

A

Absences

Of course we want your child to be present each and every day at school! However, in the event that your child is absent, a note explaining the reason for the absence must be brought to school upon his/her return. The office requires this note or your child will be marked with an unexcused absence. Your child will have a day for each day missed plus one to make up work. (Ex. If you missed two days, you would have three days to make up work.) After this due date your child will lose points for each late day.

B

Birthdays

Birthdays are special to our first graders and we love to celebrate this special event. Birthday treats may be sent to school for lunch. I encourage you to send cupcakes or cookies because they are easier to handle than cake.

Book Clubs

We participate in book clubs each year. The order forms will come home about once or twice a month.

- It usually takes about two weeks for the books to arrive. The prices are very good, and provide a pretty good selection. However, Scholastic is a secular company, so please use your best judgment and discretion when ordering books for your child.
- Book clubs help increase our classroom library. When you order, we receive "bonus points" which are used to purchase books for our classroom.
- Ordering online:
 - You can order online at www.scholastic.com/parentordering
 - Enter our class user name: gcsfirst
 - Enter our password: wowcow
 - Browse the titles with your child, and place your order with your credit card. Your order will come to me, and your credit card payment goes directly to Scholastic. There's no need to send money to school. After I submit the entire class's order to Scholastic, your order will be delivered to our classroom for your child to take home.
- Ordering in-class:
 - Just indicate your choices on the order form
 - Total the order and pay by check (made out to GCS) and place order form and check in the EAGLE notebook.
 - Return to class by the due date. Books are delivered to the classroom.

C

Classroom Economy

Students will earn coins during the day for positive reinforcement. It is also a great way to practice counting and exchanging money. At the end of each quarter, your child will have a chance to spend his/her money at our class store. *This is where I need your help!* I would like to ask for donations of new or gently loved items for our store. These may include: dollar store items, "happy meal toys", books, toys, stickers, pencils, etc. Please send in anything you think the children would enjoy. I would appreciate your contributions at anytime during the school year.

Communication and Conferences

Please check the daily planner in the EAGLE notebook each day for assignments and/or communication from me. I will check it daily for communication from you. Use the yellow columns for short notes or to let me know that there is a longer note enclosed.

Contact me any time you wish to discuss your child's progress. We can communicate through email, telephone call, notes, or an in-person conference. The school wide conference date is Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (early dismissal day).

Contact Information

Here is my contact information. Email is by far the quickest way to contact me as I check it on a regular basis. You can also write me a message or call the school to leave a message.

Email:

believerjen@yahoo.com - home email, I check it every evening.

jsimpson@greenvillechristian.org -school email, I check it throughout the day.

School Phone:

(903) 454-1111

D

Dress Code

The dress code in the student handbook applies at all times. Backless shoes are not to be worn in elementary. This includes free dress days. Shorts and skirts are to be no shorter than **3** inches above the knee. Costumes are not to be worn unless specified during Spirit Week.

Discipline

Our school will follow the Honorable Character Discipline Plan at all times in first grade. This plan is based on defining honorable character in your child. All of the character traits are biblically based

and come with a verse for reference. We have 14 character traits that I will be looking for your child to display during the week.

These same traits will be used to build character. If your child is having difficulty and needs to define character (discipline), we will use the same traits to learn why we need to be more like Christ. Your child will lose his/her "wow cow". I will send home a Defining Character sheet in the EAGLE notebook to inform you of the behavior. Please discuss it with your child, sign, and return the next day. (This is the same as losing a "smiley" in Kindergarten basically). The first mark on the "wow cow" will be a warning and discussion, the second will cost five minutes of recess, and the third will result in a referral to Mrs. Traverse.

Each student with his/her "wow cow" still on their desk at the end of the day will be rewarded with a sticker in their EAGLE notebook. When the sticker chart is full, they may trade it in for a prize from the treasure chest.

E

EAGLE Notebooks

(Everything **A** Great Learner (needs) **E**veryday)

Our class is using EAGLE notebooks to keep us organized. Our EAGLE notebooks hold everything students and parents need to keep informed of class and school events and information. No more lost notes, lost lunch money or lost book orders! Gone are the days of searching the house for a paper to write the teacher a note. Everything is right here in one binder.

