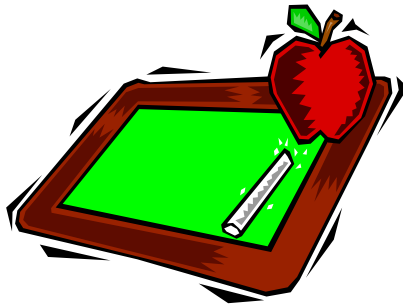


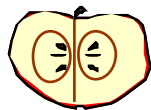


**Bonduel Elementary**

**First Grade  
Handbook**



**2014-2015**



**Mrs. Rudersdorf - 1A  
Mrs. Westrich - 1B**

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# Introduction

Your child is an important member of our classroom and we are looking forward to a fun-filled, educational year. Parent-teacher communication plays a vital role in his/her education. It is important that we work together to ensure a successful year for your child. Please plan on spending at least 15 minutes each school day, working together on reading and other homework assignments. Remember: first graders require guidance, assistance, and praise for their accomplishments. Many new skills will be learned this year. By the end of the school year, your child will read and understand books on his/her own, write paragraphs, add, subtract, and tell time. It is a monumental year in their life!



We have an open-door policy. Feel free to call or email your teacher at any time throughout the year to discuss your child's progress, concerns, etc. We value you and your child and want to have a working relationship that promotes good communication. If you would like to visit a classroom, feel free to come in anytime.

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# Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

This is an outline of the subjects and topics we will be covering over the first grade year. For more information on the standards, please go to the following site:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/>

## Reading:

- Small reading groups
- Independent reading
- Reading together
- Reading aloud
- Word work
- Accelerated Reading

## Writing:

- Narrative Writing
- Informational Writing
- Persuasive Writing
- Poetry

## Math:

- Number Operations
- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Geometry

## Science:

- Quarter 1: Plant science
- Quarter 2: Physical Science
- Quarter 3: Health
- Quarter 4: Earth Science

## Social Studies:

- Quarter 1: Family and Community
- Quarter 2: Maps
- Quarter 3: Famous Americans
- Quarter 4: Caring for the Earth



# Reading

## *Reading Series*



Learning reading skills will consume most of your child's morning. We are fortunate to have a new CCSS aligned reading series called *Journey's*. We start out with the first two weeks reviewing the letters and sounds of the alphabet and sight vocabulary words. They will also learn how to build good reading habits such as how to select appropriate level books, learning to sustain reading to self, 3 ways they can read a book, to name a few. Then each student will start bringing home the first of five reading books. One main story is read each week from the text. Also, 3 small paper books will be brought home each week. You will have a sheet listing these books by the unit, so you can keep track of what should be read at home. If you have your child decorate an ice cream pail or shoebox, he/she can keep these stories at home to practice over and over until they are fluent.

## *Guided Reading*

Guided reading is direct instruction that meets children's immediate learning needs. We provide this by combining a set of powerful teaching strategies to strengthen your child's reading skills. We meet in small, flexible groups, and work with text closely matched with each student's instructional reading level. We will help your child develop and use a variety of reading strategies to unlock the meaning of text. Guided reading groups lasts 20 minutes each day. During this time, your child may be taught by any of the first grade teachers.

## *Dolch Words*

Your child will be given a list of 55 high frequency words, known as Dolch Words, each quarter. Your child will need to memorize these and will be tested on accuracy and time. You can find these on the website if you want to get started.

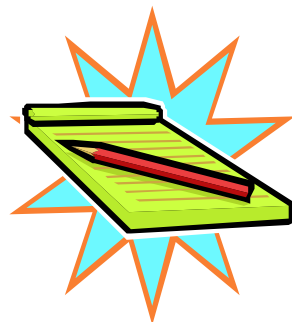
## ***Accelerated Reading (AR)***

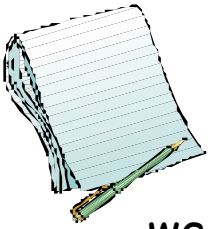
This program is used as a supplement to enhance each child's existing reading program. As your child shows reading readiness, he or she will begin AR. The program is broken down into three main parts. First, when your child is ready to begin, s/he will select a book from the Accelerated Reading list. Second, your child will read the book at least 2 times. Third, s/he takes a computerized comprehension test on the book. Each book is given a point value based on 5-10 questions. Most of the books first graders read will be worth only 1/2 point. Your child will earn points based on how well they answered the questions. It is important that the story is read more than once. Then you can ask a few questions to check for understanding on the main ideas of the story. (We participate in a quarterly AR award activity starting second semester.)

