

# Welcome to First Grade!

## What happens in Room 6?

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### Meet the Teacher

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Hello! My name is Kristi Holm. This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year at Sleepy Hollow and my fifth year in first grade.

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Feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments. I truly believe the best way to ensure success for my students, is to have open lines of communication with the parents. We are definitely working toward the same goal-- success for your child! 😊

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### Classroom Rules/Expectations

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- We use the school wide slogan to Rock the 3Rs: Respect, Responsibility, and the Golden Rule.
- We discussed rules the students thought would be important and they all fit nicely into these five rules:
  - Follow directions quickly
  - Raise your hand to share ideas
  - Ask permission to leave the room
  - Make wise choices
  - Rock the 3 Rs, YEAH!

We say our rules daily as part of our morning routine.

Independence is encouraged. Your child will be encouraged to be an independent worker, within reason for their age. This includes attempting to solve a problem before seeking help. The students are often guided where to put papers and supplies to help with organization so they can independently get whatever they need.

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### Specials' Schedule

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- The district has gone to an ABCDE schedule this year.
  - A: PE 1:40-2:20
  - B: PE 12:10-12:40
  - C: Music 12:10-12:40
  - D: Music 12:10-12:40; Media 1:40-2:10
  - E: No specials this day

*If/when there is a snow day; we skip that letter day and stick to the regular schedule. For example, if our snow day is a B day, the next day will be a C day.*

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## Clip Chart

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- To reinforce/ acknowledge student behaviors we have a classroom Clip Chart.
- Each day students start on green for Ready to Learn. Throughout the day students either stay at green and may move up or down on the chart depending on their behavior.
- Reinforcement
  - When a student makes wise choices, is following our rules, and is rocking the 3Rs, they will have the opportunity to clip up.
    - Blue: Great Job
    - Purple: Good Day
  - When a student makes a choice that does not follow the classroom expectations, they will be asked to clip down.
    - Yellow: Slow down and think about it.
    - Red: Parent Contact- I will contact you to discuss the behavior concern. (Office referral if necessary)
- Since behavior is a choice, students always have the ability to improve upon their behavior. Therefore, students can clip up or down on the chart throughout the day.
- The students have already asked what they get if they are on blue or purple and we talked about how it can make you feel good inside to know you are making wise choices. Then throughout the month as they color their square each day, they will see how well they are doing. I posed the question, "Do you want to see more blues and purples or reds and yellows?" I want the students to experience the intrinsic reward of doing a good job. 😊

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## Other Incentives

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- Marble Fish Bowl (Whole Group)
  - When the entire class is working hard, making wise choices and rocking the 3Rs, I will add marble(s) to our classroom fish bowl. When the fishbowl is full, we will have a celebration. This may include: a pajama day, an extra recess, bring a stuffed friend to school, etc. The students have lots of ideas about how they would like to celebrate so we will vote on what celebration we will have.
- Key Cards (Individual incentive, Used School Wide)
  - This is a school wide behavioral incentive which is a part of our school wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System). When students are spotted showing behavior that demonstrates respect, responsibility, or using the golden rule, the student earn a key card.

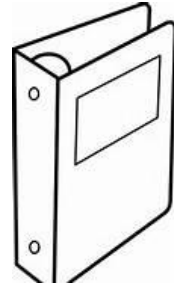
- Students then save all of their key cards and can “spend” them to earn a reward decided by the first grade team. The students love spending their key cards because they can trade them in for exciting and fun rewards!

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## Home Folder

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- This folder will be a great tool for us to communicate, as well as, provide the opportunity to include your child in the communication process! It is the responsibility of the student to take care and manage their folder. They should bring it home every afternoon and bring it back every morning.
- You can help to make the folder an effective communication tool by reviewing the folder with your child every day. Check for notes from me/ office, papers to stay at home, and initialing their square each day on the calendar.



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## Homework

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- Homework is a team approach in first grade. It will be handed out on Monday or the first day of the week and is due back on Friday or the last day of the week.
- If it does not make it home, email me and I will help problem solve where it is and make sure it gets home.
- If there are any homework issues, please let me know.
  - Homework really should not take more that 20-25 mintues.
- Homework will be additional practice of first grade curriculum.
- At the beginning of each month, a calendar of additional homework options will be sent home. If you feel your child needs a challenge, you may choose to do some of these activities. This is strictly OPTIONAL and does not need to be completed by all students. You can staple any finished activities to their homework packet and turn them in with their regular homework.



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## Nightly Reading

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- In addition to assigned homework, it is strongly encouraged that students are reading or being read to a little each night.
- In class we have talked about three ways to read a book that you can use at home too:
  1. Read the pictures.
  2. Read the words.
  3. Retell the story.



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## Library Procedures

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- **Classroom Library:** As you may have noticed, I myself have a love for books and want to share that with my students. Each week, the students will pick five books from our classroom library. These books stay in their book bins and can be read while in class. These books stay in the classroom and can be read during Read to Self and during free time.
- **School Library Book Check Out:** Students will have the opportunity to check out books from the school library every other week. Our library time is on D days. Students can check out two books at a time. These books are sent home to read. If both books are returned by the due date, two more books can be checked out. If only one book is returned, only one book can be checked out. If neither book is returned, new books will not be checked out.
  - Please help to remind your child to bring back library books on D days. A suggestion is to have students always store their school library books in their backpacks so they will not accidentally get lost or damaged.

