



Reading



This month we will be focusing on Unit 1 in our reading text book. In this unit students will read about facing personal challenges. Each week students will read a different story in their text books. On a Monday, Students will bring home their reading books to read the selection at home. Please feel free to read with your child or encourage him or her to read to you. I will send home a “Family Times” sheet every Monday that will briefly tell about the story, reading skill, language skill, and list the week’s spelling words. This will help families to have a better understanding of what we are doing in the classroom. “Family Times” will also have extension activities that can be done at home to deepen understanding. Each Friday students will take a reading/vocabulary test on the selection story.

Spelling words also go along with weekly stories. Students will receive spelling lists on Mondays. These lists are kept in agendas and are written on the “Family Times” sheet. Spelling tests are given on Fridays.

Writing



Every morning, students will write in their journals to practice writing fluency, creativity, and critical thinking. This month, students will also begin working on organizing and writing answers to open response/ MCAS style questions and writing a five paragraph personal narrative. During writing students also learn and practice grammar and editing skills.

Math



Students will be learning about place value in whole numbers and decimals. They will also explore triangles and quadrilaterals. Students should practice their multiplication tables regularly as math builds on basic skills.

Social Studies



We will begin the year by studying maps and globes, and this month students will begin working on several interactive map and globe skill projects. We will be making maps in groups to deepen understanding of different kinds of maps and how they can be used.

Science

In science students will be learning about rocks and minerals. During this time we will investigate and experiment with different types of rocks and minerals in order to classify them and understand their properties. Hands on activities and labs will be done in class throughout this unit.

Reminders



- Please go over classroom rules and policies with your child. Students made and agreed upon the rules and are expected to follow them every day. They are listed below.
- Homework is an extension of class work, and is equally important in learning new skills. Please remember to check your child's agenda and homework daily. It is the student's responsibility to have homework done and turned in on time.
- Students should have a minimum of 2 things to read (chapter books, educational magazines, newspapers, etc.) with them every day. This helps students to focus on reading what they enjoy during silent reading time.
- If at any time you need to contact me, please email me at jbandarra@fairhavenps.org. I check my email daily. If you do not have Internet access, please feel free to call or send in a note, and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Classroom Procedures:

Class Rules:

1. Listen to the speaker/one person speaks at a time.
2. Work quietly. If you finish early check your work, and read silently.
3. Raise your hand.
4. Remain seated.
5. Have respect/treat people fairly.
6. Respect personal space (keep hands, feet, and materials to yourself).
7. Be prepared for class with all books and materials.
8. Always do your best.

AGENDAS (assignment books):

- All homework assignments must be written in your agenda. Students should take agendas home with them every afternoon.
- Assignments will be written on the homework board daily. It is the student's responsibility to copy the assignments and to ask questions if something is unclear.

ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK:

- Homework, returned papers, and mail will go home in a homework folder each night.
- Homework is due the day after it is assigned, unless other directions are provided.
- All assignments are to be neat, completed, and turned in on time. You will lose points and have to redo any incomplete or sloppy papers.
- Please cut off "fringe" if you tear paper from a notebook.
- Missed or incomplete assignments will result in a loss of recess where the student will complete the assignment.
- If there is an extreme emergency or an issue concerning homework, please send a note to school with your child. Issues do come up and a child **may** be given an additional night to complete an assignment.
- If a student has completed ALL homework assignments for the week they will be eligible for a ticket on Friday for a weekly raffle drawing.

Morning Arrival

1. Enter the classroom in an orderly fashion (no running, pushing, or shouting). If you are late please get a slip from the office.
2. Check the classroom jobs chart.
3. Choose your lunch.
4. Sharpen pencils if needed.
5. Begin morning work, which will be written on the board or placed on your desk.

Classroom Discipline Plan:

It is important to create an environment where students feel safe and are able to reach their greatest potential. In order to achieve this goal students are expected to adhere to classroom rules. Enforcing rules and maintaining specific expectations will allow students to enjoy learning in a safe and comfortable environment. Each student will have their name written on behavior tags that are in a pocket chart in a designated area of the room. If a student is redirected more than one time, their behavior tag will be changed to a different color. With this change comes a consequence that students will be made aware of in advance. All students will begin each day with a green behavior tag visible. Below I have listed the meaning of these colors along with consequences.

- First redirection: Warning (tag will remain green)
- Second redirection: tag will be changed to yellow and student will lose some recess time.
- Third redirection: tag is changed to red and student will be asked to write a note to their parent about their behavior during their recess time. Student will be required to work separately from their group.
- Fourth redirection: Tag will be changed to blue and student will be sent to the principal's office.

At the end of *each* day student names will return back to green clipboard. Behavior problems will be recorded for conduct grades at the end of the quarter. Parents will be informed of any serious or ongoing conduct problems through email, a note home, or a phone call.