## **Language**

### ***Spelling***

Our spelling program goes hand-in-hand with our reading series. Spelling begins around the beginning of November. We introduce first graders to common word families and the first 42 words on the Fry List (high frequency words). We incorporate phonics into the spelling program and feel it is important that first graders spell the most common words correctly every time they write them. (See page 19 for a list of the high frequency words.) You can find the entire list on the website.





## ***Word Wall***

The students will be given new word wall words weekly that will be accompanied with activities. These words are high frequency words that are incorporated into our reading program.

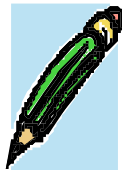
## ***Phonics/Phonemic Awareness***

The children will learn a variety of decoding strategies. These strategies will help the students sound out new words.

## ***Making Words***

This strategy encompasses the use of word families in decoding words. (Ex: at, hat, cat). Students are given several letters to manipulate into words.

## **Writing**



## ***Penmanship***

Part of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade curriculum focus on the review of letter formations (the Zaner-Bloser method) that were taught in kindergarten. Over the first couple of months, we spend time reviewing and practicing the formation of each letter. (See page 22 for the correct way to form each letter.)

## *Writer's Workshop*

Your child will be encouraged to participate in many writing experiences. Research has shown that with practice, students grow developmentally in writing skills in the same way that they develop spoken language skills. This is by hearing and using a spoken language. These writing activities will also reinforce their reading skills.



### *Agenda*

The purpose of the agenda is to promote positive communication between home and school. It has several features that are beneficial.

Students will write in it each day. The agenda will be sent home daily. It needs to be signed by the parents each night and the teacher will read any comments that following day and respond to any questions.

There is a clear folder inside the front cover for important papers, notes, money, etc...to be sent back and forth from school. We will have students check their agendas daily for anything from you. **Please check this nightly for notes from the school.**



We would like you to praise your child for remembering to show you the agenda, giving your child positive comments about the skills learned.

Then ask your child specific questions about these new skills learned.



# Math

With the CCSS, we are in the second year of our new math series, *Expressions*. This series is quite different than what we have used in the past. It involves more hands-on and deeper thinking, less paper/pencil tasks. The students are asked to solve problems, explain their solutions, answer questions, and justify their answers.

## *Calendar*

This is a daily morning activity that reviews calendar skills, money, tallying, patterns, and problem solving.

## *Hands-On Math*

We use many different manipulatives to help the students understand different math concepts.

## *Seat Work/Homework*

We incorporate many review activities that develop math skills along with the math workbook. There will be math homework most nights.



## *100-500-1000 Club*

Students write out numbers on a 10 x 10 grid to the various point club levels. When they pass one level they continue to work towards the next level. This is completed at their own pace at school.

## *Math Facts*

The students are required to memorize their addition and subtraction facts up to 10 and understand them through 20. Throughout the year your child will be bringing home supplies to make their flash cards. Please try to make it a habit to have your child practice regularly at home.



# Science/Health & Social Studies

In science we will cover a different these each quarter: Earth science, plant science, physical science and health. In social studies, we cover family/community, maps, famous Americans, and citizenship.



## Computers

The students will visit the computer lab at least once a week for 45 minutes. They will learn basic computer skills and complete activities that reinforce our curriculum. Some of the programs require intense listening, so students are required to have a pair of headphones. They also are able to use the computers in the room for independent work, special projects, and Accelerated Reader. Beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, students will be practicing the home row for keyboarding.

## Homework Policy

The students should have 15 - 20 minutes of review time each night to reinforce the skills that are being taught in school. These may include the following:

- \*Reading
- \*Math homework (many nights)
- \*Reviewing spelling words for the week
- \*Corrections
- \*Reviewing math facts



We encourage parents to play an active role in their child's education. Parents are valued members of the team in helping their children achieve success in school.

# Assessments



## **SAGE** (*Student Achievement Guaranteed Education*)

Being a member of the SAGE program, we are required to administer two batteries of tests. A pretest is given as soon as school begins and a post-test is repeated at the end of the year. This will measure the students' growth throughout their first grade experience. The results are used to assess the mastery of the basic skills taught throughout the year.

