

# Back to School Night

**First Grade: Mrs. Washel**

# Introduction

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My name is Lisa Washel. I am married to my wonderful husband Chris and we have two grown daughters, Keeley and Kate, and a two year old golden retriever named Sullivan “Sully”. Keeley is soon to be 25 and Kate is soon to be 21. Both of my girls attended Catholic grade school and high school. I am a strong believer in Catholic Education. It is really worth the investment! This is my 32nd year teaching first grade and I have loved every minute of it. It is an AMAZING year to teach because I get to see these children blossom in so many ways. Just sit back and watch...you will get to see them blossom too! This year we have 22 first graders. There are 11 boys and 11 girls- pretty AWESOME!

# Homework

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Homework will be given Monday through Thursday nights. A Homework sheet will be in your child's Yellow Take-home Folder. If absent, a copy will be located on my class page of the MPRCS website under the Homework tab. Homework should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. Homework should be returned the next day to school to be checked. Math Homework will be in the form of a weekly packet. Please be sure to return the packet to be checked daily.

Homework is a review of the weekly skills that we are learning in class.

Please do **NOT** go ahead with the Homework. Please only do what is assigned for that night.

**It is really important that you go over your weekly Sight words (every night) as we get 6 or more new words every week. Please work on the weekly words in their "R" copybook.**

# Tests

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Students have weekly tests in Reading, Spelling, and Religion. Math Tests are given when a Chapter is complete. Grammar Tests are also given sporadically through the year.

**Reading Tests:** these test the following weekly skills:

- \* phonics/spelling skill of the week
- \* students are asked to read a passage and answer questions about the passage
- \* students are asked to select the correct Sight word to complete sentences they must read on their own.
- \* We will take End of Unit Tests at the end of each of our 6 Units- these are cumulative

# Tests Continued:

## Spelling Tests

- Students are asked to take 10 spelling words each week along with Challenge words. The number of Challenge words students are asked to take will increase each month.
- Students will be graded on the number of Challenge words attempted, so be sure you know how to spell them and which Challenge words they are taking each week.
- All backward letters will be marked wrong. We must break bad habits!
- A dictation sentence will be added to the Spelling Test starting in October

## Math Tests

- Students will be tested on the content of each individual chapter. Backward numbers will be marked wrong. Again, we must break bad habits!

# Tests Continued

## Religion Tests:

- Religion Quizzes are 10 questions on the Chapter we have learned that week. They are pretty simple - Yes-No, True-False, word bank, multiple choice
- Religion Unit Tests are 15 questions that are a cumulative Review of multiple chapters. We always review in class prior to taking a Unit Test

**Test Folder Tuesday:** All graded tests will be sent home in your child's Red Test folder every Tuesday. Please sign the tests and return them to school in their Red Test Folder. I keep the returned tests in your child's classroom file.

# Test Grading Scale

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O= Outstanding equivalent to an A+

VG= Very Good equivalent to an A

G= Good equivalent to a B

S= Satisfactory equivalent to a C

I= Improvement Needed equivalent to a D

U= Unsatisfactory equivalent to a F

Conference in late October Report Cards in December, March, and June

# Main Projects in First Grade for Public Speaking

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**First Trimester:** Baptism Show and Share - students share important details from the Baptism and are encouraged to bring items to school that remind them of their Baptism that they will share with the class.

**Second Trimester:** Animal Research Project- students are given the name of an animal and they will research that animal, answering given questions about their animal. They will give an oral report to the class about their animal. We will make our animal habitats in our classroom along with a clay representation of our animals.

**Third Trimester:** Fairy Tale Project- students will be assigned a Fairy Tale. They will be re-writing the Fairy Tale in their own words and will present the Fairy Tale to their classmates dressed as one of the characters in their book.

We also share our “weekend news” (journal) with our classmates every Monday



# Dress Code

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Students should adhere to the Dress Code in the MPRCS Handbook (SEE the MPRCS website). In October, Students will be changing over to the winter/formal uniform (long pants for boys and plaid jumper for the girls). An Option C Alert will notify you of the date. At that time, all students must change over to formal school shoes (Black or brown) and will only wear sneakers on gym day (Thursdays). Students will be wearing the winter gym uniform at that time as well. That means MPRCS long gym pants and their MPRCS gym t-shirt and MPRCS sweatshirt.

Students should also bring extra masks in their bookbag in case their mask needs to be changed.

# All About Me/ Teddy and Tedderina/Birthdays/Scholastic Book Orders

**All About Me** - Each student will have a week to be the STAR student. They will have a week to be our line leader, share their likes and dreams on an “All About Me” poster, bring in their favorite story book, share family and pet photos, and share their favorite toy with the class. On Friday of their STAR week, Mom and/or Dad will write a short note telling their child how special they are to their family.

**Teddy and Tedderina** -Teddy and Tedderina are our classroom Teddy Bears and unfortunately, they are not available to visit student’s homes during Covid. If things change, we will have family visits on the weekends again.

**Birthdays** - we will be celebrating Birthdays in the Gym at morning prayers. Students will be recognized and will receive a NUT pass - NO UNIFORM TODAY. Students will also get a small treat from Mrs. Washel in recognition of their Birthday.

**Scholastic Book Club**- Scholastic Book Club Orders are sent home monthly and are totally optional. You may send the order to school in your child's Red folder or you may order online using the teacher code: LJHHZ. If you choose to send the paper order in to school, please make checks payable to Scholastic Book Club. NO CASH PLEASE!!!

# Behavior Calendars

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Students will have a daily behavior calendar in the front pocket of their Red take-home folder. Please leave this in their folder until I take it out at the end of the month.

If your child is on a **Green** card for the date, they did an awesome job in class that day and should be commended. Woohoo! If your child is **yellow** card for the date, they did so-so in class and had to be corrected for an unacceptable behavior more than once for that date. If your child is on **Red** for the date, we have had a very rough day of unacceptable behaviors or we have done something very serious. Serious offenses may be hurt another first grader, lied, cheated, stole something, etc. If a child has colored the date Red, I will either follow up with a an email, or I will call you to discuss the unacceptable behavior. Please have a discussion with your child if a red card is warranted.

# Specials Schedule

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**Monday:** Technology and Spanish

**Tuesday:** Art

**Wednesday:** Library (Remember to return your books)

**Thursday:** Music and Gym (wear your gym uniform)

**Friday:** No specials- First Friday Mass at 9AM

# First Grade Curriculum

Please visit my classroom web page on the MPRCS website and click on the “First Grade Curriculum” tab to see what we will be learning in First Grade this year or click the link below to view.

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2982/documents/2019/9/First%20Grade%20Curriculum.pdf>

# Teacher/Parent Communication

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Please send any written communication to me through your child's yellow take-home folder on the "Return to School" side or please feel free to email me at [lwashel@mpregional.org](mailto:lwashel@mpregional.org). I typically do not respond to emails during the school day. I am not always available to do so as I am busy teaching your children. I do respond to emails before school and after school until about 5 PM. After that, it is my time with my family. If you need to get an urgent message to me at school, please don't email me, please call the school office and Joan O'Brien will notify me.

We are partners in educating your child. Please keep the communication open and I will do the same. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

# Thank You

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Thank you for sharing your children with me. They are amazing kids. I am very blessed to have them with me each and every day. I look forward to a great year with your children.

Please be sure to visit my classroom page of the MPRCS website. It is a wealth of information and it has many things not mentioned in this powerpoint.