The notebook includes many important parts:

1. Bird's Nest: Use this pouch for keeping those "golden eggs" safe including money, office notes, book orders, etc.
2. School calendar and Class Monthly Calendar: Our school calendar is included as well as a class monthly calendar. I will add a calendar each month that outlines what we are doing in class and due dates for projects.
3. Memory Verses: We will add a new memory verse each week. Your child will recite the verse from memory on Fridays. We will keep them all together to show how much scripture we have added to memory.
4. Reading Log: The nightly reading log will also be kept here to be marked each night. This will include contest reading logs, also.
5. Daily Planner: A planner used to record assignments and notes. There is a yellow column on the right hand side for communication. Spelling words are also recorded on the right hand side. Please initial the yellow box EVERY night to let me know you have seen it.

Students must be responsible for the notebooks and bring them to school every day (responsibility is one of our character traits). Please help your child by reminding him/her to bring it each day and remember these important do's:

1. Do take very good care of your EAGLE; it will be used all year.
2. Do bring your EAGLE home each afternoon and bring it back each morning.
3. Do clean out Tuesday folders each week.
4. Do show your parents your EAGLE every evening and ask them to initial your daily planner pages EVERY night.

Also remember these important don'ts:

1. Don't eat or drink in front of your EAGLE. There are not extra planners and a soggy, mildewed planner is not pleasant!
2. Don't leave your EAGLE in your car, at daycare, or at Grandma's.
3. Don't let anyone tear any pages out of your EAGLE or borrow it.

F

Family Involvement

There are many ways to be involved in our class. Some of these include Mystery Reader, Guest Speaker/Presenter for special subjects, Lunch mom or dad, and many others! Please volunteer!

Field Trips

We will go on many field trips this year to extend our learning. Look for permission slips and information in the EAGLE notebook. Some of these include an educational trip to the Sabine Creek Bee Farm, Kadee Farm Pumpkin Patch, and a pond trip to research animal habitat.

G

Gym

We have gym (or PE) two days a week. Students must wear sneakers to participate. Some children find it helpful to keep an extra pair in their backpack so they will not forget.

H

Homework

The most important homework in first grade is READING! Research shows that there is a direct correlation between achievement and the number of minutes read independently per day. I ask that you read with your child at least 20 minutes per night (100 minutes a week). Your child will also bring home one math worksheet per week for reinforcement of skills. Other homework will include special projects and contests in math and reading.

I

Interims

Interim reports will be posted on RenWeb at the mid-way point of the grading periods.

J

Journals

Writing is an essential part of our school day! One place we will write is in our journals. Wait until you see the progress at the end of the year!

K

Keep Updated

You can keep updated on classroom events and happenings by checking out our class website (www.jensclassonline.com), reading our class calendars, and checking the EAGLE notebooks nightly.

L

Labeling Items

Please label your child's backpack, lunch box, coat, hats, and other items. Many children have similar items and it really helps if things get lost!

Library

Your child will begin checking out a library book once a week this year. Late fees will be charged for all late books. Please help your child keep up with it. It would be a good idea to keep it in the EAGLE notebook for safe keeping.

Lunch

Our class eats lunch from 11:30-12:00 each day. We eat in our classroom. Children are allowed to talk quietly during this time. No soft drinks allowed Monday through Thursday.

- Friday Hot Lunch: Forms are sent home in the Tuesday folder each week and must be returned with money on Wednesday. The office will not accept late orders.
- Pizza Lunch: There is not a form for pizza lunches. It is \$1.25 per slice and the money is due every Monday. Send a note and money in the EAGLE notebook. The office will not accept late orders.

M

Mystery Reader

This is a fun way to become involved in your child's classroom. Sign up for a date to be our "mystery reader". The mystery reader sends in five clues about his/her identity to be read to the class during the week. Then on Friday, you show up to read a book of your choice to us! The students love it!

N

No School

The RenWeb calendar and our school calendar shows all the scheduled days that there is no school. In the event of inclement weather, check the local TV and radio stations.

O

Open House

Open House will take place in the spring. Please plan to attend. We will have work displayed in our classroom, and you may visit with your teacher for the upcoming year!

P

Parent Pick-up

Please use your car tag in the pick-up line. It is helpful for the teachers to quickly identify you. Turn off your engine on white top while the children are walking out to the cars.

