The ABC’s of 1st Grade

Ms. Harp’s Class

**Attendance.** Please make sure that your child is at school daily. If he/she is sick, etc. please complete an absentee form found in your child’s binder or send in a note within 3 days.

If you would like to send a **birthday** treat with your child on or near his/her birthday, please feel free to do so. Please let me know in advance so we can plan for this during our regular snack or lunch time. Please do not send **birthday party invitations** to be distributed at school unless *all* children receive an invitation.

Communication: Parent-teacher communication is extremely important for your child’s success. My contact information can be found in the front of your child’s binder. Email is the fastest way to get in contact with me.

[Harpm@santarosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:Harpm@santarosa.k12.fl.us)

**Conferences** are welcomed!

**Discipline** is simple. We have a behavior clip chart. Your child can move up or down the chart throughout the day depending on his/her behavior. Each student starts the day on “Ready to Swim”, which stands for a great day. Students move down to “Pinched” when they receive a warning. Students miss recess if they move down to “Stung”. Students go to the office and get a note/call home if they move to “Bite”. We also have school-wide STAR bucks that can be earned from the classroom teacher, as well as any activity teachers.

Our classroom expectations are:

1. Be respectful

2. Be responsible

3. Be safe

My school **email address** is Harpm@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us. I check email daily. If you have an **email address** that you’d like me to be aware of, please let me know. I will add you to the distribution list! 

**Early Release Days** will take place periodically throughout the year. You will be notified via our weekly newsletter.

We will go on two **field trips** this school year. Information will come home in the binder and will be detailed in the field trip permission slip and weekly newsletter.

Graded papers will come home periodically (about every two weeks). This year, students will take an active role in tracking their learning and progress. Please initial that you have seen your child’s grades and send all work back in the folder. I keep it for my records.

Grading Scale: 90-100 A; 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D

Students will have **homework** in 1st grade. Homework packets will be given each Monday and should be returned on Friday. The packets will contain phonics and math skills.

**Independence** is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. First graders are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Becoming an independent “problem-solver” is a goal in our classroom.

Writing takes place every day in our classroom. One way we accomplish this is through writing small moments in our **journals** daily. Encourage your child to write at home for a variety of purposes.

**Keep updated** by reading the classroom newsletter every month.

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Your child will be able to visit the **library** and check books out independently (in groups of 4 with classmates) after a few weeks of school. We will be spending a lot of time practicing choosing “Just Right” books for independent reading.

If **lunch money** is sent to school, please send it in the binder in an envelope labeled with child’s name, teacher’s name, grade, and lunch #. You may pay weekly or the easiest, most convenient way to pay is online at [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com).

Our **Literacy Block** is a time for your child to experience independent literacy activities while working on vocabulary, phonemic awareness, phonics, sight words, comprehension, writing, and word work. Our Literacy Block is 90 minutes long each morning. Please avoid checking your child out or in during this time to minimize interruptions.

The children will have **music** class once every seven days on our color day rotation. Our music teacher is Mr. Terry.

The **math** curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards math. Our Math Series is Harcourt Go Math! Florida. Students will also work in small groups during Math Centers while I meet with small groups of children for “guided math.”

A weekly **newsletter** will be sent home Monthly to keep you informed about what is happening in our class. And could also be found on our class website.

**Open House** will take place a few weeks after school begins. Please check the weekly newsletter to see specific dates/times. Please come if at all possible! This is a special time that I know your child will be excited for. They just love to show you what they have been working on in our classroom.

We will have **PE** 5 times during each seven day color rotation schedule (see schedule label in your child’s Hydro binder for specific days). Please make sure your child wears *tennis shoes* to school EACH day for his/her safety. If we do not have PE, we will always be going out for recess on the **playground**. This is EXTREMELY important! Thank you for your help with this!

**Questions**? Please feel free to call, email, or send a note.

* [harpm@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:harpm@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us)
* 850-936-6000 \*Leave a message with Connie in the Front Office

I will teach reading reading groups during our 90 Minute Literacy Bloc along with a short whole group lesson. We will also participate in small group independent centers in which your child will participate in reading activities on his/her level.

We will have **recess** each day for 15-30 minutes depending on our schedule. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately (tennis shoes, jackets/hat/gloves for cooler weather, etc.).

 Our **science** curriculum is given through STEAM teaching practices. The focus of our series is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Science concepts and skills will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach. Please check our **Supply List** to find the items your child needs for first grade at WNP. Supplies *do not* need to be labeled, as most of our supplies are used as “community materials” amongst the children.

**Snacks** will be eaten daily. Please send a healthy snack to school with your child. Water only, no juices.

If your child has any changes in their **transportation**, you must send a *detailed* note in your child’s binder that is dated and signed. **No transportation changes will be accepted over the phone OR by email.** Thank you for ensuring your child’s safety!

**Update** your contact information including changes in phone numbers, emails, and addresses promptly with the front office and the teacher.

**Volunteers** and **visitors** must fill out a Volunteer Application Form before being permitted on field trips, in the school, or working in the classroom. I encourage volunteers as much as possible! Please let me know how you would like to help in our classroom.

**** **WEB Site**: **http://harpshydrokids.weebly.com/**

Please take a look at our class **Wish List (found on our class web site)** and see if you contribute any of the items listed. Your contributions are GREATLY appreciated by me and all of the children. 

Parents and family members must **exit** and enter via the *main* school entry. This is for the safety of your child. *Thank you!*

**Your ideas**…and suggestions are welcome! Please always let me know if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.

**Zzzzzzz** - Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child.