

Our First Grade Handbook

Claxton Elementary School
241 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
Ms. Barta and Ms. Holly



Daily Schedule (1st semester)

7:40-8:00- Breakfast, Morning Work, and getting settled

8:00-8:20- Morning Meeting and Social Emotional Learning

8:20-8:50- Foundations

8:50-9:35- Specialist

9:35-9:40- Snack

9:40-10:10- Developmental Play Centers

10:10-10:30- Number Corner

10:30-11:30- Math Block

11:30- 12:00- Lunch

12:00-12:30- Recess

12:30-12:45- Read Aloud

12:45-2:00- Readers Workshop and Small group literacy instruction

2:00-2:30- Writers Workshop, Science, or Social Studies

2:30- Dismissal

Specialist Schedule

Monday: Art

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: Drama

Thursday: P.E. (Please remember to wear tennis shoes!)

Friday: Media Center (Library)

Student Behavior

In First Grade, we use a web-based program called Class Dojo to help track students' behavior. It is a great tool for students to set personal goals, but complete access will not be shared with parents. Class Dojo will be used for text communication between families and teachers.

In Class Dojo, students can earn points for positive behaviors such as being proactive, helping others, staying on task, etc. Students can also lose points for negative behaviors such as not following directions or being unsafe. We have a very positive environment in our classroom and lots of opportunities are given for positive points! Students love being able to track their points and note their progress.

Once you have joined our class online we can communicate through the message feature on Class Dojo (like texting) to discuss any questions or concerns about your child. (email also works for this)

Snack

There will be a daily snack at 9:35. In our classroom, I will make a contribution calendar as I have found that is the easiest way to keep our snack cabinet full without having the same parents donate all the time. Each child that is able to will be assigned a week to donate snacks. Please contribute if you can! Try to let me know ASAP if you will not be able to contribute snack during your week. If we get low I will include a memo in our weekly newsletter and sometimes even send home an urgent note.

There are 16 students in our class right now. (We have no allergies in our class that have been documented so far, and I will send communication home if that changes) I have access to a refrigerator in case you would like to send in perishable items. We love healthy snacks to keep our brains working hard! Some great snacks are fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese sticks, yogurt, dried fruit, pretzels, granola bars, crackers, gummies, and goldfish. Because of COVID protocol, snacks need to be purchased, not made at home. (we love individually portioned snacks to cut down on prep time as we don't want to lose instructional time to prepare snack

Lunch

Lunch will be from 11:40-12:10. Lunch menus can be found on the Asheville City Schools website.

Homework

Your child will have a reading folder sent home daily. It would also be great to have your child read over the weekend. There rarely is any other homework that is required. If something is sent home unfinished and a student would like to complete it for practice, that is GREAT, but NEVER going to be required.

The nightly reading log is AMAZING practice that will help your child develop a love for reading and work on reading skills, listening, comprehension, and responsibility.

- Nightly reading for AT LEAST 15 minutes. Your child will have a baggy of books at various levels sent home each week. (these books are NOT required to be read! This is just to help give variety to home libraries or make sure all students have books to read for the week.)
During nightly reading students can listen to you read or read to you. (But please try to have them move towards reading to you)

Please make sure that you or your child fills out the reading log with the book title and your signature each night! (even if you're reading the same book every night REALLY helps the child practice fluency and will give them a better understanding/comprehension of what they read.)

**Please make sure that library books are well taken care of and returned on time so that everyone in the school can enjoy them. **

- **A comprehension question bookmark-** if you are reading with your child this will give WONDERFUL examples of good questions you can ask your child to engage them to think about what is being read. Asking these daily is NOT required of you, but will DEFINITELY help your child become better with reading!

Classroom Expectations

- I follow a behavior model called CHAMPS. It is an acronym that stands for **C**ommunication, **H**elp, **A**ctivity, **M**ovement, **P**articipation, and **S**uccess. This outlines what I am expecting at every point during the day and is posted very large in the classroom so all students know what is expected of them at all times. This allows me to hold students to very high standards and have them feel successful when they reach/achieve them.
- When they are or are not following the expectations we will keep track of their actions on our behavior (color) wall by moving their clip up or down the chart. This will NOT be communicated with you UNLESS your child needs to have a tier 2 behavior plan. This is for them setting personal goals in the classroom.
- Students will track their behavior and record it on a calendar every afternoon and earn dojo points based on where they end for the day (please refer above about class dojo- this is also for student tracking and individual/class rewards, and not be communicated home.)
- These strategies help our class be consistent and predictable which can help your student thrive. Any questions about this I will be more than happy to answer. ☺

Individual Emotional Bank Account and Class Trust Account

For our "Class Trust" we earn green and red \$ throughout the day whether we are gaining trust and doing what we need to do as a class, or breaking trust by not following expectations.

At lunch if we have earned more red than green in the morning we will have a classroom reflection time for about 2-5 minutes of our recess as a time to reflect on the decisions we have made and what role we play in our class community. We will also discuss what we can do better that afternoon to turn our day around.

