
Back to School Night

2023-24

Ms. Clark

Meet Your Teacher

Ms. Clark moved to Virginia from Pittsburgh, PA. She attended Saint Francis College (now Saint Francis University) earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. While attending SFC, she played on the Women's Basketball Team. She enrolled at George Mason University to earn her Virginia teacher's license and Masters Degree in Elementary Education. She enjoys playing golf and watching her favorite team, the Pittsburgh Steelers! Ms. Clark is very excited to be teaching first grade this year!

Arcola Administrative



The administrative team at Arcola Elementary is thrilled to begin another school year! We look forward to empowering every Dragon to make meaningful contributions to the world.

Andrew Stevens, Principal
Steve Charlish, Asst. Principal
Amber Meisenheimer, Dean

School Supplies

**Supplies can be found on Arcola's webpage. Let us know if you need help finding or purchasing anything.

Please bring in **headphones to keep at school.



Your child can have a **water bottle on their desks. Only water is permitted in the classroom. Juice can be taken to the cafeteria for lunch.

Please send in a **clean sock to use as an eraser for their white boards.

**Wishlist/classroom donations: Can be found on my webpage.

**Baby wipes and paper towels for cleaning after snacks



Chromebooks

Chromebooks can stay at school or be brought back and forth. Please decide what is best for your family. If they stay at school, label your child's cord and chromebook. If your child brings it daily, it needs to be fully charged.



Grading

Students will be given assessments and grades.

Formative Assessments:

- Participation and verbal responses
- Observation
- You can monitor the progress of in Seesaw and work coming home.

Summative Assessments

- Observation/hands on
- limited paper and pencil assessments
- Grades will post in Phoenix

I will communicate with you if your child needs extra practice in an area.

. : Specials and Lunch Schedule : .

Specials are from 9:50-10:40

Monday: PE

Tuesday: Music

**Wednesday: A→School Counseling & SEARCH
B→*Library**

Thursday: PE

Friday: Art

There will be daily morning checkout in the library before the 7:30 bell.

Lunch is daily from 11:35-12:50

Snack →Morning snack will be optional. Please make it easy to open and can be eaten within 10 minutes. It may be easier to pack it separately from your child's lunch.

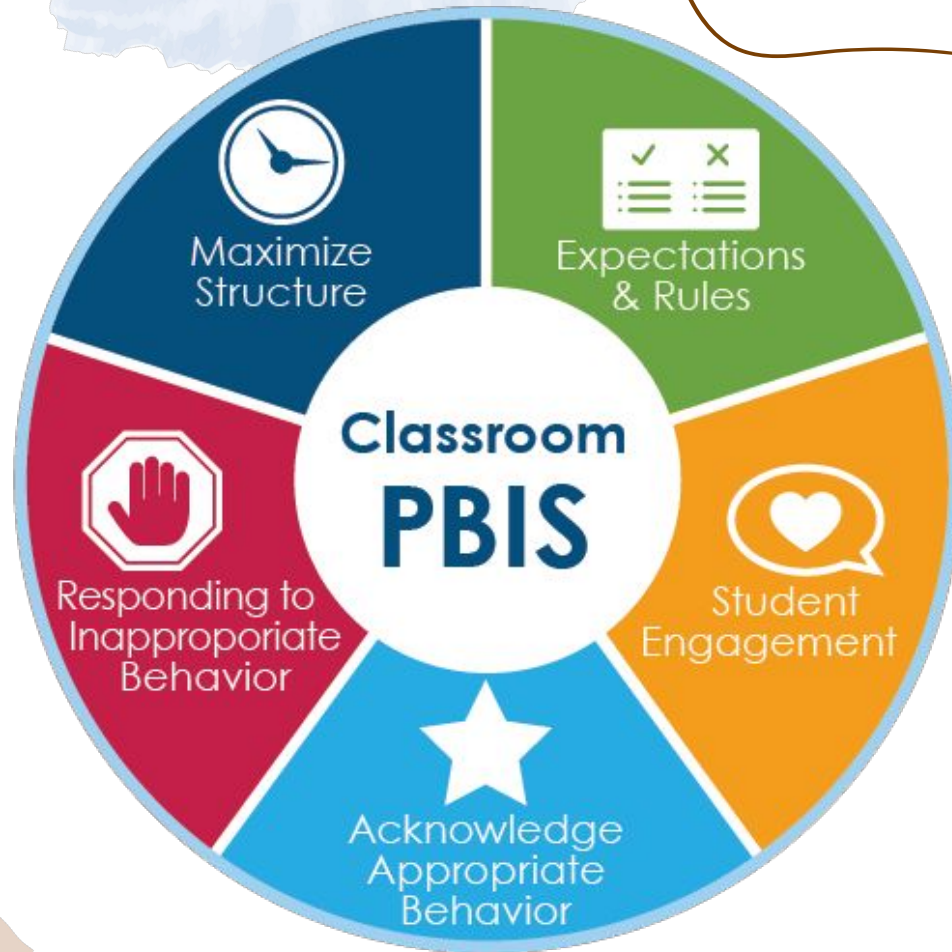
. : Snack & Water Bottle : .

- We will have a working optional morning snack.
- Must be something that your child is able to open independently and eat within five to ten minutes.
- Please send your child with a spill proof water bottle for them to keep on their desk.
- Only water is allowed in the classroom.
- Pack separately if possible.

Seesaw

Please sign up as a parent for Seesaw using the Seesaw Family App. You will be able to see work your child is doing while at school. There is a QR code specific to your child on his/her desk.





