

Welcome to Mrs. Saloman's



1st grade class!

Dear Parents,

I can't believe how summer passed by so quickly, but I am very excited to be teaching first grade. It is such a blessing to have an opportunity to teach your child about Jesus, as well as mold them academically and socially. In first grade, we will be doing some review, but quickly, we'll be learning new material. We'll also be doing fun things, such as: Molly Pilgrim, Flat Stanley, and art projects. I would like to share with you about who I am and my expectations and goals for the students.

This will be my first year teaching at Campbell Christian, but prior to coming to this school, I taught third grade for two years at Calvary Chapel Christian School, in San Jose. I have worked in Los Altos Christian School with grades 1-6. I have also worked in the Cupertino School District for over six years. I know that God has called me to this school to develop your child academically as well as spiritually. My personal philosophy of education is to be a dedicated, resourceful, and an innovative instructor who strives to help students achieve their academic and personal goals. I feel that an effective teacher must support each child's social and intellectual growth by creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and open communication. As a devoted Christian educator, I encourage and motivate students to maintain their Christian values while moving forward in their learning process and development. To be a successful student, one must continue their spiritual growth as well as their academic development.

Without the help and reinforcement of parents, your child's growth will be limited. I would love to be in a partnership with you, so we can see your child's strengths and weaknesses. Of course I will be with your child during the day, but it would be more beneficial if you could become actively involved in your child's education. One way to do this is to go over mistakes on homework or tests with your child, so he/she can learn from them. As for other school activities (parties, field trips, etc), I will definitely need help from you. I will let you know the dates as soon I get them.

General Information:

Attendance

I realize that children do get sick and there may be instances where your child needs to skip a few days of school, but please keep this to a minimum (schedule during lunch time or recesses if possible). If you know ahead of time that your child is going to be missing school, please let me know, via email or note. Too many tardies will affect your child's citizenship grade.

Rules

Please go over and enforce all school rules and guidelines, including the dress code. Also, please discuss the four classroom rules: face the front, stay seated, sit quietly, and smile. Of course, I will go over them with your child and have them posted on the wall. If your child does misbehave, I have a card system implemented. Please ask your child everyday how they are doing. During an enrichment class, if they receive two yellow cards/warning slips consecutively in the same enrichment, they will miss one day of that enrichment.

Card System

White card= I'm doing good, purity (this is the card they start on every day)

Yellow card= I have 5 minute time out

Purple Card= I have 10 minute time out.

Blue Card= I have 15 minute time out and go to the principal.

Bathroom and Water Breaks

Throughout the day, your child will have two bathroom breaks. If your child has special needs in this area, please advise me ahead of time. As for water breaks, your child is more than welcome to bring a water bottle to class.

Birthdays

What fun birthdays are in first grade! I welcome cupcakes for your child's birthday. You can bring them in the morning, when you drop off your child.

Friday Folder

Every Friday, I will send home an envelope called the Friday folder. It will contain all the completed homework, tests from the past week, weekly newsletter, review sheets for future tests and the homework assignment sheet. Please look through them with your child. I request that you bring the Friday Folder back signed on Monday. Students will be rewarded for bringing them back on time.

Academics:

Homework

Your child will need a two-pocket folder to put their homework in. The homework folder will need to be brought to school everyday. Please check the homework folder every night, to ensure that homework does get done.

Generally, there will be homework everyday, except for Fridays and the weekends. In the Friday Folder, you will receive a homework assignment sheet for the next week. Unless indicated, homework is always due the next day. Math Fact homework sheets will require an initial from you. It is your child's responsibility to make sure their homework has his/her name on it and that it gets in the box. Please make sure that homework is neat and legible. No name, homework will not count! Each homework assignment will either get a star or a check mark. A check mark will indicate messy, incomplete work, or late work and a star will indicate good effort. The homework grade will be factored in with their citizenship grade.

General schedule for homework (please check the Friday letter every week):

Monday- phonics, math, spelling list

Tuesday- phonics, math

Wednesday- phonics, reading bookmark, study for spelling test

Thursday- phonics, study for phonics and bible tests, math

Friday- no homework

Test Schedule:

Wednesday- Math Test

Thursday- Spelling Test

Friday- Phonic and Bible Tests

Class work

Class work will generally be done in class, but if your child does not finish it in class, I will send it home to be completed.

Phonics

First grade phonics is a tough subject for the students and parents. Generally speaking, grades usually start low, but with practice and understanding homework, your student should do fine. Phonics will be important for smooth reading and spelling. We will extensively go over this subject in class. It is so imperative that as a parent, you go over their daily homework. As a parent, these phonics rules and coding will be foreign to you. Please, start from day one and stay on top of the day's lesson for phonics. I will be handing out the "phonics bible" that states each lesson and this will be a very important tool for your understanding.

The phonics grade will consist of the weekly Friday test.

Reading

For homework, your child will have a reading assignment on Wednesday nights. Please listen to them read and check for fluency and expression, as well as comprehension. If they are struggling with a pronunciation of a word, let them sound it out. My goal for the students is to have them really enjoy reading. The reading grade will be based on two different tests. One is an oral reading test, which will be testing for accuracy, expression, speed, and comprehension. The other test is a comprehension tests.

Math

Some of the major topics in math are: how to tell time, addition and subtraction math facts, and double-digit numbers. I suggest that you would buy flashcards for addition facts and review those as needed. The math grade will consist of weekly tests on Wednesdays.

Bible

We learn many aspects of the Christian faith, through stories, skits, the Bible, etc. We will start with the Old Testament and make our way to the New Testament. Every week, they will be learning a new bible verse and on Fridays, I will be giving an oral memorization verse test.

Spelling

The first grade spelling lists are challenging, but it is a great way to increase their vocabulary and spelling skill. On Monday, they will receive their spelling list for the week, which will be tested on Thursday.

English/Writing

We will be learning the basics of sentence structure, punctuation and writing complete sentences. They will be journaling everyday in class. Three times during this year, the students will be writing three major stories. Their English/Writing grade will consist of the three major stories and periodic written tests.

Science

We will be learning about plants, nutrition, and key science terms. The science grade will consist of periodic written tests.

Social Studies

We will be learning about the four seasons, important people in history, geography, etc. The social studies grade will consist of monthly tests.

Grading Scale

100%	E+	80-84%	S
96-99%	E	74-79%	S-
90-95%	E-	65-73%	N
85-89%	S+	64-0%	U

Chapel - Tuesdays

Music - Mondays and Thursdays

Art - Fridays

P.E. - Tuesdays and Thursdays

Computers - Fridays

Library - Wednesdays

I appreciate the time you've taken to read this letter. Hopefully, this has answered some of your questions and has opened the doorway for communication. Once again, please contact me anytime and I will promptly respond. Thank you and I look forward to a wonderful school year.

In Christ,

Mrs. Karen Saloman

Contact info

Email: ksaloman@yahoo.com

School number: (408) 370-4900 ext. 268