## **PALS** (*Phonemic Awareness Literacy Screening*)

This is the second year for this test in first grade. Your child took the kindergarten version last year. It is an essential screening, diagnostic and progress monitoring tool for measuring your child's fundamental components of literacy both in the fall and spring.

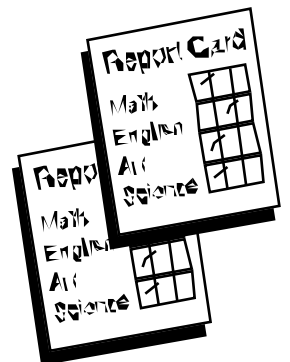
## **STAR** (*Standardized Testing and Reporting*)

This test replaces the NWEA test Parents will get a print out of the progress made at the end of the year.

# Grading

First grade utilizes two sets of marking scores,  
Numeric (4, 3, 2, 1) for the academics,  
and letters (O,S, MP,N) for skills/performance.

Reading, Language/Writing, Spelling, Science/Health, Social Studies, and Math Applications (which include addition, subtraction, measurement, telling time, and problem solving) will use the following marking codes.



- 4 = Advanced (above expectations) 95-100%
- 3 = Proficient (meets expectations) 80-95%
- 2 = Basic (works near expectations) 65-80%
- 1 = minimal (does not meet expectations) below 65%

Penmanship, Social Behaviors, Work Habits and Math & Reading Skills will use the following marking codes.

O = Outstanding

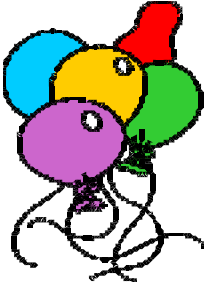
S = Satisfactory

MP = Making Progress

N = Needs Improvement

Parents will be able to access their child's grades through the internet. You will need to have a Family Access account, which you can obtain by contacting Mrs. Orlando via email @ [orlansan@bonduel.k12.wi.us](mailto:orlansan@bonduel.k12.wi.us) or calling her at 758-4818. Once you have this set up, you can go to the School District of Bonduel webpage and click on Family Access on the left and one of the options will be to check your child's grades along with checking the status of your family lunch account.

# Birthdays



We celebrate birthdays in the classroom. You can have your child bring in a treat on his or her birthday. Our school has a health policy, so we prefer healthy treats if possible.

If your child has a summer birthday, we will be celebrating it near his/her half birthday. A note will be sent home to let you know which date or it will be stated in the newsletter.

Students with a birthday on the weekend will be celebrated on the Friday before or the Monday after.

## Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Time



Breakfast is eaten as soon as the students arrive. Cost is \$1.00 for students, and if you want to eat with them, adult breakfast is \$1.75. We eat lunch at 11:00. You are welcome to visit your child and eat with them then too. Adult lunches cost \$3.40, children's lunches are \$2.40, and both are deducted from your family lunch account. If our child has school milk with their cold lunch, it will cost 30 cents.

In the afternoon, our class has snack time at 1:45. Each child has the option to buy milk, (30 cents/carton), which is also deducted from your family lunch account. You also have the option to send a healthy snack with your child each day. Because of our health policy, it is important that no candy or soda is brought in.

## Absences

If your child is going to be absent, please call the office and let us know. Then send a note with your child when he/she returns to school. Make-up work will be provided when the student returns to school or earlier if there is a parent request. If your child is out on an extended absence, talk to your teacher about work to keep the child "up to speed". If you are going to be on vacation, please let us know ahead of time.

## Recess



We have recess after lunch at around 11:15 and in the afternoons at 1:30. Morning recess has been discontinued. We will be doing "movement" activities with the students during the morning to help them get the wiggles out.

## Volunteers



We are always looking for parents to assist with special projects, bringing items, working with our students, class parties, chaperoning, etc... We would like to form a list of possible parents who would be willing to help out throughout the year. If you are able to help out once in a while, please let us know. Thanks for your consideration!

# Book Orders



On a monthly basis, your child will be bringing home one or two book orders. There are quality books to purchase at reasonable prices which we feel encourages the love of reading. When writing out a check, it is important to make it payable to the Scholastic Book Club not the school or teacher or you can order online. Check our website for the directions on how to access the online ordering. Each time a parent orders online, the class gets a free book, so it's a great deal!

