



Welcome to First Grade in Mrs. Roberts' Class!

Dear Parents,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you and your child to first grade. I am looking forward to working with you throughout this exciting and rewarding first grade year.

This is my twenty-first year teaching first graders at Selwyn and my twenty-sixth year teaching primary education. I earned my B.A. in Elementary Education from Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC. I earned my Master of Education from The Citadel, Charleston, SC. I am a published author. My book, *Your Mentor: A Practical Guide for First Year Teachers in Grades 1-3*, was published by Corwin Press in 2001.

When not at work, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. My son, Jeremy, is a tenth grader. I spend my free time swimming, walking, reading, traveling, and learning all I can about photography.

Ms. Pat Gaines, Teaching Assistant, will be working with our children for a portion of each day. Ms. Gaines has been at Selwyn quite a number of years. She has worked with children in many grade levels. She received her license in Early Childhood from Central Piedmont.

We have many exciting things planned for the first weeks of school. We will spend a lot of time getting to know one another and learning and establishing classroom routines. Many literature selections will be shared dealing with back to school.

In order to create a safe learning environment, we will be discussing "rules for the nest". We will discuss school rules, classroom rules, bus rules, cafeteria rules, and using nice manners.

School and Classroom Rules:

1. Follow Directions.
2. Respect all adults, students, and property.
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
4. Walk, do not run.
5. Raise your hand.

Positive and negative consequences for behaviors will be used in the classroom.

Students will receive hole punches in cards for demonstrating positive behaviors. At the

end of the week, students who have five or more hole punches will get to participate in a special activity. The student or students receiving the most whole punches in a given week will receive a Student of the Week Award.

Positive Consequences

Individual Rewards

- a. Special Activity
- b. Treasure Chest
- c. Student of the Week Award

Class Rewards

- a. Class Parties
- b. Extra Activity Time
- c. Class Surprises

Negative Consequences

Different colored tags will be used on the chart to indicate rule infractions. At the beginning of each day, students will begin with a green tag. If a tag is turned to yellow, it indicates a warning to the student. Following yellow, red tags will be used.

- 1 red tag = loss of privilege and/or time out in room
- 2 red tags = loss of privilege and/or time out in another classroom
- 3 red tags = note or phone call to parents
- 4 red tags = office referral

Special Classes

This year we will be following a six day rotation for special area classes. Therefore, art will not be every Thursday, but every sixth day in the rotation. Each week, you will receive in your newsletter the special area classes for the week. Special area classes will begin next week.

Snack

Please send a small, nutritious snack to school with your child each day.

Temperature

When the air conditioning is being used, it often becomes very cool in our classroom. Please send a light jacket each day if your child gets cold easily.

Student Work for Your Review

A packet of your child's work will be sent home approximately twice a month for your review. You will be able to go over the work with your child and then keep the work sent home. You will sign the envelope the work was sent in and return it to school the next day. A space will be provided on the envelope for comments.

Homework

Beginning next week, homework will be assigned daily, Monday through Thursday. Completion of homework is a very important aspect of the academic process. Homework not only reinforces work done at school, it also gives you the opportunity to be involved in your child's education. Homework also promotes responsibility and good study habits in young children.

Communications

Communication between home and school is a key to your child's success. Each week you will receive a newsletter highlighting the events and activities planned for that week. The newsletter will be sent to your email address.

Any time you have questions regarding your child and his or her progress, please send a note with your child or call the office (980) 343 5835 to leave a message for me. I will get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

My school email address is mary.roberts@cms.k12.nc.us. If you have something that needs an immediate response (that school day), please do not send it via email. Some days the computers are down or I do not get a chance during the school day with twenty plus children to check email. If you have an immediate need, please send a note in your child's homework folder (which are checked each morning) or call the school.

If you need to communicate a change in your child's transportation for the day, please send a note that morning or call the office. We will not be able to accept changes in transportation via email. If you have not sent a note or called the office, we will need to send your child home in the usual manner each day.

I am also available to meet with you to discuss concerns in the afternoons following student dismissal. Let me know if you would like to schedule a conference.

By working together as a team, I am confident that we will make this an excellent, rewarding first grade year!

Sincerely,

Mary Presson Roberts

