

Nimitz
Elementary
First Grade
Handbook



2011-2012

Working together for your child's success!

Welcome to 1st Grade! We are so happy that you could be a part of this special group. There are a lot of interesting people for you to get to know, and the teachers have a lot of great learning experiences planned for you. It is our pleasure to have you join us for an exciting year in 1st grade.



*This year there are four first grade teachers.
Mrs. Koerlin, Mrs. Gruver, Mrs. Fikes, Ms. Entrichel
and Mrs. Hale (Reading Recovery)*

Other Important People at Nimitz

*Mr. Ivy-Principal & Mrs. Stehling-Assistant Principal
Ms. Pace- Counselor*

Mrs. Baskin and Mrs. Garces-Secretaries

Mrs. Seibel-Nurse

Mrs. Rios- First Grade Assistant Teacher

Coach Smith and Coach Neal-P.E.

Ms. Reed-Art, Mrs. O'Brien-Music

Ms. Robbins-Library

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Nimitz School Song

to the tune of "Anchors Aweigh"

Our spirits soar away

On this fine day;

Our hearts are filled with pride

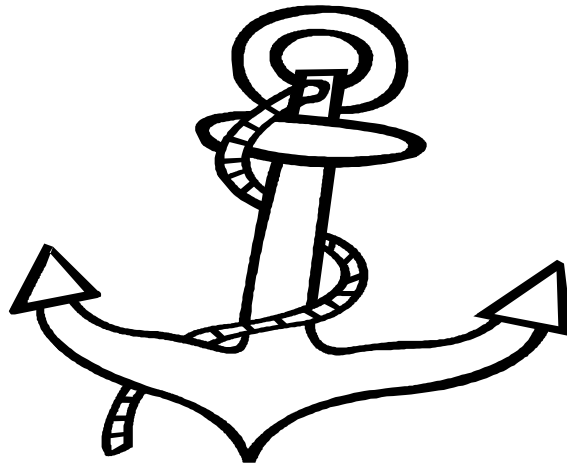
As we stand here side by side.

We face life arm in arm,

Honor's our rule.

We lift our love for you,

We're proud to be from Chester Nimitz School!



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First Grade Curriculum 2011 – 2012

Reading

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Texas Journeys

vocabulary cause and effect

story elements fact and opinion

main idea draw conclusions

summary predicting

Saxon Phonics

Spelling

Accelerated Reader

Writing

punctuation, capitalization

sentence writing

handwriting

simple paragraphs

sentence structures

Math

Saxon Math,

place value & number concepts

addition & subtraction

estimation & reasonableness

fact families & number lines

measurement

time, temperature & money

geometric and number patterns

geometric and number patterns

Geometry & congruency

Social Studies

McMillan/McGraw-Hill: Our Communities

citizenship

Character Counts

rules

cultures, customs, & traditions

Kelso

Keystone

Science

Harcourt Science

plants and animals, habitats

geology, weather and seasons

matter, energy and forces

health concepts

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*First Grade Schedule
2011- 2012*



<i>7:45 - 8:00</i>	<i>Opening Activities</i>
<i>11:00 - 11:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>11:30- 11:50</i>	<i>Recess</i>
<i>2:00- 2:50</i>	<i>Specials (P. E., Music, Library, Art)</i>
<i>2:55</i>	<i>Dismissal</i>

**Individual class schedules are available upon
request. **

Lunch Notes

You may meet you child at lunch time to eat with them at school or take them off campus for lunch (after signing out). Your child **MUST** return within their lunch period (by 11:30).

access!

Reaching the Teacher

We will be happy to discuss concerns or questions that you have about your child. Our conference time is from 2:00 – 2:50. You can reach us by the following methods to discuss your child or schedule a conference.

Phone Call

The school phone number is 257-2209.

Email

gwynne.fikes@kerrvilleisd.net

kari.gruver@kerrvilleisd.net

jessica.koerlin@kerrvilleisd.net

sharissa.entrichel@kerrvilleisd.net

Take-Home folders

There is a place for parent comments on the assignment sheets. We check the folders daily and will respond promptly.

Housekeeping Information

Take-Home Folders

Each day a "Take-Home" folder will come home. It contains an assignment sheet detailing class and homework assignments, class/specials discipline record, graded papers, and notes from school. Please go over the contents of the folder with your child daily and acknowledge seeing it by signing in the appropriate spot. Any special events or information will be communicated with notes from me. **PLEASE CHECK AND SIGN FOLDERS DAILY.** If a folder comes back unsigned, your child is required to call home. Any forms requiring a response should be sent back to school the **following day**. Your child is expected to have his or her folder each day.

