Welcome to Back to School Night!
Ms. Sharp’s First Grade Class
Meet the Teacher!

Education:

- University of San Francisco
  - Master of Arts in Teaching - August, 2020
  - Multiple Subject Preliminary Credential - June, 2020
- Diablo Valley College
  - Early Childhood Education Coursework - June, 2018
- Liberty University
  - Bachelor of Arts in Theology - June, 2016

Hobbies/Interests:

- Hiking, crafting, reading, baking, writing, volunteering, caring for my houseplants, and drinking coffee!
Education Philosophy

- **The Student:** I firmly believe all children are capable of growth. My goal as an educator is to guide students toward their greatest learning potential through hands-on authentic, purposeful, and innovative education that connects students to their learning experiences. A moving child is a learning child.

- **The Environment:** Growth is inextricably linked to feelings of safety, acceptance, and self esteem. All students have the right to feel respected, valued, and safe. My responsibility as an educator is to nurture an environment that is safe, respectful, and progressive.

- **The Community:** I hope to foster a community of observers, critical thinkers, and enthusiastic people who are curious about the world, finding their place in it, and contributing positively to society. Parent involvement is paramount to a child’s success. I will maintain open, honest communication and build partnerships with parents for student success.
  
  - Robert Frost - “I am not a teacher, but an awakener.”
What does our week look like?

Morning Routine
Religion
Writing / Word Work
Math
Guided Reading / Daily 5
Social Studies
Science

Spanish
Fine Motors
Library
P.E.
Art
Music
Buddies!
1. Honor God
2. Be respectful
3. Listen with my whole body
4. Be kind
5. Always do my best
Class Dojo

Engaging * Authentic * Community

- Photos/Videos from class
- Updates and Announcements
- Child’s Digital Portfolio
- P/T Instant Messaging
- Translated into preferred language!

**As a teacher, I will...**

- Post announcements, updates, and reminders
- Share photos and videos of classroom activities
- Send private messages to keep you in the loop

**Families will...**

- Like or comment on class photos and videos
- Leave encouraging feedback on Portfolios posts
1. Download the app
2. Sign up as a parent
3. Enter your code!
Kids A-Z

- Please Download this App on a device your child has free access to.
- Kids A-Z is a fantastic resource to access level-appropriate books.
- **Before Monday (Labor Day), September 2nd,** have your child log in and complete the Read Aloud Assignment in the Flight Check portal.

- Kids A-Z > Teacher Name: asharp16 > Child’s Name & Password > Reading Room > Flight Check.
- Your child will read the story aloud into the microphone.
- Let your child read independently.
- This assignment will take about 15 minutes to complete.
- This will help me assess your child’s reading level and assign reading groups for individual attention.
Homework

The National Education Association recommends that elementary school students receive 10-20 minutes of homework per night in first grade.

These tasks are designed to reinforce learning, support multiple learning styles, and involve parents in the child’s education. Each task should take no more than 10-20 minutes at night. Make checking for homework it a part of your family routine.

R.E.D. Folder - Read Every Day. = 15 minutes a day with 1 written response question. (Parents may record child’s response, if needed).

Students may occasionally have additional practice opportunities.

R.E.D. Folders are turned in every Friday.
Language Arts

- Super Kids is a comprehensive approach to phonics, handwriting, spelling, grammar, reading, and writing.
- Daily 5 is a literacy structure that teaches independence, self-assessment, and a life-long love of reading. This structure allows children to practice the life-long skill of independent learning, while giving me the opportunity to work with small groups for guided reading.
- Read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, work on writing, word work.
We will be practicing a variety of writing skills in our Composition Journals.

- Quick writes
- Opinion pieces
- Informational texts
- Narratives with two or more sequenced events
- Research to support their writing
Science

Messy science is the best science!

