

# Franklin Elementary School

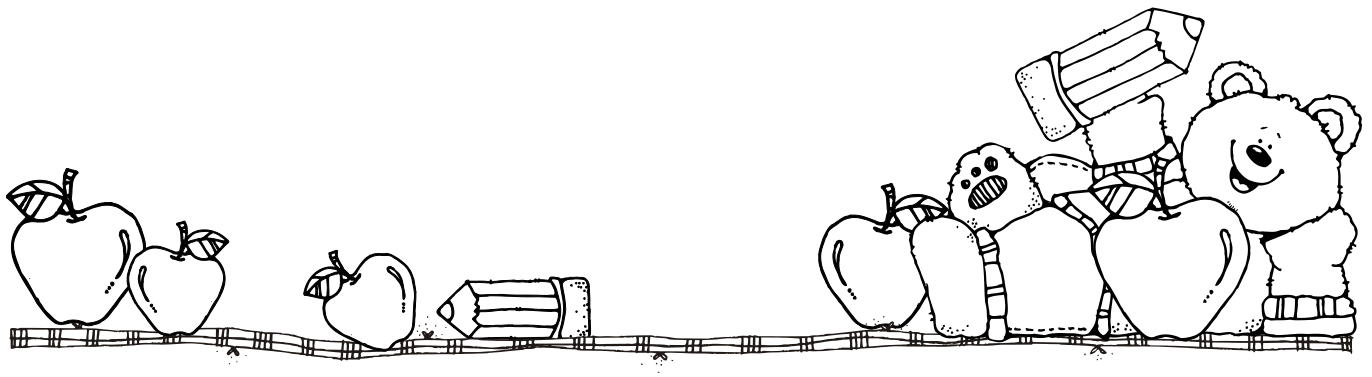
## First Grade Handbook 2010-2011

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### SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.egusd.net/franklin/>



### Classroom Rules

In First Grade we focus on five simple rules:

1. Do our best
2. Raise our hands
3. Bathroom and drinks at recess
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to ourselves
5. Always be kind

### Behavior Management

It is our objective to provide each student with the maximum opportunity to learn each day. Most problems will be solved through classroom management. At Franklin Elementary we use Setting Limits in the Classroom by Rob McKenzie. Setting Limits enables children to make choices to monitor their own behavior, while using natural consequences. If a child continues to make a poor choice, they will go on a time-out. If they misbehave while on a time-out, they will go to a buddy room for a longer time-out. If a problem continues, you will be contacted. Students who receive less than three time-outs per week AND turn in completed homework will participate in "Fun Friday". This is a time when first grade gets together to play games, do art projects, extra P.E., or watch a video.

### Homework

Homework packets will be sent home every Friday and need to be returned on the following Friday. Homework will always include math, reading, and spelling (which will start the fourth week). Sometimes there will be additional assignments in social studies, science, and writing. Homework is not only useful in reinforcing skills but also in developing responsibility and accountability. It is your child's responsibility to complete all work and to make sure it is turned in on Friday. If homework is not turned in or is incomplete, they will not be able to participate in "Fun Friday".

### Book Orders

We will send home book orders periodically. These book orders offer children's books at very affordable prices. Ordering is completely optional, however the more books our class purchases, the more points we earn for classroom books and materials. If you do purchase books, please send payment in with the order and please send checks made payable to the book club we are ordering from. **Do not send cash.** Books normally arrive within 2 weeks after the order is placed.

### Snacks

The Elk Grove Unified School District has implemented a "Wellness Policy" for all schools. Classroom snacks and celebrations should reinforce the importance of healthy choices and will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health. Please do not send food items such as sodas, Cheetos, candy, or other sweets for your child's snack. Some examples of healthy snacks include: granola bars, pretzels, cut up fruit, or baby carrots.

For more information about our district's wellness policy, including a list of healthy snacks, go to: <http://www.egusd.net/nutrition/wellness.htm>

### Water Bottles

Studies have shown water helps the brain function at its fullest. Even though we have regular water breaks at school, students may want/need water more often. You may send a water bottle with your child if you would like, but it is not required. Your child will be allowed to keep the bottle at their desk and fill it up during recess times. Students may bring water bottles with secure, squirt top lids. They should be cleaned and washed out daily to prevent the growth of germs. Students are asked to be responsible with their water bottles, or they will lose the privilege of having them. Please **DO NOT** freeze the water as they leak all over desks as they thaw out. **Students may only have water in their water bottles.**

### Birthdays

Birthdays are special and will be celebrated in the classroom. We ask that you **DO NOT** send in any food treats to share with the class. You are not obligated to send anything, but if your child would like to share something with the class we suggest either goody bags filled with small toys, pencils, etc. or you may donate a book for our classroom library. Be sure to have the child sign the inside of the book. If you are having a birthday party at home, please do not send invitations to school unless all students are being invited. This helps to avoid hurt feelings since news travels fast in First Grade!