Tardies, Absences & Illnesses

Please have your child to the gym by 7:45 as we begin opening procedures at that time. The tardy bell rings at 7:55 at which time any student not in the classroom will be counted tardy. Excessive tardies will result in detention and/or intervention by the principals.

Please call the school to notify the office when your child will be absent. Upon returning to school after an absence, the student **must bring a note** (signed by the parent) that describes the reason for the absence and the dates your child was out. If your child was out multiple days due to illness, please send a note from the doctor.

Birthdays

On your child's birthday, you are welcome to send a small treat, such as cupcakes or cookies, for the class to enjoy as a snack. Please check with the teacher ahead of time for a count of students in the class. The numbers change frequently and there should be enough for the whole class to participate.

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If your child is handing out invitations to a birthday party, but not inviting the entire class, please mail the invites as a consideration for the feeling of other students. Your child may hand out invitations at school if the **whole class is invited** and after principal approval.

Routines

ANY CHANGES IN HOW YOUR CHILD GETS HOME MUST BE IN WRITING!

Also, any changes at home may affect your child at school. It helps if I know about them so I can help your child adjust.

Dismissal

School is dismissed at 3:00p.m. **(We LEAVE THE ROOM right after specials at 2:55 to go to cars and buses)** If you come to pick up your child before 3:00 p.m., you must check them out in the office.

- ANYTIME you come to school during the day, you must check in with the office. This is due to:
 - Safety
 - Fewer disruptions to class
 - Anything your child needs may be left in the office.

Snacks

- Students have a morning snack around 9:30 each day.
- Parents are asked to sign up for at least two weeks out of the school year to provide snacks for the class. These snacks should be nutritional, please see below for possible ideas.
- There should be enough snacks for the full 5 day week, for all 22 students. Large boxes or bags of snacks are fine, (there is no need for individually wrapped snacks) 3 -4 boxes of snacks usually last a week. Parents will be reminded of there allotted week on the weekly newsletter/behavior form.
- If there are any conflicts with your selected week, or in the contribution itself, please just let you child's teacher know.

Recommendations For Healthy Snacks:

Pretzels	Fig Bars
Animal Crackers	Vanilla Wafers
Graham Crackers	Fresh Fruit or vegetables
Wheat Crackers	Fruit Snacks
Low-Fat String Cheese	Granola Bars
Baked tortilla chips	Popcorn
Fruit or grain muffins	Peanut Butter and Crackers
Dry Cereal	Fruit and Grain trail mixes

First Grade Programs/ Homework

Most every night your child will have phonics and math homework. Later in the year your child will also have spelling and Accelerated Reader homework. All homework

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assignments will be written on the weekly assignment sheet. In addition, you should read with your child each evening.

Saxon Phonics/ Spelling

This is a method used to help teach your child to read and write. It emphasizes letters, sounds, and key words. Your child will also learn decoding skills to use on reading and writing words, phrases and sentences. You can help your child at home by using the decoding skills to read and write. To do this, we call attention to the vowel sound in the word first, and then we sound out the rest of the word.

Your child will have a spelling list every week consisting of 10-12 spelling words. Spelling lists will be given on Mondays and Spelling Tests will be taken every Friday. Your child is asked to practice/write their spelling words each night. The most effective way for your child to practice is to be given "practice tests" each night with you giving the words orally to them in a different order each night. If your child copies the words while looking at the spelling list it is not as helpful.

Reading/A.R (Accelerated Reading)

Your child will have reading homework almost every night from a decodable reader and/or library book. It is very important to build a good reading foundation this year. Practice reading every night (even if it's the same story), this will help your child become a good reader. If your child forgets to bring their assigned book home, have them read anything available. Your child will also have reading flash cards throughout the year that they need to review nightly. These words appear often in books, but usually can not be "sounded out;" they must be memorized by sight. Your child's mastery of these words will greatly help their reading knowledge.

