

The mission of Bethany Lutheran School is to provide an excellent Christian education and to inspire confident learners who are able to discern Biblical truth, think critically, and live a life of service to God and neighbor.

ARRIVAL

With the exception of illness, it is essential to your child's education that he/she is in school every day. It is equally important for your child to arrive at school on time. **Arrival in the morning is from 8:20 – 8:35 a.m.**

through door #5. If you are dropping off a preschool sibling, your 1st grader may join him or her and enter through the Preschool Door #4. **Both doors will be locked at 8:35am. If you arrive after this time, you will need to walk your child in door #1 and sign your child in at the school office. Our instruction begins promptly at 8:40 a.m. If your child enters the classroom after the 8:40am bell rings, he/she will be marked tardy.** Prompt arrival allows your child time to prepare for his/her day and spend a few moments socializing with friends. When a child is late, it is a disruption to the entire class and impacts your child's ability to get his/her day started positively.

Vacations and special family days should be planned for scheduled school breaks and holidays. School calendars are available in the office. In 1st grade, we also keep track of church and Sunday School attendance.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal is 3:30p.m. Pick up for K-8 will be in the North Parking Lot at 3:30 p.m. Students are led out through the gym doors and directed to their cars. Children not picked up by 3:45 p.m. will be required to attend After School Care and will be charged a fee. Send a note/email if your child is going home with another child or someone else is picking him/her up. Also, please let us know if your child will be attending After Care on a particular day if that is not the normal routine. If you need an early dismissal for an appointment, we ask that you do so by 3:10. Send a note/email and meet your child in the school office by 3:10pm to sign your child out.

OUTSIDE RECESS

Every child will go outside with the class for fresh air and daily exercise. A note from your physician stating dates of non-participation is the only exception that will be honored. If you feel your child is not ready for full participation in our day because he/she is ill, please do not send him/her to school. We will have indoor recess if it is raining or the wind chill records at "feels like" 10 degrees F. Please send appropriate clothes for your child to participate. Toys of any kind or cards (ie. baseball, Pokémon) are not allowed at school. We encourage the children to use their recess time for socialization and large motor activities.

LUNCH

Your child will benefit most in school by eating a healthy lunch. His/her brain needs "good fuel" for learning. You may order white or chocolate milk for the year by contacting the school office. If your child does not receive milk at school, you will need to pack a beverage for lunch. We offer a hot lunch program throughout the year with order forms available online.. Orders and payment must be turned in on time. Please mark the dates on your home calendar. Make sure to send a snack on hot lunch days. If your child forgets their lunch, you may deliver it to the shelf inside Door 1. If your child forgets his/her lunch and one is not brought to school, he/she will be given Cheerios, milk, and a granola bar from the office. Please no candy, carbonated drinks, or fast food in school lunches.

SNACKS

The class will have a short snack each day in the afternoon. I ask that families send items that are simple, easy to serve, and nutritious in nature. Items should be proteins, fruits, or vegetables. Some examples are:

- Fruits or Vegetables
(cut up if necessary)
- Cheese Sticks/Cottage Cheese
- Greek Yogurt
- Granola/Cereal

***Note: If there are any allergies in our class, that food item may be eliminated from our snack choices.**

WATER BOTTLES

Water bottles (NO GLASS) are recommended and will be kept in the hallway on the shelf of your child's cubby. Students may have drinks at scheduled break times, snack, lunch, and as needed. There is also a water bottle filling station available.

BIRTHDAYS

We love celebrating birthdays in the classroom! Children may bring a special treat to school on their birthday. *Please note: All treats must be store bought, please. We will celebrate birthday treats during our afternoon snack time. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in the last month of the school year. Children with food allergies or sensitivities should bring their own special snack on these days just in case they are unable to eat the provided treat.

FIELD TRIPS

In November, we will collect goodies to bring to our local firefighters at Fire Station #8. This will be a walking field trip! Another field trip will be scheduled for the second half of the year. Permission slips are sent home in advance of each field trip. Please fill out, sign, and return in a timely manner. Our students and chaperones are transported by bus.

