word Study, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension and spelling

Snack

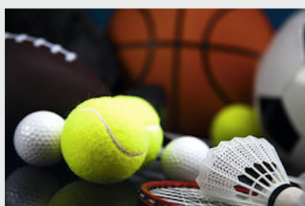
Recess & Lunch

Math - Math In Focus curriculum

Science - Activate Learning PRIME & Mystery Science

Social Studies - TCI History Alive!

Specials - Music & Gym, Art & LMC



Mr. Helmann

Gym

Wednesday &
Friday



Ms. Weismann

Music

Wednesday &
Friday



Ms. Solak

LMC

Tuesday



Mrs. Vanderwiel

Art

Thursday

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival: Students should be dropped off at the back of the school – door 10. When the school bell rings at 8:50 a.m., teachers and staff members will escort students into the building.

Dismissal: Students being picked up in the car line will be dismissed at the back of the school – door 8. Students who are being met at the door or walking home should be picked up at the front of the school – door 1. At 3:35 p.m., staff will walk the students out of the building.

If your child will be picked up by someone that is different than usual, please make sure to notify myself and/or the office.

Attendance

Your child should be at school every day unless he/she is sick, observing a religious holiday, or if other critical matters arise. **If your child is going to be absent, please call the attendance line at (847) 506-6999 to notify them of the absence and email me, as well.** The school will call if you do not notify an absence. If your child is not feeling well, has had a fever in the last 24 hours, or is in any way contagious, **PLEASE** keep him/her at home, as we want your child and the rest of the class and staff to stay healthy.

Daily Behavior Plan

Good behavior and learning go hand in hand. During the first several days of school, we will be talking about expected and unexpected behavior in school.

I keep track of behavior with “gator bucks”. When students are caught being respectful, responsible and safe they will receive a cut out of a paper gator and an explanation on why they are receiving it. Once they get a certain amount of gators, they can “cash” them in for a prize.

We will also be adding fuzzies to a “warm fuzzies” jar for outstanding classroom behavior. When our jar gets full, our class will

vote on a fun activity they would like to do such as pajama day, lunch in classroom, short movie, extra recess, etc.

If your child is not following school or classroom rules, they will fill out a Think Sheet at school with the teacher. This is a time for the teacher and student to talk and write about the rule(s) that weren't being followed and how to change their behavior. The Think Sheet will come home for you to review with your child. Please sign and place back in your child's folder to be turned in the following school day.

Homework

Students' homework in first grade is to read at least 20 minutes each night. You and your student can take turns reading, but the expectation is that reading occurs for at least 20 minutes. Projects and other assignments will be sent home as well.

A Home Folder will go home with your child each day. Please look at all the papers in the folder. Any important papers, notes or homework need to be looked at, completed and placed on the side labeled "Return To School" for the following school day.

Snack & Water Bottles

We will have snack time each morning. Please follow school district policy, which states that students are only allowed to bring nutritious snacks.

Our classroom is an allergy free zone. Please make sure that your child's snack does not contain any peanuts, tree nuts or shellfish.

You are more than welcome to send a water bottle to school with your child each day. Only this bottled water will be allowed as a drink during snack time. Your child will be allowed to refill the water bottle as necessary.

Communication

Every Sunday, a "Weekly Update" will get sent via email. Important dates, what we are learning about for the upcoming week and any important information will be contained within the email.

There are three options if you would like to contact me.

1. **Email:** I check my email as often as possible.
2. **Note:** Write a note and place it in your child's folder.
3. **Phone:** Call the school office at (847) 398-4272 and leave a message with the administrative assistant. I will return your call as soon as possible.