Positive Behavior Expectations

ARCOLA DRAGONS ROAR				
	Respectful	Organized	Attitude	Responsible
Whole School	Wear your mask	Be prepared to learn	Hands and feet to self	Keep distance from others
Cafeteria	Use a quiet / kind voice Raise your hand to ask for help	Eat your lunch Line up quietly	Eat your own food	Stay seated Clean up your table Pay attention to adults
Playground	Be kind to others We watch and listen	Take Turns Line up when called	Use kind words	Use equipment appropriately Bring in what you brought out Be Careful & Stay Safe
Hallways	Silent voice	Face forward Stay in single file line	We watch and listen	Walking feet on the right
Bus	Listen to the bus driver	Go straight to your bus at dismissal	Remain seated	Remember your belongings
Bathrooms	Honor privacy	Use the bathroom Flush toilet	Wash your hands	Towels in trash
SEL Connection	Greet classmates / use manners Use kind words and faces Relationship Skills Respect other students' learning	Have supplies ready Helpful Thoughts Self Awareness	Be positive Social Awareness Be patient Self Control	Participate Follow all directions Stay on topic Make Good Choices

Dragon Dollars



Dragon Dollars



How Many

Goal

Working Towards: _____

Respectful Organized Attitude Responsible

Our class will earn Dragon Dollars for making good choices in school.

First Grade Curriculum (Quarter 1)

9 week plans can be found on my webpage and the first grade webpage.

- The focus for math will be number sense. Counting to 110, skip counting and learning to use the base 10 system.
- In reading the focus will be building a love of reading and focusing on phonic skills especially short vowels and phonics.

Homework

Homework Ideas

(there is not an official homework log)

Let your child be involved in the choosing their activity.

- *Read to or with your child daily.
- Play phonics games (can be found on my webpage)
- Practice Heart Words
- Zearn→complete math lessons



*If your child needs extra practice in a skill, I will reach out and let you know what skills to practice at home.

Attendance and After School Plans

- Please make sure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and arrives on time each day. Instruction begins at **7:30** and doors open at 7:10.
- Your child must have a written note or email in order to change after-school dismissal arrangements.

School Attendance

Build the Habit of Good Attendance

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Lay out clothes/backpacks night before
- Encourage your child to attend every day

Why is this important?

- The routines we establish in elementary school set habits for a lifetime.
- Too many absences result in falling behind.
- Students can fall behind if they miss just 1-2 days every few weeks!

Did you know...

- Missing 10%, or just 2 days each month, over the course of a year makes it harder for students to learn to read.
- Over time, at this rate, students will miss one full year by the time they graduate.
- Students' attendance in school is mandatory and required by law.

Excused absences include:

Child's illness

Child's medical or dental appointment (child can arrive late or leave early as well)

Death in family

Court appointments

Military obligations

- Family trips are not excused absences

WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.



Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).



Adapted with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools.

Information

Webpage: Most information can be found on my webpage including:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Quarterly plans
- Scholastic Orders
- Homework Ideas (Heart Word Lists)
- Classroom Wishlist

Dragon Tales: A weekly Newsletter emailed each week from Mr. Stevens.

PTA: <http://arcola.my-pta.org/> Check the PTA website for school events.

Communication

Emails: jen.clark@lcps.org

Thursday Folders: These will go home on Thursday if there is information from the school. Please return them the next day.

Daily Folders: These should be checked daily and will travel to and from school each day.

Seesaw App: You can use the text feature to text me any important information and will be able to see your child's progress.

Field Trip

- We will have a Field Trip this year.
- We will let you know more information once it is planned.



3 Parties

Room parents will plan our parties and share the information with the class.

- Fall Party
- Winter Party
- End of year Party

Birthdays

- No class treats
- If you are going to pass out invitations at school, you **MUST** pass them out to everyone.**



Volunteer Opportunities

Room Parents: Your responsibility will be to plan our 3 parties and communicate with the PTA for our class as needed.

Thursday Parent: Will come in on Thursdays and place papers in the Thursday Folders and make copies as needed.

In Class Volunteer: Parents will come in to work with small groups during our literacy or math blocks.

Copy Parent: Will copy and laminate as needed.

****Please look for the sign up sheets on my desk.**

How Your Child Gets Home

[Transportation Form](#)



Let's Have a Little Fun

- Learning will be fun, active, and engaging for all children.
- Students will investigate, explore, problem solve, and learn together.
- Students will justify their answers to help others learn and gain a deeper understanding.
- Students will explore and learn in a variety of ways. They will spend very little time on worksheets!
- Your child's work will have positive comments or engaging questions.(Even if it is all incorrect)
- **Did you know...**most 6 year olds are only able to sit still for 6 minutes!

What's Next?

Open House: Wednesday, August 24th between 10:15-11:30. Bring your supplies unlabeled to unpack.

First Day of School: Thursday, August 25th. School starts at 7:30!

Sign up for **Seesaw**

Fill out the **transportation** form. [Transportation Form](#)

Sign up for **Volunteer** opportunities



Thank you for your support!



Questions?

Room Parents-

Will plan parties and connect with the PTA.

Name	email
1.	
2.	

In Classroom Volunteers-

Will work with students during reading or math workshop.

Name	email
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Copy Parents-

Will make copies, cut things out and laminate as needed.

Name	email
1.	
2.	

Thursday Parent- On Thursdays will place the items in the folder and some copying as needed.

Name	email
1.	