

Ms. Nelson's 1st Grade 2026-2027

Parent Information Guide

Please keep this guide to refer to throughout the school year.

Attendance matters!

- 3 unexcused tardies/early checkouts = 1 unexcused absence
- 5 unexcused absences = truancy follow-up
- Tardy bell rings at 8:20.
- Absent? Send a note or doctor's excuse **within 3 days**.
Excuse notes may also be emailed to Ms. Gail in the office at bstrahan@roaneschools.com. Please make sure to note me as their homeroom teacher.
- Planned early checkout? Let me know ahead of time so I can prepare their things.
- **Transportation Changes must be made by contacting the office no later than 2:30**
- I'll gather makeup work while your child is absent and send it home when your child returns—please complete and return it within a week. This is not necessarily required or for a grade, but it keeps them caught up with what we are working on in class. They will have gaps in learning if they are not completing their makeup work.

Sick policy:

- Fever of 100.4+ = student will be sent home.
- Pick up within 30 mins of Nurse Chelsey's call.
- Must be fever/vomit-free for 24 hours (without meds) before returning.

Checkouts:

- Bring ID.
- **No checkouts after 3:10.**
- Car riders: Use car tag with child's name & grade in the window.

Discretionary days:

- Students get 2 per year.
- Must be pre-approved by Mrs. Collins (email: smcollins@roaneschools.com).

Our Day & Morning Procedures

- Before the bell: Hang up backpack, grab meal tag & breakfast (if needed), head to the TV room.
- After the bell (8:15): Unpack folder, check water bottle, sharpen pencils, use the bathroom, get ready to learn!
- On time is key! We start promptly after announcements at 8:20.
- Eating breakfast at school? Arrive by 8:00. After 8:10, only grab-and-go options are available.
- A full daily schedule is included at the end of this packet.

Curriculum Overview

- ELA (Amplify):
Knowledge: Language arts with science/social studies themes
 - Skills
Phonics-based reading
 - Spelling: Begins with Skills Unit 3
 - Math:
Ready Math
 - Early focus:
Procedures, rules, routines
 - Units:
ELA: Class Expectations Story Work
Math: Begin with Numbers to 10
-

Homework

- For “homework” I simply send out the “parent activities” from their Skills Book. If they return it **signed** within the week, they receive a bee buck. These are not required or for a grade. They are, however, great to see how your child is doing with grade level reading. I often get the question, “What do they need to work on?” All passages and activities sent home are grade level activities. Completing these at home is a quick way to see if your child needs extra remediation or extra challenge. Please contact me with any questions.
 - Other Homework: Unfinished classwork or when extra support is needed.
 - Occasional projects/assignments: Check folders regularly.
-

Assessments

- iReady (Reading & Math):
 - Computer-based
 - Given 3x/year (Aug, Jan, April)
 - This is how we measure their growth for the year.
-

Report Cards

- Standards-based (1–4 rating): Measures progress toward state standards.
 - Most work is practice; few assignments are graded.
 - Grades typically include spelling tests & end-of-unit assessments. You will see a score of 1-4 on those papers.
-

