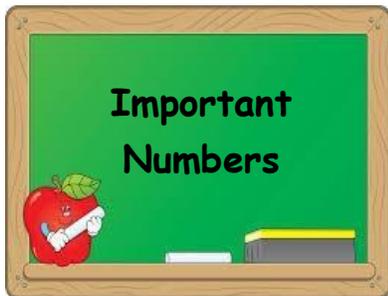




Union Park School

25700 N. 21st Ave.

Phoenix, Arizona 85085



Office: 623-445-5800
Attendance: 623-445-5890

Mrs. Naomi Arnold
Room 310

Voicemail: (623) 445-5834

E-mail: Naomi.Arnold@dvusd.org



2021-2022 ABC's of First Grade



General Information

School Hours – 8:15 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

***All phrases in italics are school wide policies and procedures.

A is for:

Absences- If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line at (623) 445-5890.

Attendance- A successful experience is the responsibility of the child, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress both academically and socially is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is key to success. Please try to keep vacations to weekends and holidays, if possible.

Arrival – The Union Park campus opens at 8:00 A.M. Drop-off location is at the front of the school. Students report to the Classroom upon arrival (for at least 1st quarter). Teachers and other staff members on duty will ensure that your child gets to his/her destination safely. The first bell will ring at 8:10 A.M. The “tardy bell” will ring at 8:15 A.M. Students should be in their classrooms and ready to begin. Instruction begins promptly at this time.

Allergies- If your child has any allergies please make sure the school and I are aware of them. I especially need to know about food allergies and insect bite reactions.

B is for:

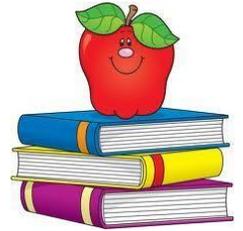


Birthdays – Birthdays will be celebrated in class by special recognition and singing. Your child will also receive the ‘birthday bag’ to journal about his/her special day.

Food is not permitted into our classrooms for individual student birthday celebrations due to the large number of students with life threatening food allergies. We truly appreciate your understanding and support while we ensure the safety of our students.

However, students may bring in a book to share or donate to our class. They are permitted to bring in individualized goodie bags to be sent home with each classmate at the end of the day. Students with summer birthdays or birthdays during school breaks can choose a day in May, their half birthday, or perhaps, celebrate on the birthday of a family member; just let me know what you prefer.

Book Orders – Each month I will send home a Scholastic Book Club order. This is a great way to purchase books at fantastic prices. We earn bonus points for every dollar spent, which I use to add books to our classroom library. Please make checks out to Scholastic Book Clubs. Delivery of book orders is generally two weeks from the date the order is submitted. Ordering online using your credit/debit card is also a great option. For every online order made, the classroom will receive a free book! To place your book order online go to www.scholastic.com/clubsordering and use the activation code: GML6G.



Backpacks- To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack labeled with your child's name (preferably no wheels, due to space). Please have your child share the contents with you daily. (Please no toys in the backpack).

Breakfast- The Cafeteria serves breakfast from 7:45- 8:10 AM each day. Due to Covid and federal grant dollars breakfast is offered for all students free of charge.

*Students must stay in the Cafeteria until the 8:00 bell rings.

C is for:



College and Career Ready (Common Core) State Standards- All instruction is planned using these standards. For more information, please go to: <http://www.azed.gov/>. All teachers follow the Arizona State Common Core Standards when planning instruction. You may access these standards at: <https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

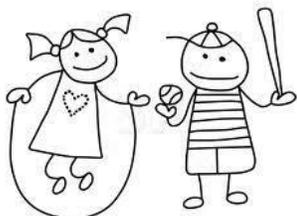
Class Website – I have a homepage that can be found under the staff websites tab on the Union Park homepage. You can visit our class website to learn about the class, find resources, and much more. It is a great way for all of us to share information. The page will be updated with any new and relevant information.



Communication - A key component to your child's educational success is the home/school connection. It is important for us to work together to give your child the greatest opportunities to excel. I am always happy to discuss any concerns or answer your questions. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (623) 445-5834 or e-mail at Naomi.Arnold@dvusd.org. Please allow 24 hours for a response to emails. However, I try my best to respond to them by the end of the day. You may also

write a note and put it in their Daily Take-Home Folder. If you have an issue/concern that you would like addressed, please refer to the Union Park Communication Protocol ([attached here](#)) as a reference for whom to contact.

