

# Mrs. Dickson

## First Grade 2017-2018

### Parent Information

#### Contact Information

Main Office: 619 - 4500

Paschal website: [www.scuc.txed.net/NormaPaschal.cfm](http://www.scuc.txed.net/NormaPaschal.cfm)

Mrs. Dickson's voicemail: 619- 5196 E-mail: [ddickson@scuc.txed.net](mailto:ddickson@scuc.txed.net)

Webpage: [www.scuc.txed.net/webpages/ddickson](http://www.scuc.txed.net/webpages/ddickson)

When you see the numbers 2243 on your Caller ID, please know it's me calling from the classroom phone.

- Specials/Conference Time: 10:00 - 10:55 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:05 - 12:35 p.m.
- Recess: 1:40 - 2:00 p.m.

**Absences:** Please send a note when your child is absent from school.

#### **Where does my child go in the mornings?**

Your child will go to the cafeteria every morning where I will pick him/her up. It is best to say your good-byes in the cafeteria- this helps make the transition of leaving you and starting the school day a little easier.

#### **Breakfast/Lunch: Pay online at [www.mySchoolBucks.com](http://www.mySchoolBucks.com)**

Breakfast is served from 7:30 - 8:10 a.m.

How much is breakfast? \$1.60

When is lunch? 12:05 - 12:35

How much is lunch? \$2.40

Milk: \$0.50

**May I come have lunch with my child? Yes.**

Ø The round tables around the perimeter of the cafeteria are reserved for parents to eat with their child only.

Ø In an effort to protect the privacy of our students, parents are not permitted to join other students at their class table.

Ø Adults eating lunch with a child must either be the parent/guardian listed on the AGR card in the front office or be accompanied by the parent/guardian listed (i.e. a parent with a visiting aunt).

Ø Please do not bring food to share with students other than your own personal child. Protecting our students with food allergies is of the utmost importance.

Ø The badge you will receive is for the cafeteria only; please be sure to wear it in a visible location. If you would like to stay to volunteer, you will need to return to the office for a badge to reflect your purpose on campus.

Ø Please say your goodbyes in the cafeteria, and allow your child to return to his/her room with the teacher and class at the end of the lunch period.

**May I walk my child to their room?**

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, you are more than welcome to walk your child to class (we will meet the class in the cafeteria). Beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, thank you for saying your goodbyes in the cafeteria or in the drop-off line. We are a large campus and the halls get very crowded.

**Transportation Changes**

If there is a change in your child's transportation for the day, please call the school office before 2:30 p.m. **Please DO NOT e-mail me changes in going home. Any changes must be done in writing or by phone with the office.** I cannot change the way your child goes home without the above permission.

### Blue Take Home Folder

- Please help your child to bring his/her blue "Take Home" folder back to school daily with any papers that need to be returned to school. You may also send notes to me in this folder.
- **Please review and initial the behavior chart nightly.**
- Check and review all papers daily. Remove any papers that are in the "Keep at Home" section of the folder.

### Grades and Report Cards

- Report cards are handed out every nine weeks. We will discuss these in detail at our parent/teacher conference that will be scheduled towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks.
- We do not give number grades in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Therefore, you will not see grades on many of your child's papers. Progress is monitored by progress indicators, observation, and review of written work.

### Academics and Homework

- **Reading Logs**- Logs will be kept in the student's blue "Take Home" Folder. Students are required to read a minimum of 20 times a month for at least 20 minutes each time. Parents should write the title of the book read and initial each night. A child can read more than one time on a given date. Please use one line for each time your child reads regardless of the date. It is very important that you find time to read with your child as often as possible. Completion of monthly reading logs is reflected on your child's report card. Our first reading log will be in September.
- **Word Wall Words**- These are high frequency words that students must know without sounding them out. Many of them are "lawbreakers", which are words that do not follow a particular phonics rule.
- **Spelling Tests**- We will begin spelling soon, and spelling tests will be given on Fridays. Spelling lists will be given out on Mondays and should be studied throughout the week as needed.