AR books are leveled readers that your child should be able to read **on their own**. Please encourage your child to read their book at least three times if it is Fiction and five times if it is Non-fiction (some of this reading may have been done at school). Make sure your child **brings their AR book back to school each day** even if they did not get a chance to read it. Once your child has read their book, they will take a comprehension test on the computers at school. If they pass this test they are allowed to get a new book and the process continues. Your child is earning points that will carry through their elementary education by taking these tests. But more importantly, your child will increase their reading ability!

Saxon Math

This program is built on prior knowledge; new learning is presented in increments and review is spread throughout the year. The individual written practice includes a short practice of new learning and a review of previous concepts. Children complete the first side of the written practice in class with the teacher's assistance. The other side, which

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mirrors the examples completed in class, is done at home. Fact flash cards will also be sent home throughout the year. Make sure your child continues to review these often as more skills are learned.

Homework Policy

In order to establish good homework habits, we require the child to complete and return their homework each night. Homework that is not done, or is done incorrectly, will be completed by your child during their recess time. **It is essential that you are checking your child's home work to ensure they are practicing the skills correctly.**

Homework Strategies for Parents and Guardians

1. Set a time and place for study. Make this a priority time.
2. Provide the necessary tools (paper, pencils, erasers, etc.) for your child to complete homework assignments.
3. Make school associations positive. Recognize your child for his or her efforts and always make study a positive activity.
4. Help your students plan the completion of the assignments and how to use time well.
5. Learn with your child and show interest in what he or she is learning. Discuss and develop ideas. Review completed homework assignments with your child.
6. Develop an attitude of positive acceptance by relating school success to effort, by being consistent and supportive of your child.
7. It is essential to read with your child each night so that he/ she can become a fluent reader.

***Report Card Notes*:**

For the first 6 weeks, report cards will be issued at a parent/teacher conference. (Conferences will be conducted the first week of October).

For the first semester your child will receive an S, N or U for their academic work. During the second semester your child will receive number grades.

The Report Card Reflex

1. *Sit down* with your child and look over the report card.
2. *Praise your child.* Find at least one good thing and show your approval.

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3. *Be calm.* Listen as your child tells you about any poor grades.
4. *Ask how you can help* your child do better.
5. *Ask what your child can do* to make better grades.
6. *Make a plan* with your child and the teachers to help your child do better.

Source: Hill Country CRISIS Council

First Grade Discipline Plan

Dear Parents,

In order to provide our students with the excellent educational climate they deserve, we have developed the following Classroom Discipline Plan which will be in effect at all times. We will be using a traffic light which will indicate your child's behavior in the class each day. All children will begin each day on the *GREEN* light. Your child may receive one verbal warning while still on *GREEN*. If your child chooses to behave inappropriately, his/her name will be moved to the *YELLOW* caution light and finally to the *RED* stop light (see below for rules and consequences).

Rules:

1. Listen and follow directions at all times.
2. Respect people and property.
3. Use hands, feet and objects to help not hurt.
4. Raise you hand before speaking.
5. Use a quiet voice during class time.

Through the year we will be working on building our character using respect, caring, trustworthiness, fairness, responsibility, and citizenship. We would like to encourage you and your child to practice these valuable skills at home in order to make them more meaningful to your child at school, as well as throughout their lifetime.

Consequences: If your child chooses to break a rule:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1st time: | verbal warning (name remains on <i>GREEN</i> light). |
| 2nd time: | name moves to <i>YELLOW</i> caution light-5 minutes "chill out" time in a quiet area and/or privilege removed. |
| 3rd time: | name moves to <i>RED</i> stop light- 10 minutes "chill out" time in a quiet area and/or privilege removed. (If your child gets 2 red days in 1 week this will result in an office referral). |
| 4th time &/or severe disruption: | office referral |

Students who choose to behave appropriately will be positively rewarded with stickers, praise, treats, special privilege, marbles in a jar, or notes of recognition. It is in your child's best interest that we work together in regard to his/her education. We will keep you informed about your child's progress in class. We will discuss this plan as a class, but we would appreciate it if you would review this with your child. Thank you for your support.

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First Grade Teachers

Please sign and tear-out this page acknowledging that you have read and understand the handbook and the discipline policy and return it to your child's teacher. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us. We look forward to a successful year with your child.

Sincerely yours,
First Grade Teachers
Mrs. Fikes
Mrs. Gruver
Mrs. Koerlin
Ms. Entrichel

I have read and discussed the handbook and the discipline plan with my first grader.

child's name

parent/ guardian signature

***Please return this portion to school tomorrow.**

