

The ABCs of First Grade Grace Lutheran School 2016-2017

*By Mrs. Schneider and
Mrs. Jung*



~ A little bit about Mrs. Schneider~

Welcome to First Grade!!! I am looking forward to teaching your child and working with you to create solid building blocks for their educational, spiritual, emotional, and social growth. This is my eighth year at Grace Lutheran and it will be my seventh year teaching first grade. I graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2008 with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a degree in Art Education. I love working at Grace and I love working with little kids! My faith in Jesus is the most important thing in my life and I am blessed to be able to share that each day with my students. My husband's name is Pete and we have three girls. Nora will be in Second Grade, Daphne in Kindergarten, and Lucy is almost 2. I love spending time with my family, being outside, exercising, photography, sewing, and traveling. Packer fans beware: I was born in Chicago, therefore I will die a BEARS and CUBS fan!

~A little bit about Mrs. Jung~

I am very excited to be teaching First Grade this year and looking forward to getting to know you and your child! I graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a degree in Elementary Education PreK-6. This is my first year at Grace Lutheran but my third year in a classroom! My husband Joey and I were recently blessed with a new baby girl, Sophia. We also have a very playful 3 year old dog named Bentley. Along with spending time with my family I love any outdoor activity (especially hiking), reading and traveling. It is going to be a great year!

That is a little bit about us, but what about first grade?? Well, You need to know your ABCs to learn how to read, we have made a new set of ABC's to help you learn about first grade. In order to make this year as successful as we can, We encourage lots of communication throughout the year as you have any questions, concerns, and joys to share with us.

Looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Schneider and Mrs. Jung

THE ABCS OF FIRST GRADE

A is for AR Tests. AR stands for Accelerated Reader. As students become comfortable and fluent with their reading skills, they will go to the reading room and check out books. These books are to be taken home to read and upon returning books to the library students will take a short comprehension test. As first graders we do not have any requirements for points or visits to the library and goals will be set based upon a child's reading abilities. We are working towards a few visits to the library for tests per week by the end of the year. Please see me if you have questions about this, or you may see Cheryl Eggold, our reading specialist. Students will also take a STAR reading assessment three times this year. More information will come home when these tests take place.

B is for Birthdays! We have a lot of fun celebrating birthdays in first grade. You may send a birthday treat with your child on or near their birthday. Please make sure you send enough for everyone in the class. (17) If your child has a summer birthday we will celebrate together the last week of school!

C is for Chapel. On Wednesdays we have chapel. A small envelope will come home in Take Home Folders on Tuesday night if you wish to send in offering. Each trimester a new organization is chosen as our offering recipients and I will let you know what those are as they are decided. We will be chapel buddies and go to chapel with them once a month. Chapel dress code is required on chapel days, no jeans or shorts. Each week some students will be nominated for a "Walk Worthy" award. Students who are caught showing a great example or going out of their way to be a disciple of Christ will have their name read aloud in chapel.

D is for dismissal. Students are dismissed at 3:00. Mrs. Jung will walk students to blue line for parent pick-up. Extended care students will be picked up from our classroom a few minutes before 3:00. Students riding the bus will meet in the second grade classroom with Miss. Wunder until their bus has been called.

E is for Extra Teacher!! We have two teachers in first grade, who share time 50/50. We have split subjects according to each teacher's passions and experience. Each subject will be taught by the same teacher each day. For example, Mrs. Jung will always teach Math while Mrs. Schneider will always teach Religion. Refer to our schedule to see more about this split and always come see us if you have questions. If you email us through Sycamore we will both be able to see your messages. This is the best way to get ahold of us.

F is for Field Trips. Throughout the year we will go on various field trips including a pumpkin farm, a trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum, an end of the year picnic, and more. Information, permission slips, and chaperone sign ups will be available a few weeks before each field trip.

G is for Green !! As part of our disciplinary strategy we use Green (Ready Learn) , Yellow (Slow Down), Orange (Think About It..) Red (Parent Contact), Blue (Good Job), Purple (Great Job) and Pink (Outstanding) colors to monitor behavior. Students will all have a clip to move from color to color on a chart board. If a red color has already been given and another incident occurs or student behavior is disruptive of another's safety or learning student will be sent to principal's office and parents will be notified.

- Positive reinforcement is the number 1 policy for classroom management in first grade. Students will be rewarded on an individual and whole class basis for good choices made. Incentive cards, classroom rewards, kindness

tickets, nominations to the Walk Worthy award, and notes are all used to recognize positive behavior.

H is for Handwriting. We focus a lot on handwriting in first grade. We will work together in all we do to write small and neat. By the middle of the year students will be expected to use all lowercase letters in their writing and spelling tests. We use a Zaner Bloser curriculum and complete one whole class lesson per week.

I is for Independence. A big part of first grade is working on independence. Your little boy/girl is growing up and in first grade we will work on skills to help foster independence. Students are expected to take care of their own supplies and materials, hang up their own backpack, sharpen pencils, turn in papers, start morning activities and complete reading room tests on their own. Please feel free to come in with your child in the morning, but also respect his/her routine, and allow for him/her to complete the tasks needed to get started on his/her day. There will be a morning task each morning at each seat that students will get right to work on in the morning. Please let them do this on their own- the purpose of these tasks is to get their brains thinking and their independence growing! Homework will be sent home in take home folders. Their most common 'assignments' will be daily math work and learning spelling words for our Friday tests. If there is anything else that needs to be worked on at home, we will make a note and send it home- please help your child as best as you can!