DRESS CODE

Beginning in first grade, children are to follow the school dress code. For a complete description of the BLS Dress Code, please refer to the Parent Handbook. Some of the items that pertain particularly to first grade are as follows: No halter tops or spaghetti strap tops allowed. Sleeveless tops must have the strap cover "one hand width" across; shorts that hit one or two inches above the knee are allowed; no flip flops, sandals should have a strap (gym shoes are best); skirts should be one to two inches above the knee. Any type of writing across the bottom of skirts, shorts, or pants is not allowed. Hats are permitted on special days or for recess.

COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to contact me through email or a phone call. I do my best to answer emails within 24-48 hours. A weekly newsletter will be emailed to all 1st Grade families. It will provide families with important information, reminders, upcoming events, and assignments for the upcoming week.

PHOTOS

Photos are taken of the children throughout the year. The pictures may be posted in the hallway or classroom at school. Photos used in school promotion (website, Facebook, etc.) will be chosen based on photo permission forms that are signed at the beginning of the year. **Please respect our students' privacy and refrain from posting any class pictures taken at parties, during classroom activities, or field trips to social media.**

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Our classroom management plan helps every student receive guidance in making good decisions about his/her behavior. In doing this, the children are given the opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing classroom environment. In the beginning years, it is important for each child to develop self-discipline and good work habits, resolve conflicts peacefully, and think independently. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for his/her growth. We believe that working together can make a difference in this process.

We use the Love and Logic classroom management program. This program is designed to have logical consequences when class rules are broken.

Examples of logical consequences that match behaviors may include:

- Time away from the class for class disruptions or bothering other children
- Moving the student's desk to a more successful location
- A written or verbal apology for unkind behavior toward others so that forgiveness may be given.
- Walking back to the starting point and walking (instead of running) in the building

The aim is for the consequence to be related to the poor choice and act as a solution to the problem. If classroom rules are persistently or severely broken, parents/guardians will be contacted with a note, phone call, or conference. A child may be referred to the principal when the behavior

prevents the rest of the class from working in a safe and positive learning environment. Students are expected to follow rules for all teachers, including during specials - Spanish, Music, Library, P.E., and Art.

MAKING FRIENDS

Our first grade classroom is structured to function as a community. It is important that students feel connected to one another.

How is the feeling of a caring community achieved?

1. We pray for each other.
2. We learn to respect each other and take responsibility for our actions.
3. We learn to talk and resolve our conflicts peacefully.
4. We learn to make friends.
5. We learn to forgive each other.

Peer relationships are a central social issue for 1st graders. Despite the importance of making and having friends, many first graders are not skilled yet in this area and are still learning. Our Second Step program is an excellent way to teach, practice, and develop these skills.

RESPECTING OTHERS

It is possible that conflict will arise between classmates and that it is naturally going to happen from time to time. However, children do need to learn that they are capable of getting along with people, even people they may struggle with. Children learn from what they see. They will look to you as a model. When children are treated with respect, they are more likely to treat others the same way.

Typical Conflicts in First Grade

1. whose turn it is to be first at something
2. getting in each other's space
3. who took someone's belongings
4. who got something first

How We Resolve Conflict in First Grade

1. We pray together, take responsibility for our actions, and learn to forgive each other.
2. The Second Step Program equips children with tools to solve problems
3. We model how to work through feelings such as frustration, anger and disappointment.
4. We use class discussion time to discuss how to handle conflicts.

Steps to solve problems

- a. Identify the feeling and try to become calm
- b. Identify the problem
- c. Generate solutions
- d. Agree on solutions or agree to try the solution

ACADEMICS

To promote learning and assist the children with a complete knowledge of their environment, our program will include the following curricular areas: Religion (memory work), Math, Literacy, Phonemic Awareness, Second Step (Social/Emotional Program), Library, Art, Spanish, Physical Education, Music, Science, Social Studies, Writing, Handwriting. Large group, small group, and individual instruction are used throughout the day.