At the end of the day we will erase a green \$ for every red \$ we got. Then we will add up our left over \$ for the day and record it (hopefully it is always in the positive(it usually is)). We can choose to spend \$ right away (if we have enough) or save up our money for different prizes to help us "Sharpen our Saw" which include...

Class Rewards

\$20- 3 song dance party!
\$50- pajama party
\$50- crazy sock day
\$75- no shoe day
\$75- crazy hair day
\$100- stuffed animal day (can double to bring 2 stuffed animals)
\$150- fort day
\$300- costume day
\$450- extra 15 minute recess
\$500- whole class show and tell
\$500- choose your seat/all day partner work
\$1000 Ms. Barta will bring in donuts for everyone

Our individual EBA is will be tracked throughout the day on our color chart. When we are gaining trust and doing what we need to do or going above and beyond we will turn our colors up. If a student is breaking trust by not following expectations (posted on the CHAMPs wall) they will turn their color down. (no warnings will be given for this to keep it very objective and keep emotions out of it, and also to keep it consistent for every student in the classroom.) Although no warnings will be given if students are not following expectations, they will have multiple chances throughout the day to turn their colors back up and get back on track.

Each student will earn individual imaginary \$ by their color on their behavior chart at the end of the day.

if they end the day on...

purple +\$3

turquoise +\$2

blue +\$1

green - balanced bank account :) (\$0 gained/lost)

yellow -\$1

orange -\$2

red -\$3

The Artsie winner of the month will earn \$10 for their personal EBA (this is a student in class chosen by peers for following expectations and recognized at our monthly PBIS assemblies)

The 7 Habits winner (2 per year) will earn an extra \$25 for their EBA

(this is a student in class chosen by the teacher for following the 7 habits and recognized at our monthly PBIS assemblies. (there is only 1 student per grade level recognized which is why it is only 2 times/ year/ class))

Each student will log daily the amount of money they have earned and learn how to keep a balanced account.

Some individual rewards to "Sharpen the Saw" include

Individual Rewards

\$15- sticker

\$25- new pencil

\$30- new dry erase marker

\$50- show and tell one item (just them)

\$50- bring a stuffy day (just them)

\$60- no shoe day (just them)

\$75- choose your seat all day

\$80- line leader ALL DAY

\$100- lunch with Ms. Barta

\$200- Ms. Barta will bring you a Dunkin' Donut in the morning.

This will be a good way for a student to track their own behavior and learn some money math skills. :)

Communication

There are many ways for us to stay in touch!

Phone: (828) 350-6526

Email: lindsay.barta@acsgmail.net

DOJO messages (text)

I will also send home an email with a link to our weekly newsletter (on our 1st grade website) to keep you up to date on what is happening in the classroom!

Additional Information

- Classrooms open and breakfast starts at **7:40**. Announcements will start at 7:55 so instruction can start right away at **8:00**. Breakfast must be **finished** and cleaned up by 8:10 so we do not lose **VALUABLE** instructional time.
- Please make sure that your child is at school on time. Every minute of instruction counts and multiple tardies can cause your child to miss **hours** of instruction, valuable directions, social emotional learning with our morning meeting, and even leave them feeling rushed and pressured to catch up.

- School dismisses at 2:30, please make sure your child will be picked up on time.
- Your child's take home folder is the main form of communication between home and school. Please check these folders nightly for reading logs and important papers that need a parent signature. Please empty student work and informational notes home daily and return folders to school the following day.
- If your child is going home in a different way than previously communicated please let me know with a note, text, BEFORE 11:00. It must be in written form for the office (paper notes or email works.)
- If your child is absent please send a note explaining the absence as soon as possible to get it coded in the computer.
- We love to celebrate birthdays! You are more than welcome to send in a special snack for your child's birthday such as cookies, cupcakes, or a healthy snack. **(please just let me know ASAP if you will be doing this.)**
- Please **avoid** sending in invitations for your child to pass out if not every child in the class is invited. This can create confusion and hurt feelings for those not included.
- Your child is at school every day to learn. Therefore, they do not need to bring money, toys, games, or other items. (Unless a celebration day is communicated by the teacher.) These things are not allowed at school because they can be a distraction and can cause problems if lost, stolen, or broken. Please make sure to talk with your child about this.
- I will offer fall and spring conferences; however, we can always schedule additional conferences if we need to.
- Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. Please account for weather, PE, special activities, and learning.
- I try to teach your child about responsibility every day. Please help me model this for your child by making sure all communication folders, money, library books, signed forms, signed papers, and notes are turned in on time.

Our class loves and greatly appreciates donations! We would gladly accept extra snacks, school supplies, books, or games. Feel free to ask if there is anything else we might be low on.

Our amazon class wishlist can be found at

<http://a.co/dDDP68g>

I will also link this on our class webpage.

Thank you for sharing your child with me this year! I appreciate all of your help and support. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.