J is for Journals. Two times a week we will write in a writing journal. Topics and tasks will vary but we are working on phonics, writing, creativity and attention when we work in our journals. At the beginning of the year entries will be about 1-3 sentences long or about 10 minutes. By the end of the year entries will be about 1 page in length, with students working for about 20 minutes.

K is for keeping our things organized. This includes on our hooks in the hallway, at the lunch table and the items in our room and around school. We are all responsible and take ownership in keeping our school clean and neat.

L is for Language Arts. This is a major part of our day! So many new skills in Language Arts come in first grade, most importantly fluency in reading. We will spend almost all morning everyday working on Language Arts. This entails phonics, sight words, reading skills, listening skills, reasoning and comprehension, spelling, writing, reading groups, vowel sounds, and more. We use a Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop structure. We use some elements of Daily Five along with this to provide appropriate whole group and small group instructional time.

M is for Math. Math topics in First grade include work with basic facts and fact families. We use the Saxon Math -Second Grade Curriculum. We will work through a morning meeting, guided practice together, and an independent worksheet in class. There will be homework each night for the students which will be a little different. It is a very short sheet that should only take 5-7 minutes. We will use a variety of manipulatives to demonstrate math procedures.

N is for Newsletter. A weekly newsletter will be sent home each Friday that includes a review of our week, Spelling words and memory for the upcoming

week, important dates and other information. You can find both of these on our classroom Sycamore page.

O is for online help. You can find much of what you will need online. Our class website is grace1stgrade.weebly.com. This is where you will find lots of information on first grade including our weekly newsletters, spelling lists, memory work, teacher contact information, and much more! You can find a link to this website on Sycamore, which is our main source of communication. Please use Sycamore to email us , as we are both able to access this.

P is for Parent Helpers! Parents are always welcome in our room! To continue with a productive and distraction free schedule please see us if you would like to come to the room to help with anything such as art projects, reading groups, recess duty, various classroom tasks, etc. We would love to set up a time for you to come in! If you are not able to come in the room there are many other ways to help out-just ask! (All parents must sign in and out in the office when they visit the school.) We need a parent at recess to help each day. If you would be interested in this , please contact Mrs. Eggold at ceggold@gracemenomoneefalls.org.

Q is for quality work. We encourage students to do their best work and try their hardest. This is expected in all content areas including Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies and Science. We have parent teacher conferences in the fall but if we feel these expectations of quality work are not be met we can meet before then.

R is for report cards. Reports cards will be issued each trimester. Grades for the report cards will primarily consist of information gathered from class work and participation. Grades recorded throughout the year that will be seen on report cards include Spelling Test (twice a week) , Math Tests and work, Language Arts (Workshop Work) and Memory (due by Friday). Other areas include Religion, Social Studies, Science, Choir, Work Habits, Gym, and Language Arts.

S is for Spotlights. Throughout the year we will focus on a spotlight Author, Artist, Song, or Student. Some will be by the week, some by the month. For Star of the Week. Your child will have a turn to be the star of the week. When it is their week you will receive a note home about it. They will have a chance to bring in the estimation jar, share their favorite Bible story, a special show and tell, and invite a special person to come and read to our class. More information and a schedule of Star of the Week dates will come home after the year has started.

T is for Technology. Technology is one of the four parts to a Science program we will use this year. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This will not take place of our current curriculum, but it will be an additional and multisensory exploration. STEM activities will often involve our buddies, other classes, and many fun explorations. We will have a few STEM projects throughout the year.

U is for Use of the Smartboard. We have a Smartboard in our room and will be using it often to explore our curriculum areas through live webcasts, games,

programs, and other interactive whiteboard lessons. We also use Chromebooks daily. We will use them in Language Arts and Math as well as center time, etc.

V is for vocal performances. Students will be asked to sing in church and various plays and programs throughout the year. Church singing is very important as we are using the talents God has given to us to praise Him. It is also important to be visible in the church as they provide our school with a large percentage of our funding! Choir grades are also dependent on participation. Please recognize these situations as important and make it a priority to be there. Please see us if you are not able to make it.

W is for winter gear. When the time (sadly) comes for the need to wear snowpants and boots, please send appropriate clothing with your child. Make sure to send items that your child can put on and take off by themselves. We will be there to help, but 17 pairs of boots and snowpants would take all recess long to put on! These items will be sent home each night or can remain in a bag on their hooks for the season if you prefer. If a child does not come prepared for the snow they will need to stay on the blacktop for recess.

X is for Xtra math. Students will have the opportunity to enhance their math skills through extra math practice. One way they will be doing this is through the program Xtra math and Ten-Marks. These are both online resources that each student will have their own log -in to use. They will provide very detailed progress reports that we can use in assessments and planning. More information will be sent home as these are implemented in the classroom.

Y is for yummy snacks. Each morning we will have a designated snack time. Please send a HEALTHY snack with your child each day. Chips, cookies, candy, chocolate, desserts, or donuts are not considered a healthy, brain boosting snack.

We have about 10 minutes for snack so something like a piece of fruit , granola bar, yogurt, cheese and crackers, or cereal would be good choices.

Z is for the end of the line! In first grade we will learn our 'ABC order' and learn to number our papers and stand in line in the correct order. Some of the time we will use backwards ABC order to give those end of the alphabet friends a turn to walk in front!!

There you have it, with the First Grade ABCs you should be ready to take on the year. If you still have any, ANY, questions at all please stop in and see us or email us, we want us all to be on the same page and as ready as we can be! May God Bless you and your entire family as we learn and grow together this year!