

Welcome to First Grade 2018-19

Laurie Porter & Sherry Yau

We are looking forward to a wonderful year! Here are a few things to help you and your child get settled in our first grade classrooms.

In Utah Dual Language Immersion (DLI) first grades, English Language Arts, Social Studies and Science are taught in the English portion of the day. Math and Mandarin Language are the main content focus of Chinese class. However, we try to support the student needs and curriculum in both languages. Please feel free to communicate with both of us.

Mrs. Laurie Porter
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Sherry Yau
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Mrs. L. Porter/Yau Classroom Supplies: Each child is invited to bring a set of supplies. Please see the supply list. Many of these items are communal so the only items that need to be labeled with your child's name are the backpack and the 1" ring binder, with front pockets if possible. Please send the binder to school as soon as possible.

Classroom Donation: Our first grade class has occasional snacks, a number of science experiences and field trips. We are asking for a \$20.00 donation to help defray PART of these expenses. We may ask for additional funds throughout the year; such as, field trip admission costs. If paying by check, please make the check out to *Wasatch Elementary School*. However, *no child will be excluded from an activity based on the inability to pay.*

Newsletters and Green Folders: Each student will receive two green folders, one for English and the other for Chinese. Each Monday Mrs. Porter will place a weekly newsletter, *Porter Report*, in your child's English green folder along with an English Homework Record for the week. Please take time to read the newsletter EACH week. Students are responsible for this folder and need to return homework in the folder the following Monday. **This is our main source of communication with you.** Mrs. Yau will also send math and Chinese homework in the green Chinese folder, and email homework information.

Green folders in both Chinese and English classes should be returned every Monday!

English Homework: English homework will usually consist of reviewing weekly High Frequency words, and at least one weekly Language Art Activity from a monthly Homework Activity list. The most important part of English homework, however, is **reading** with and to your first grader☺

Your student will be able to check out books from the Wasatch School Library every Friday morning, as well as, before and after school. In September, we also will begin sending home non-fiction "baggie books." The books should be on your student's independent reading level. If the baggie books seem too easy for your child, please send a note in the bag requesting, "Move up one level." Remember, though, that if books become too difficult, students may lose interest in reading.

Reading: Each student is expected to **READ** at least 15 minutes daily for 5 days, 75 minutes total per week. Language Arts instruction can play an important part in developing readers and writers; even more important is building a LOVE for learning and reading. Reading consistently can bring a lifetime of learning and is the number one *academic* indicator of future success in school! Please record minutes read at home on the weekly English Homework Record Sheet.

Birthdays: We will have a simple celebration on/around your child's Birthday or ½ Birthday. You may send/bring a small favor or *purchased* snack to share with the class on this day; however this is optional☺ Non-edible items are welcome. In order to be in compliance with the Provo School District Wellness Policy please be aware of the following: *Treats shall be offered infrequently in classrooms. Snack food choices offered must be less than 300 calories and must be commercially prepared and packaged*

VIP/Family Presentations: One of our favorite things in first grade is a visit from each child's family. Families share different things about themselves and their students. More information about this visit will be emailed the week before your child's special week. Please sign up for a Family Presentation week if you haven't already.

Volunteering: You may have already volunteered to help our class in some way, thank you! We will also send notes and e-mails for parents interested in helping our class as needs arise. Parent Room Representatives may call or e-mail asking for your help with school activities and class parties. *Please record your service hours, so PAWS can keep a record of service hours donated to Wasatch.*

Toys/Items from Home: Please encourage your child keep small toys/trinkets at home. Toys/trinkets can be lost, stolen or distract students from learning.

Show and Tell: We will have Show and Tell four times this year around the end of each school quarter. We also encourage children to bring stories written at home to share with our class anytime. Occasionally, we will ask children to bring an item that goes with a thematic study, and of course, we always want to celebrate life: special family trips, new siblings, lost teeth, etc.

We hope this will be an terrific first grade year for your child. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Positive Behavior Focus:

Safety...Respect...Responsible...Serve... and Ready to Learn

This year we will focus on some positive behaviors our wonderful PAWS organization has selected.