- **Math-** Our adopted textbook is Pearson, and we follow a district pacing calendar. In addition to Pearson Math, we will use many other materials including manipulatives and interactive Smart Board activities to teach math. Math homework will involve independent practice of previously taught concepts that need additional practice at home.
- **Writing & Journaling-** Children will be journaling in Language Arts, Math, and Science. Writing is integrated into virtually all content areas in order to help children see themselves as writers early in their education. Many of our classroom activities that engage children in writing will be kept in journals. You may see your child's journals when you visit our class or come for your parent- teacher conferences this year.
- **Poetry Folders-** Folders will be sent home periodically containing songs and poems we have learned in class. Please have your child read or sing the poems, and return the folder with it's'contents still in it the following day. This may count towards fulfilling the reading log requirement.
- **Homework-** Starting in a few weeks, homework packets will be sent home on Mondays. These homework packets will give your child the opportunity to practice and review important concepts. Homework packets will be due on Fridays, and completion of homework will be reflected on your child's progress report and report card.

### **Newsletters**

- A class newsletter will be sent home every Friday and will contain information about our class. This is a great source to learn about what we will be studying, special dates, etc. It will also be e-mailed

## Behavior Rewards and Consequences System

- Classroom Rules
  1. Keep your hands to yourself.
  2. Put things away in the correct place.
  3. Be nice.
  4. Raise your hand when you want to speak.
  5. Listen and follow directions.
- We also use the Magic 5 rule to help teach the students how to be good listeners.

These are the expectations:

1. Eyes watching
2. Ears listening
3. Sitting First Grade Style (legs criss-crossed)
4. Hands in Lap
5. Lips Locked

Rewards:

- Bunny Stamp in folder means your child had a good day
- Praise and Positive Notes Home

Consequences:

1. Warning (name on board)
2. Note in folder/e-mail home (no Bunny Stamp in folder) and Time to Think
3. Phone call home and Time to Think

## Specials

- Our Specials time is from 10:00 - 10:55 daily. We will rotate these classes daily. A new calendar for these activities will be provided each month. Please make sure students are dressed appropriately on P.E. days. No flip flops or shoes that leave marks, please. Also, please be sure to send your child's library book in the book bag on library days.

## Snacks

- Snack time will be in the morning. **YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE A SNACK FOR YOUR CHILD. No snacks with nuts are allowed. Please check the Approved Snack List for allowed snack items (a copy is attached.)**
- Snacks need to be healthy and simple. Children will NOT be allowed to eat candy or other sweets for a snack.
- Please remind students that they are not allowed to share snacks with their classmates.

## Class Parties/Birthdays

- The same FMNV rules apply to all class parties except for 3 pre-chosen party days. These days are Christmas, Valentine's Day and the End of Year Celebration. On these days, FMNV rules do not apply.
- Birthdays are also an exception to the FMNV guidelines. Students will be allowed to bring in **mini cupcakes or cookies** (NO DRINKS) to celebrate their birthdays. **Birthday treats require 24 hours advance notice to the teacher and the office.** Please send enough treats for each student to receive one treat. We will celebrate birthdays in conjunction with our afternoon recess. **ALL TREATS MUST BE STORE BOUGHT AND IN THEIR ORIGINAL PACKAGING. NO HOMEMADE TREATS.**

**Volunteers** : Please visit the school website to access the online volunteer background check.

**<http://www.scuc.txed.net/NormaPaschal.cfm?subpage=40412>**

- If you would like to volunteer for any of the opportunities listed below, please complete and return the attached handout for Volunteer Sign-Up. All volunteers **MUST HAVE** an Approved Background Check on file with the district.
  1. **Weekly Copy Volunteer**: help one day a week (preferably Wed. or Thurs.) with copying, cutting, laminating and various other jobs at the school

2. **Work at Home:** I will send things for you to do at home, such as, cutting things out, stapling pages together, gluing things together, etc...

- We do many activities throughout the year that require donation of supplies. I will send home letters when supplies are needed.

If you should have any questions or concerns, my conference time is from 10:00 - 10:55 a.m. You may call me (210 - 619-5196) or email me at [ddickson@scuc.txed.net](mailto:ddickson@scuc.txed.net) any time. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Denise Dickson