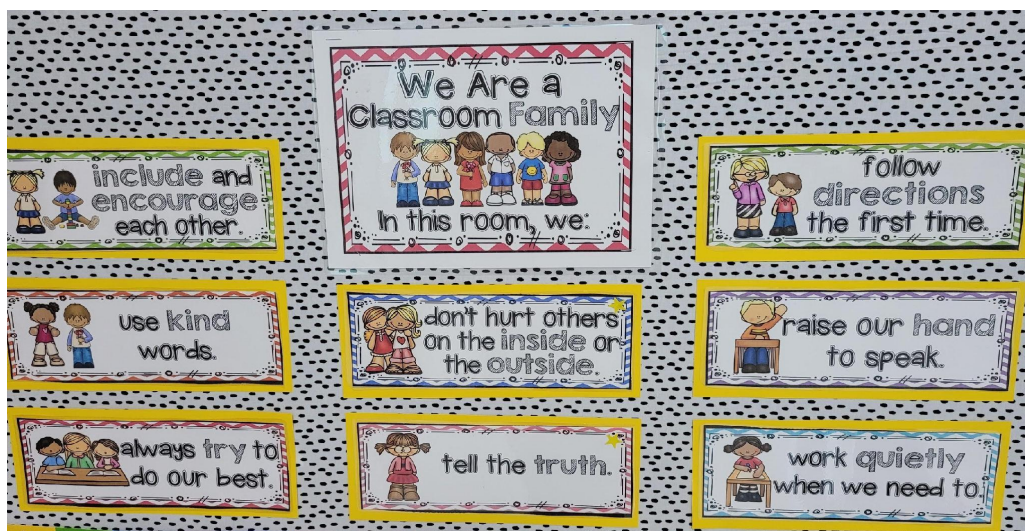
Lunch & Snack

- Meals: Free breakfast & lunch for all students!
 - Extras: Items like snacks or ice cream must be paid for (cash or online account).
 - Ice Cream Day: Mondays only. No charges allowed—send money that day.
 - Snack Time: 1:40 PM daily
 - **Please send a snack each day (easy to open).**
 - Donations of snacks like goldfish, granola bars, applesauce pouches, or cereal are appreciated!
 - Water Bottles: Water only and no metal water bottles. Straw or sports-top bottles preferred (to avoid spills)
-

Behavior & Incentives

- Behavior Ticket - This is a class level item I decided to implement. First graders need reminders. If there is a minor problem behavior at school (like talking, not following directions) I will send home a “Behavior Ticket” to let you know. That gives you a chance to discuss the issue with your child and hopefully resolve it. If the behavior continues, it may result in an orange slip.
- Orange Slips - These are a school wide implementation. These are used for somewhat minor behaviors.
- There may be some instances/behaviors that will warrant an automatic orange slip.
- 3 orange slips within a 9 weeks = office referral
- Major misbehaviors (violence, stealing, destruction, etc.) = automatic office referral

Classroom Rules



Behavior Calendar:

- Found in your child's daily folder
- If your child gets a behavior ticket or orange form, I'll note the behavior on their calendar.
- Please initial if there's a note; otherwise, **no news is good news!**
- Leave calendars in the folder THE ENTIRE YEAR. This is how we track Personal Best for incentives such as Fall Festival, Water Day, etc.

Personal Best:

- Fridays: No orange slips for the week = Personal Best Sticker
- Must earn 7 out of 9 Personal Bests to attend the 9-week celebration (e.g., Fall Festival, Water Day)

Bee Bucks:

- Earned for Personal Bests and going above & beyond
 - Can be spent at our Bee Buck Store or on other rewards
-

Communication

REMIND app:

- Primary source for class reminders and announcements
- For conversations with me please schedule a call or meeting
- Office hours: 8:00 AM–4:00 PM (emails and messages returned during that time only)
- If your number changes, let me know ASAP.

SignUpGenius:

- I'll send links via Remind for parties, supplies, or volunteer opportunities
 - Super easy and helpful!
-

Folders

Sent home daily with:

- Behavior calendar
 - Classwork
 - Notes
 - Homework
 - Menu and more
 - Please check and return daily
 - Only initial if there's a note about behavior
 - No regular newsletter—just important updates as needed
 - Pockets for current Math & Skills Units Summary
 - Any money sent in: please label with your child's name, purpose, and include exact change if possible
-

Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Available most mornings/afternoons by appointment
 - I may request a conference to discuss progress or behavior
 - You're always welcome to request one too!
 - Send me a note or email: jnelson@roaneschools.com
 - Meetings can be in-person, phone call, or Google Meet
-

Parent Volunteers

- Volunteers are welcome once routines are set
 - You can help in-class, prep at home (cutting, sorting, etc.), and/or support special events.
 - Amazon Wishlist will be updated throughout the year (QR code on last page)
-

Class Parties & Celebrations

Due to allergies...

- Birthday treats must be prepackaged with ingredients listed.
- Non-food items (e.g., treat bags) are preferred.
- Please notify me ahead of time if you are sending items.
- If your child has special dietary needs, let me know so I can give you notice before events to send in an alternative.

Birthday invitations:

- **Must be handed out to ALL students if brought to school.** If there aren't enough for all students in the class, they will be sent back home.
 - For smaller parties that can't include all students, please send invites outside of school.
-

Reminders

- Students must be able to tie their shoes independently.
Please use velcro or slip-on shoes until they're ready for this.
- Keep a fresh change of clothes in your child's backpack for spills or accidents.
- Please make sure to send a snack daily.

I know that was a lot of information, but I hope it was helpful!

Please let me know if you have any further questions. 😊

I am looking forward to such a great school year!!

Amazon Wishlist QR Code
(Scan with your phone's camera)

