



The ABC's of First Grade!

A

If your child is **absent**, please call the school (228.896.6309) to let us know. A note stating the reason for the absence must be sent to school as soon as possible to avoid an unexcused absence.

Our class goes to **art class** on Friday.

B

Birthdays are recognized during morning announcements, and students receive a birthday treat from Dr. Payne. We will recognize summer birthdays at the end of the school year. If you are sending birthday invitations, in order for your child to hand them out, there must be one for every child in the room, or one for every girl, or one for every boy.

I will send home **book order** forms for you and your child to look over from time to time. The due date for book orders can be found on the book order form. Book clubs offer books at reduced prices. It's a great way to build your child's library, and our class receives free books from points earned by student orders!

C

Parent and teacher **conferences** are very important in tracking your child's progress. Please feel free to contact me to schedule a conference.

Communication is important. Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question, comment, or concern. You can reach me by phone (228.896.6309), in person, by email (tonya.cook@gulfportschools.org), or by note.

Café is a combination of reading strategies that your child will be exposed to this year. These strategies will help improve your child's reading comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanded comprehension.

D

The **dress code** is explained in the student handbook. Please review the dress code. This helps to minimize on parent phone calls to replace inappropriate clothing.

Daily Five is a time for your child to experience partner or small group reading skill activities and numerous focus lessons. This is also a time when I pull small groups for adult-led instruction, such as guided reading groups. Students will be assigned to five literacy corners per day. Literacy corners on Fridays will be Weekly Reader based.

Dismissal will be at 2:25pm.

E

My school **email address** is tonya.cook@gulfportschools.org. I check email daily. This is the easiest way for you to get in contact with me. Please feel free to email me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

If your **emergency numbers** or contact persons change, please inform the office and me in writing.

F

Information about any **field trips** will come home in the Daily communication folder and will be detailed in the field trip permission slip and weekly newsletter.

G

Our class will have **gym** every Monday and Tuesday. The children are asked to wear athletic shoes on gym days.

Students receive numerical **grades** with corresponding letter grades in First Grade. The assigned numerical/letter grades are as follows:

100-93 A	92-85 B	84-76 C	75-70 D
69 and below F			

H

Students will have **homework** Monday- Thursday of each week. Please look for assignments in the Daily Communication Folders. Unless otherwise noted, please return the homework the following day.

I

Independence is the goal for First Grade students because it builds self-esteem and self confidence. First graders are very capable of doing many things on their own, and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom.

J

Writing takes place every day in First Grade. One way we accomplish this is through writing stories in our **journals** during writing workshop. Encourage your child to write at home for a variety of purposes. Keep in mind, “pretend writing” is practice for the real thing!

K

Keep updated by reading the Anniston and Classroom newsletters every week.. You may access our classroom newsletter by going to www.schoolrack.com/tcook and clicking on newsletters!

L

Our class will visit the **library** once a week on **Thursdays** for class. Our media specialist is Mrs. Moorehead. Your child will be allowed to check out two books a week. Our library is open to exchange books on Wednesdays only.

Our class eats **lunch** from about **10:50-11:20**. Please refer to the lunch menu for the scheduled meals and menu prices.

M

The children will have **music** class every Wednesday from 9:35-10:05am. Our music teacher is Mrs. Simmons.

The First Grade **math curriculum** provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue throughout their school career and lives. Many of our math concepts are covered through our daily calendar routine, math mini lessons, math center activities, and small groups of children for “guided math”. These math groups are fluid and flexible, changing from day to day or week to week, based on the needs of students. We will also keep a math journal to show our math thinking and problem-solving strategies and skills.

N

A weekly **newsletter** will be emailed on Mondays to keep you informed about what is happening in our class. The school newsletter will be sent home in the Daily Communication folder at the beginning of each week.

O

Open house will be on August 26th! Please stop by to check out our classroom!

P

When **picking** up your child, remember that we are dismissed at the front doors of the school.

Q

Questions? Please feel free to call, stop in, email, or send a note.

*tonya.cook@gulfportschools.org

*228.896.6309

R

First Grade **report cards** will be sent home 4 times during the year, at the end of each nine-week reporting period.

First Graders will have 15 minutes of **recess** each day, barring inclement weather. If weather prevents us from going outside, the children will have free time in the classroom.

S

Your child may bring a healthy **snack** to enjoy at recess each day. Please do not send candy as snacks.

T

T.I.G.E.R binders help keep us organized. The **three-ring binder** houses a communication folder, and other items that assist with communication between home and school.

If your child has any changes in **transportation**, please let me know in writing.

U and V

Volunteers and **visitors** must sign in at the office and **pick up** a badge.

W

Our class **website** is www.schoolrack.com/tcook I will post the current newsletter, spelling and vocabulary words, and other educational resources there each week.

X

Parents and family members must **exit** and enter via the main school entry. Signing in at the office is required.

Y

Your ideas....and suggestions are welcomed!

Z

Zzzzzzzz...Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child.