Structure, function, & Cycles (Plants & Animals)

Weather & Space

Chemical Reaction

Properties of Matter

Human Body

Light & Sound
Religion

- Family Life - See the Parent Connection Pamphlet in your B.T.S. Night Packet
- God the Father
- Holy Trinity
- God’s Covenant with His people
- The holy family
- Saints
- Gospel Stories with an emphasis on the resurrection
- Sacraments of initiation
- Participation in Liturgy and learning about the meaning behind them
- Morality
- Stewardship & Responsibility
- Character Qualities (especially empathy)
- May Crowning
SOCIAL STUDIES

- Community, Family, Diversity
- Geography and map-making
- Suppliers and Consumers
- Citizenship & Symbols
- Timeline/Sequence of Events
- Economics, money, jobs
- Mystery Guests!
Specials

- Spanish
- Art
- Music
- Fine Motor
- P.E.
- Library
Tentative Field Trips

- Pumpkin Patch!
  - October
  - No cost (pumpkins available for purchase)
- In N’ Out Burger!
  - January
  - No cost (complimentary burger)
- LARPD
  - March
    - In-house - Creepy Crawlers
    - $6/child
Absences

- CC Michelle Webster on all Absence Notification Emails
- mwebster@csdo.org
Mental Health Check-In

Whole-Child Development

There is a stigma surrounding mental health that causes many of our students (and many adults) to shy away from sharing their feelings. I will be using a Mental Health Check-in poster as a part of our routine addition to a class discussion to break down those walls and allow for healthy discussion when feeling sad, anxious, mad, etc.

Additionally, I will be teaching various coping strategies to manage stress, anxiety, anger, or sorrow.

Throughout the day, students may choose to go to the Calm Down Bin, which contains various tools and charts to remind students of these strategies.
Volunteering

We need many volunteers throughout the year, starting the second week in September! Activities volunteers could enjoy:

- Class Parties
- Guided Reading/ Daily 5
- Craft prep
- Helping individual students
- Chaperone field trips
- Help students edit their work

Please contact me or our Room Mom if you would like to volunteer!

All volunteers need to be fingerprinted and complete the online Virtus Training.
Mystery Guests

Please come and visit our class!

• Opportunities on the first and third week of the month, beginning in October.
• Fill out a request form on the SMS First Grade page.
• 45 minutes for your creativity
  – Some ideas:
    • Read your favorite story
    • Teach us about your career/culture/vacation
    • Do a craft with the class
    • Share your special recipe!
• Email me if you or a friend would like to be our guest!
• Must have a valid volunteer background check.
R.E.D. Folder

R.E.D. = Read Every Day.

Keep your child’s reading log and the YELLOW comprehension questions in the folder.

15 minutes a day with 1 written response question.
Homework must be returned in the R.E.D. Folder each day.
Birthdays

Birthday Treats are welcomed and encourages! We want to celebrate growth!

NUT FREE ONLY

Do not bring party invitations to class unless the whole class is invited.
Food Policy

Please pack healthy snacks that will fuel your child’s brain!

**NUT FREE ONLY**
*(Sun-Butter is OK)*

SWEETS and CANDY FREE ZONE (These cause a huge spike in energy and a major crash. Please provide food that sets your child up for success!

Avoid only packing simple carbohydrates (these burn off quickly and cause a crash. Try pairing crackers or bread with hummus and sunbutter)

No-Spill Water Bottles Only
Growth Mindset

Growth mindset is a concept that refers to how we face challenges and setbacks.

The concept of growth mindset has been around for a while. It was developed by Stanford University professor Carol Dweck. Dweck and her colleagues did a series of studies that found that kids who pushed through challenges held the belief that they could improve their abilities. Kids who pulled back from challenges believed their abilities were fixed.

- Kids with a growth mindset believe their abilities can improve over time and are less likely to give up.
- Praising the way kids approach a challenge is key to helping them develop a growth mindset.
- Avoid praising children for what they cannot control/things that are "fixed" (i.e. “You’re so good at math!” “Wow, you are a good artist.”)
- Praise children for what they can control (effort, concentration, care, kindness, etc. i.e. “Wow! I can see you worked very hard on this!”)
- Talk with your child about what she learned from experiences. Ask questions like, “How would you study differently next time?”
MINDSET MATTERS

- Change your words to change your mind.
- I made a mistake.
- Mistakes help me learn.
- I can't do it.
- It's good enough.
- Is this my best work?
- I'm on the right track.
- I give up.
- Let me try another way.
- I'm not good at this.
- I'm just getting started.
- I'm a natural.
- This is too hard.
- This may take some effort.
- I improve with practice.
Contact Info

I value authentic, open communication!

Email/I.M. me with any concerns, comments, or questions you may have.

- **Email:** asharp@csdo.org*
- **Class Dojo:** Ms. Allison Sharp

* Communication that comes in between 6pm and 7am, over the weekend, or on school breaks will not receive a response until the following school day.
Thank You!

I am excited to learn and grow with your students this year!