Welcome to First Grade!

Back to School Night

September 16, 2014
First Grade Team

- Meghan Kasten, Team Leader
- Kelly Clark
- Nancy Robbins
- Janet Waksmunski
- Susan White
- Megan Hylock, Paraeducator
Towson Interns

- RES is a Professional Development school
- Hosting Towson University interns majoring in Early Childhood Education
- 2x per week this spring (Wednesday & Thursday)
Why the Common Core State Standards?

- The standards are the result of a national movement to provide an equitable, coherent, focused, and rigorous curriculum.

- The standards will enable our students to be college and career ready in order to compete globally.
Maryland adopted the CCSS in 2011 and will begin assessing these standards in the 2014-2015 school year.

HCPSS began the transition several years ago.

The transition continues this year with the implementation of English Language Arts in Grades 1 and 2.

All students will be prepared for the new assessments.
We are using the MAP Assessments in Reading and Mathematics.

MAP is:
- Computer-adaptive
- Administered in Fall, Winter (selected students), and Spring
- Created by Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)
Purpose of MAP Assessments

- Measures student growth, both during the school year and across multiple school years.
- Determines instructional strengths and needs, in conjunction with other measures.
- Supports differentiated, Common Core-aligned instruction, in conjunction with other measures.
- Provides academic performance information for parents.
Language Arts

- Vocabulary: Building Vocabulary program *NEW!*

- Writing
  - Continued implementation of the Common Core Curriculum for writing this year
  - Focus on 3 areas: Narratives, Writing to Inform, Persuasive Essay
  - Genres taught:
    - Personal narrative
    - All About books
    - Friendly letter
    - Realistic fiction
    - Book reviews
    - How to/Directions
    - Poetry
Language Arts

- Daily 5 is a county-approved, research-based reading instruction model

- Fosters independence and builds stamina by giving students the opportunity to select and read books that meet their needs and interests

- Consists of 5 components
  - Read to Self
  - Work on Writing
  - Read to Someone
  - Word Work
  - Listen To Reading
Building Vocabulary
Our New Approach to Word Study

**Who:** Every 1st-5th grader in all Howard County Public Schools

**What:** A program to effectively help students see the meaningful patterns that exist in many words and use the words in daily conversations as well as in reading and writing. This program will focus on foundational skills as well as Greek and Latin roots as they are outlined in our new Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.

**When:** Everyday

**Where:** In school and at home!

**Why:** This new approach to word study is a more effective and efficient way to learn words! It allows for multiple opportunities to see new words in meaningful contexts and to use them in meaningful ways.
Mathematics

- Problem Solving
- Place Value and Number Relationships
- Addition/Subtraction
- Computational fluency (basic facts)
- Measurement
- Time
- Shapes and Attributes
Mathematics cont...

- Homework
  - Completed Monday – Thursday
  - Tuesday and Thursday will be basic fact practice and review

- Pink parent preview sheets
  - Sent home on a quarterly basis
  - Outline of the objectives that will be taught
Health

- Social and Emotional Health
- Safety and Injury Prevention
- Disease Prevention and Control
- Nutrition and Fitness
Science

- Earth Science; Rocks and Fossils
- Space Science; Earth, Sun and Moon
- Physical Science; Forces
- Life and Environmental Science; Organisms, Habitats and Life Cycles
Social Studies

- Working Together
- Our Community of Cultures
- Our Changing World
- Communities at Work
Educational Technology

- Technology 1 hour per week
- Periodic computer lab sessions
- Homeroom computers
- Teachers are using e-mail for parent communication and maintain teacher websites
Grading Codes

I = Independent

W = With assistance

N = Not apparent at this time
Interims/Report Cards

- Sent home 4x per year
- Students will be marked On/Above/Below grade level in READING on 1st quarter report cards
- Students will be marked On/Above/Below grade level in MATH on the 1st quarter report cards
- Please be aware the O/A/B status is fluid and “may” change
- Conferences are held in November and in February
PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)

At Rockburn Elementary, we believe that a student is as successful as the environment that supports him/her. That’s why we’re proud to be a PBIS school, focusing on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.
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General Information

- Lunches/Cafeteria
- Communication
- Volunteers
- Field Trips
- Scholastic books
- Invitations
o Lunch cost – $2.75
o Milk cost - $.50

Parents can put money on children’s accounts with cash or check. Food & Nutrition Service Staff will be in the café to process payments. Payments can also be made online at www.myschoolbucks.com.

If a student forgets money or a lunchbox and doesn’t have money on his/her account, a guardian will be called to bring money, a lunch, or add money electronically.
First Grade News

- Link on the Rockburn Website to First Grade, published quarterly
- Teacher websites are linked through the RES site
Parent Volunteers

- Classroom
- Cafeteria (11:15-11:45)
- Friday Folders
- Copies/Administrative
- Help from home (making materials)
Field Trips & Special Events

- Toby’s Dinner Theater: Friday, December 19
- Robinson Nature Center: Friday, May 15th
- End of the Year Picnic: Monday, June 8th
- Author’s Tea: May 6th & 7th
Scholastic Books

- Provide age-appropriate, high interest books for your child
- Find books that match your child’s instructional level
- Use the paper catalog OR online ordering (ask your child’s teacher how!)
- Every purchase earns FREE books for your child's classroom library
Email Us
- Kelly_h_Clark@hcpss.org
- Nancy_Robbins@hcpss.org
- Meghan_Kasten@hcpss.org
- Janet_Waksmunski@hcpss.org
- Susan_D_White@hcpss.org

Send a note

Call the office and leave a message

If you have yet to email the teacher to provide your email address, please do so ASAP so you can be sure to receive class emails.
Birthday Invitations

- Friday Folders are confidential!
- Parents may not place student work in folders
- Para Educators will place invitations in Friday Folders

Please make sure invitations are sent in by Thursday.
Addt’l Links and Resources

- http://smart.hcpss.wikispaces.net
- http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards
- http://www.mdk12.org/
- https://transitiontocommoncore.wikispaces.hcpss.org
- https://clubs2.scholastic.com/
Questions?

- General questions???
- Contact your child’s teacher with specific questions

THANK YOU FOR COMING & DON’T FORGET TO LEAVE A NOTE FOR YOUR CHILD!