FOLDER

This year we will work to build your 1st grader's organizational skills for the coming years. Your child should bring his/her green folder home EVERY DAY, clean it out, complete any homework, and then bring it back to school the next day.

SPECIALS

Library: We will visit the Library once per week and will be greeted by Mrs. Stephanie Ryan (we will start a few weeks into the school year). Your child may check out one book weekly. The book is due the next week - prior to or on library day - and may be dropped in the drop off box outside the library.

Art: We have Art once a week and it is taught by Mrs. Carole Staunch. The children will learn Art concepts and explore different Art mediums. Please

keep in mind that Art is fun and a little messy at times!

Spanish: We have Spanish once a week and it is taught by Senora Andreina Guerra. All students participate in our Spanish program. Concepts such as colors, numbers, clothes, and simple phrases are taught.

Physical Education: We will have P.E. twice per week and it is taught by Mr. Grant Baganz. Again, all children will participate unless we have a note from your physician stating dates of non-participation. **Children need to wear gym shoes to participate in class.** If your child forgets their shoes twice, you will be asked to keep a pair of gym shoes at school.

Music: We will have Music class twice a week and it is taught by Bethany's Kantor, Jonathan Swett. The curriculum *First Steps in Music for Preschool and Beyond* is designed to prepare children to become musical in three ways: 1) Tuneful - to have tunes in their heads and learn to coordinate their voices to sing those tunes; 2) Beatful - to feel the pulse of music and how that pulse is grouped in either 2s or 3s; and 3) Artful - to be moved by music in the many ways music can elicit a feelingful response.

Students will also learn the music associated with weekly Day School Chapel Services and the School Christmas Program. There will also be opportunities for groups of grades to sing together for a couple Bethany Church Services.

Home Sweet Homework

Homework! It always seems that younger students can't wait for homework, while older students wish it would just disappear! Luckily, for most 1st graders, this is the first year that they've had homework on a regular basis, and are usually quite excited by it! Homework in 1st grade is primarily about developing responsibility. They are responsible to bring home the

assignment, complete it with a parent's guidance, and turn it in. These skills will help to serve the child well later in his/her school life!

How Much Is Too Much?

1st graders should spend no more than 20 minutes each evening on homework. If your child is consistently spending more time than this, or if a particular assignment takes considerably longer, please let us know.

Much of the assigned homework in first grade is designed to be done with family members. There are games, questions, and reading that may accompany a homework assignment. Even independent tasks, however, need parental involvement. Always check your child's work before sending it back to school. Parents often wonder, "Should I correct my child's mistakes? How will the teacher know he/she is having a problem?" Yes, you should point out the mistakes to your child in a gentle way, and use that opportunity to re-teach and clarify the skill. If you would like me to know about a particular problem area, jot a note on the assignment and I will respond as soon as possible.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

There are opportunities for weekly, monthly, or one time parent/guardian involvement with our classroom. Please sign up for an area you feel you may contribute. I will post these opportunities in the newsletter as they arise.

Also, if you have any talents (musically gifted, crafty, scientific, dentist, doctor, vet etc.) and you see something in the newsletter that you can help with or are interested in sharing information on, please let me know!

I will be taking attendance daily and recording church and Sunday School attendance, as well. Each Sunday, please fill in the Church/Sunday School Attendance Form found in the back of your child's green folder. If you do not have a church home, we want to invite you to attend one of Bethany's services. Currently, we have two services, one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m. In-between both services, Bethany offers Sunday School for the children and Bible Study for the adults.

As the year progresses, I will send home additional information as needed. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or

concerns.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

His Servants,

Mrs. Angie McKissick

Mrs. Suzanne Teske

Psalm 98: 4 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"



1st Grade Handbook

2025-2026

Bethany Lutheran School

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www.bethanylcs.org