It is a double bonus for your child when you do purchase books. First, your child gets quality books at the reasonable cost and second, for each book purchased, our classroom gets free books, tapes, videos, etc. that can be used by all of the first graders.

## Show & Tell



Show and tell is a valuable learning experience and is one of the new standards. Your child will be required to bring in an interesting item once a quarter and present it for a grade.

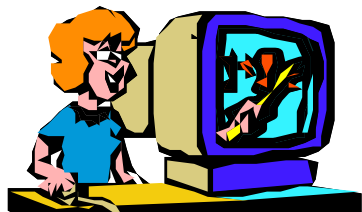
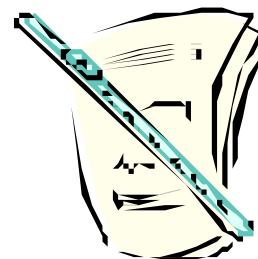
We ask that NO toys be brought in unless they are educational or related to our curriculum. If your child is sick, or we do not have school on your child's day, he or she may bring in an item on the day before or after their scheduled day.



# 2014-2015 Specials

(These may change)

Day	1A	1B
Mon.....	Phy. Ed.	Music
Tues. ....	Art.	Phy. Ed.
Wed.....	Phy. Ed.	Art
Thurs. ....	Music.	Phy. Ed.
Fri.....	Library	Library
	Computer	Computer





# Classroom Procedures

We believe all of our students can behave appropriately in our classroom. We will not tolerate any student stopping or interrupting our classroom activities, nor will any student be allowed to interfere with another student's education.

In order to guarantee your child the positive and excellent learning climate that he/she deserves, we will be utilizing the following "classroom procedures" for the school year.

- No putdowns. We respect everyone.
- We use active listening (eyes, ears, and hearts). Only one person may speak at a time so that all can hear.
- We raise our hand to give our ideas in our classroom.
- We come to school prepared and we stay on task.
- We use patience.



# Discipline Plan

Lifelong success depends in part on developing one's self-discipline. We have a classroom discipline plan in our room that allows every student to learn in a positive, nurturing class environment.

Our rules and consequences (positive and negative) are the result of our belief that children of this age truly want to be good and require guidance more than punishment.

Those who follow the rules receive praise:

1. Verbally, on the spot
2. Happy notes home
3. Positive phone call home.



When a child forgets the rules, we follow these steps:

1st - eye contact, gentle touch to shoulder and/or positive comment to someone else who is following the rules.

2nd - verbal comment - warning (i.e. Susie, please stop doing \_\_\_\_\_.) Most behaviors stop at this point.

3rd - If a child still disregards our classroom rules he/she will turn their card to "green".

4th - If it continues the child will get a second warning and turn their card to "yellow".

5th - A child's card is turned to "red" and he/she will lose a recess.

6th - If negative behavior continues, the child will have to talk to the principal and write a note home to parent about what happened. (Parent must sign the note and return it the following school day.)

7th - If a particular negative behavior continues or becomes habitual we will contact the parent. Together we can work to find a solution to the situation.

# High Frequency Words

(By the end of first grade, your child should be able to spell the following words.)

the	is	a	I	on	you
as	has	he	be	we	at
an	can	had	of	to	do
all	was	and	if	his	will
with	this	it	in	they	have
said	one	there	that	not	from
by	your	about	their	how	but
up	then	what	when	which	for
or	are	were			



## Tips for Reading at Home with your Child

1. Set aside a regular time to read with your child.
2. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers around your home.
3. Let your children choose the books they would like to read.
4. Encourage your children to read aloud to you as often as possible.
5. Take your children to the library.
6. Let your children see you read.
7. Write notes to your children.
8. Share family stories with your children.
9. Before going to a new place, read up on it.
10. Tape record yourself reading your children's favorite stories so they can listen to it again.



## What Good Readers Do

1. Guess what might happen next
2. Think about the order in which things happen
3. Use the pictures to help understand what the words say
4. Think about what happens first, next, and last
5. Picture in their minds what is happening
6. Use the meaning of other words to help figure out unknown words
7. Reread parts of the story to review what has happened
8. Use clues to figure out things the story does not tell
9. Read again
10. Ask themselves questions and read to find the answers
11. Notice things about the story's characters
12. Reread if they don't understand something

# Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