### Classroom Volunteers

We love having parents and family members help our class throughout the year. There are many ways you can participate. We have provided you with a volunteer survey sheet that outlines the various opportunities. We ask that you not bring in younger siblings while volunteering. If you do have younger children, there are opportunities to help at home. We will need several volunteers during Franklin's annual Harvest Festival. This is our main fund raiser for the year and requires a lot of help. The date for the Harvest Festival will be Friday, October 22. This is a great time to volunteer if you are unable to come in during the school week. We also need a Class V.I.P. (Very Important Parent). This person will be in charge of organizing volunteers, communicating with other parents on classroom needs and events, and helping with class parties.

### Field Trips

We will be going on three field trips this year. We will attend an IMAX movie that relates to our standards. In the Spring, we will go to Fog Willow Science Farm. A third field trip will be determined at a later date. A few weeks before a field trip we will send out permission slips and volunteer requests. Unfortunately, younger siblings are unable to attend. All permission slips, money, and notes for volunteering must be received by the date indicated on the cover sheet. **No late permission slips or money will be accepted after this date.** We often need to prepay, so no refunds will be issued, even if your child does not attend the trip. Sometimes we will ask children to bring sack lunches. Please make sure to send them with a small lunch as we often don't have a lot of time to eat.

### Parent Teacher Communication

If you ever have a question or need to get in touch with us, please feel free to email us. It is the fastest way to get a response. You may also call and leave a message with the office, but most likely we will not be able to call you back until after school. Please understand that we may not always be available before or after school because of yard or bus duties. We will schedule a conference with all families in November for the first trimester report card. Other conferences will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

## FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

### Language Arts

Open Court is our district-adopted reading and language arts program. Reading instruction develops fluency and comprehension. The areas of grammar, writing, handwriting, phonemic awareness, and reading strategies will be emphasized. Open Court has ten themed units. Student may wish to bring things to share for our “Concept Board”. Please make sure to have their name somewhere on the item so it can be returned at the end of the unit. We will assess each student’s reading abilities and group them for intense instruction. They will participate in a grade-wide workshop time and may be transitioning to another teacher during this time. Students are assessed frequently and may be moved from group to group depending on their needs.

### Math

Scott Foresman is our district-adopted math program. It moves extremely quickly so it’s important that students complete all homework pages and practice math facts at home. We suggest either buying or making flashcards for all addition and subtraction facts 0-20. Students need to have facts memorized as we want to move away from counting on fingers by the end of the year. Rocket Math is our timed tests that will be given daily. Students have individual goals they need to meet in one minute. Some of the skills we will focus on include adding, subtracting, time, money, patterns, place value, and measurement. All homework pages are available online at: <http://www.onlineintervention.com/OI/worksheets.jsp>. There are also pages if extra help is needed!

### Social Studies

Harcourt is our district-adopted social studies program. It will compliment our Open Court program units.

### Spelling

Starting the fourth week of school, spelling will be a part of the weekly homework. The spelling list consists of words that follow a spelling pattern and high frequency sight words. There will also be three bonus words that will count as extra credit. Spelling tests will be given every Friday morning. **If you ever misplace a list, they are available on our website under “Parent Resources”.** Here are some unique ideas for helping your child with their words:

Magnetic Letters: magnetic letters to write out spelling words on the refrigerator or a metal cookie sheet.

Sand/Salt Spelling: Pour salt (or sand) into a lid of a box or flat aluminum pan. Practice spelling the words in the salt (or sand) with your fingertip.

Playdough: Using letter-shaped cookie cutters, cut out the letters of the spelling word. A variation would be to form the dough itself into letters.

Finger Paint Bags: Freezer strength Zip-loc bags and finger paint make great writing slates. Place a dab of finger paint in a bag and tape the bag closed for extra strength. Lay the bag flat on the table and write the word on the bag. The word will disappear like magic.

Shaving Cream: Spread a bit of shaving cream on a table top. Practice spelling words in the shaving cream. Kids really love this one!

Scratch N' Sniff: Use a new sensation to practice spelling words. Write letters with glue on paper, then sprinkle with Jell-O. This makes a super scratch 'n sniff when tracing over letters.

### Science

We have recently adopted a new MacMillan/McGraw-Hill science curriculum. It touches on Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences. We will also be learning about science through Open Court and through “Come With Me” science lessons. Mrs. O’Hair will also bring students into the garden. Areas of study include: animals, insects, weather, and plants.

### Physical Education

We will continue to teach the SPARK P.E. program. It is an engaging, skill-based P.E. program that addresses California State physical education standards. Students will receive 100 minutes of P.E. per week. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for P.E. (This includes appropriate shoes). First Grade also participates in the annual “Marafun Run”. Over the course of two months, we will run a full 26.2 mile marathon! The last 2.62 miles are logged in at the California International Marathon in December. This has been a very popular event in the past - the kids love it! They receive ribbons as they achieve goals and will receive a medal if they do their final run at the C.I.M in December..

### Computers

Students will visit the Computer Lab once a week. Mr. Gipson is our computer teacher. Students will learn essential keyboarding skills and other computer skills that will meet technology standards.

### Character Education

Franklin students are expected to be good citizens. Our character education program helps students gain valuable skills in the following six areas:

1. Caring, Giving and Service
2. Responsibility
3. Trustworthiness
4. Justice and Fairness
5. Respect
6. Leadership, Initiative, and Teamwork