If someone other than yourself is picking up your child, make sure they have the car tag or a note was sent from home with the child. The driver will need to park and go through the office otherwise.

PTF

Parent Teacher Fellowship

So many of the resources available at Greenville Christian School are a result of the cooperation between parents and teachers in the PTF. They will email you with meeting dates and times. Please plan to join the fun!

Q

Quick and Quiet Hellos

A quick and quiet hello to your child when you arrive to volunteer is always welcome. This allows your child to stay focused and get right back to learning!

R

Report Cards

Report cards will be posted on RenWeb every nine weeks. Each quarter ends on the following dates:

- October 16 1st grading period ends
- December 21 2nd grading period ends
- March 7 3rd grading period ends
- May 22 4th grading period ends

Recess

We have recess daily. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We will go outside as long as the weather is above 50 degrees. In case of inclement weather or ozone alert days, we will have recess inside our classroom.

S

Snack

We will have a mid-morning snack every day. This snack must be something healthy such as fruit or crackers. Please do not send soda, cookies, or chips for snack!

T

Teacher

My name is Mrs. Jennifer Simpson and I am excited to be your child's teacher this year. This is my fourth year in first grade at Greenville Christian School.

I grew up in Palestine, Texas and moved to Downsville, Louisiana my senior year of high school. I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. I taught 4th and 5th grades at River Oaks School in Louisiana and 2nd grade at Canyon Creek Christian Academy in Richardson, Texas.

I am a mother to a daughter in third grade and five year old twin boys. My life has been blessed with a beautiful family and a wonderful career.

Toys

Please remember to leave toys and other play items at home. They often pose a distraction and I worry about them getting lost or "borrowed" indefinitely.

U

Useful Tips

1. Be patient with your child's efforts. Remember that practice is important and we all learn at a different pace.
2. Read, read, read!
3. Read to your child, too. Remember that your child's listening vocabulary is much larger than his reading vocabulary!
4. Ask your child questions about what you've read to help instill comprehension.
5. Don't forget to enjoy good books with your child as they journey into the world of literature.

V

Visitors

Please make sure to stop by the office anytime you are volunteering or visiting our school. This helps ensure the safety of all of our students.

Volunteers

One thing we always wish for is volunteers! Here are some great areas in which you may volunteer:

1. Tuesday Folders: Come to our classroom on Tuesdays (anytime before 2:00) and sort our graded papers, notes, lunch forms, etc. into our Tuesday folders to send home.
2. Tuesday Lunches: Come to our classroom during lunch on Tuesday (it was Wednesday in the past) to supervise lunch and recess while the teachers have this one day a week to enjoy lunch together in the library.
3. Room Mom or Dad: Coordinates parties and activities.
4. Mystery Readers: Reads to the class on Friday.
5. Field Trip Drivers: We always need drivers. Due to gas prices, I will try and keep our field trips within a reasonable distance.
6. Young Authors and Illustrators Olympics: We will need several volunteers to sell author's books and help with workshops during this exciting event.
7. Speakers/Presenters: We could use any outside information, pictures, slideshows, etc. on our fun topics in social studies or science!
8. Helpers: We always need a few extra hands for art projects, parties, and activities.

W

Website

Check out our class website for important information pertaining to our class! Be sure to bookmark it. The address for Mrs. Simpson's First Grade Class website is:

www.jensclassonline.com

Please let me know if there is something I could add to make it better. It is definitely a "work in progress"!

Wish List

There are always items we need for projects or just for class needs. The ever changing list is posted on the website. Some items we always need include:

- Wet wipes
- Shaving cream
- Extra pencils, crayons, markers
- Ziplock baggies
- 100 pc. Puzzles
- Extra glue sticks
- Playground Toys
- Pipe cleaners
- Playdough
- Lysol
- GermX

X

eXciting Projects

Some fun projects for your first grader include:

1. Young Authors and Illustrators Olympics
2. Animal Report
3. Book Report
4. Reading Contest
5. Math Contest

Y

You!

YOU are your child's first teacher and I need your help to make his/her first grade year a success. Strong family-school partnerships build strong learners. Thanks for all you do!

Z

ZZZZZZ....

Please make sure your child gets lots of sleep each night. Our day is quite busy and packed full of fun! We want to make sure that he/she is ready to do his/her best!