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## Snack Policy

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- We will be having a “working snack time.” This means that students will be expected to be able to continue working while they eat their snack. They can eat their snack anytime they would like. Typically I encourage the students to finish their snack before lunch, but if they do not it can be finished after.
- Snacks should be something students can open on their own, as I will be teaching while students are eating.
- Our classroom is a NUT FREE classroom.
- Please consider a healthy option for snack. Some ideas include:
  - Pretzels
  - Fruit
  - Vegetables
  - Cheese and crackers
  - String Cheese
  - Granola bars

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## Water Bottles

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- Students are welcomed and ENCOURAGED to bring a water bottle to keep at their desks. This will limit needing to leave the room to get a drink, however, during the first few weeks more bathroom breaks are taken but eventually their bodies adjust. The students may go to the bathroom whenever necessary. They do not have to ask but



we have talked about good and bad times to go and if it is a good time, they simply place the bathroom pass on their desk. There are two boy passes and two girl passes. If a pass is not available, they will have to wait unless it is an emergency. If I notice a student is abusing this freedom, I will limit their bathroom breaks and contact you if necessary.

- Please be sure that any water bottles you send with your child have a lid/cap to help avoid spills.

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## Birthdays

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- We look forward to celebrating birthdays in our classroom!
- If you choose, your child may bring in a special treat to celebrate his/her birthday. Reminder: any treats snacks must be store bought, individually wrapped and peanut free.
  - Cupcakes are fun but tend to be quite messy, so I ask you please to refrain from bringing in cupcakes.



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## Transportation

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- If your child is ever going to take a different means of transportation home than usual, please send a note with your child regarding the transportation change.
  - Without a note I am unable to send students home by another means of transportation.
- If something comes up during the school day or you forget to send a note to school about a change in transportation, just call the office and they will notify me of the transportation change.



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## Lunch or Other Money

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- Any time you need to send money with your child to school, please be sure it is in a sealed envelope and marked with as much information as possible, such as:
  - Student Name
  - Teacher Name
  - Reason for the \$ (Ex: lunch, book order, etc...)
- Lunch \$2.65
- Milk \$0.50
  - You can also go online through the school website and add money to your child's account.



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## Conferences/ Report Cards

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- **Formal conferences will be held in November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. You will sign up for conferences online or you can call or email me to set up a time. More information will be coming soon.**
- **Report cards will be completed on a quarterly basis. Report cards are standard based and the grades are as follows:**
  - 1- Begins standard- The student was exposed to the standard, yet still cannot master it without assistance.
  - 2- Approaches standard- The student is making progress, but not making enough gains to complete skill independently.
  - 3- Meets standard- The student understands the skill or concepts and proves to apply it independently.
  - 4- Exceeds standards- The student frequently shows that they know the skill or concept and goes deeper with the standard without prompting.

**Please make sure to review and discuss the report card with your child, then sign and send back the envelope to let me know that you received the report card.**

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## Book Orders

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- **Will be sent out monthly**
- **Please make all checks payable to "Scholastic Book Orders." NO CASH ORDERS.**
- **You can also place orders online! When ordering online use classroom code: GZYYN**

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## General Communication

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- **One of the best ways to communicate with me is through email. I check my email every morning before school, after school and try to check it throughout the day. Feel free to call and leave a voice mail, but I do not usually check voice mail until after school.**
- **Another convenient way to communicate quick reminders or questions is by using the Home Folder. If you send a note or return any papers, please remind your child to turn them into the green bin on Miss Holm's desk.**
- **I will also communicate by:**
  - **Monthly newsletters (occasionally they may be more frequently)**
  - **Positive notes/calls home**

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## Curriculum Overview

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- **Common Core Standards**
- **Math Units**
  - Partners and Number Patterns Through 10
  - Addition and Subtraction Strategies
  - Unknown Numbers in Addition and Subtraction
  - Place Value Concepts
  - Place Value Situations
  - Comparison and Data
  - Geometry, Measurement, and Equal Shares
  - Two-Digit Addition
- **Literacy: Balanced Literacy Approach**
  - Guided Reading: small groups
    - Daily 5: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing and Word Work
  - Model and Shared Reading: This includes read alouds to model different reading strategies.
  - Fluency: Focusing on one poem each week and reading that poem several times throughout the week. The students will also use their poetry binders to reread and highlight word wall words.
  - Writing: Being a Writer Program (4 days a week)
    - Emphasizing complete sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation
  - Handwriting: focus on proper grip and correct letter strokes
- **Lexia Core 5**
  - Students go 3 times a week (ABC days) for 30 minutes. It is a computer based program that emphasizes reading, phonics and grammar skills. The students will be assessed their first time on Lexia and then placed where they need to be in order to strengthen their weaknesses.
    - Mrs. Campen runs Lexia for us. She is the media para professional but also a retired certified teacher. If you would like to help out with Lexia, please email Mrs. Campen ([Sheryl.campen@d300.org](mailto:Sheryl.campen@d300.org)) or myself.
- **Science**
  - Earth's Place in the Universe
  - Animals
  - Waves
  - Plants
- **Social Studies**
  - Communities

- **Native Americans**
- **Maps**
- **Holidays and Celebrations**
- **Arctic and Antarctic**
- **Second Step: A district wide program to promote skills for social and academic success.**

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## **iReady**

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- **iReady is a new program the district is using to assess/benchmark our students. It takes the place of Aimsweb. The students will be assessed three times a year. It will then provide instruction and differentiation for each student for the teachers. There is a home component, so look for information to come home about it. You will hear much more about this in the upcoming weeks.**