Please schedule specific times to meet with me, as we need time to communicate effectively. I often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that I will not be able to meet or discuss issues while I am teaching or supervising children.



Cafeteria and Playground Rules – We want everyone to be safe on our campus. Please look at the Union Park Expectations Matrix included in your welcome folder. Discuss these expectations with your child and see that he/she understands their importance. We will also spend time reviewing these expectations each day.

Covid/ Safety Plan- Please look over the district [website](#) for the most up to date information

Conferences - Conferences are held twice a year (October-parent/teacher and February-student led). During this time, we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress as we review your child's individual data notebook.

Computers- We are fortunate enough to have one-to-one chromebooks in our classroom. We use a variety of age appropriate programs that reinforce Math, Science, and Reading skills. *Please remember to acknowledge the 'Internet User' permission form found in the beginning of the year info in PowerSchools, allowing your child supervised access to the Internet. We will also have weekly computer time where we will practice computer skills, explore websites/games, and publish our writing.

D is for:

Differentiation- Because all children are unique and special, they may be at many different instructional levels. It is my responsibility to take each child from where he or she is to a higher level, therefore, students may be learning concepts different from his/her peers. You can be sure your child's individual needs will be met.

Dismissal –Dismissal is at 3:00. As first graders students are dismissed from the classroom. For the first few weeks of school students will be walked to either the front gate or bus by the duty teacher. Once they are comfortable with where they are going

they will be released from the classroom. If your student is having a change in his/her regular mode of transportation please let me know so that I can remind them and ensure that they go to the correct place, if a student tells me they are going home a different way than usual without notice from you I will send them to their normal dismissal spot.

Discipline- My philosophy of discipline is based on the belief that children need affectionate care and firm guidelines within a flexible structure. To establish good order and help children learn self-control, the children will be guided to respect themselves and their peers through specific directions and positive reinforcement.

Students are expected to respect the rights of others and to conduct themselves in a safe and orderly fashion. Their behavior should be such that it does not promote harm to themselves or to others.

All District Rules will be adhered to at Union Park School. Please refer to the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. We believe that students must treat others with the same respect with which they are treated by the adults in our school. We also believe that student's actions, dress, possessions, etc., must not cause a problem for themselves or anyone else.

Disciplinary action is taken in situations involving students who do not follow conduct guidelines. Please refer to the school-wide behavior expectations found on the Union Park Expectations Matrix at the back of this packet (3 minors = major). If the teacher or the principal feels that a student's behavior is continually causing problems, the parents will be informed and asked to work with the school toward a solution.

In our classroom we use positive reinforcement with the use of a Class DOJO. When students are making positive choices and showing good character they earn a point. For each point a student earns they will be also given a TORO Ticket which they can enter into our school-wide drawing. When they have enough DOJO points they earn a treasure box prize. On the occasion that a student is not making a good choice they will fill out a think sheet. This gives them to opportunity to reflect on their choice and what they can do better next time. In the event a think sheet is needed it will be sent home to be discussed, signed and returned the following day. For any major concerns a note and/or email will be sent home.

E is for:

E-mail- You can contact me at school via my e-mail address at

Naomi.Arnold@dvusd.org I check my e-mail several times daily. If you prefer to call, the Classroom number is (623) 445-5834. Please leave a message and I will return it promptly (typically at the end of the day). Email is the best way to reach me as I always have easy access to it.

English Language Arts/Reading- Our Into Reading curriculum is designed to encourage your child to become an independent reader through whole group lessons, independent center work, and small group time.

F is for:

Footwear- Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, flip flops, or dress shoes, for example, might not be good for school activities.

Fire Drills- Drills are held on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students are expected to walk quietly to our designated area on the field. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill. In addition, lock down drills are practiced quarterly.

Fostering Independence – This is a very transitional year for your child. I hope to help you in building an independent and responsible student. For this reason, I ask that you help your child organize and pack his/her backpack. I want your child to get into the habit of remembering/packing his/her materials/library book, putting papers in his/her folder, and caring for materials. Please have your child be responsible for doing these tasks and carrying his/her own backpack to school and placing them in the appropriate place once arriving at the Classroom.

G is for:

Guided Reading- Each day, I will meet with your child for a Guided Reading small group during Literacy Station/Daily 5 time. Guided reading provides an opportunity for me to teach your child a variety of reading strategies he/she needs in order to become a fluent, independent reader. During guided reading, I monitor and evaluate each child's progress in small groups and in individual settings.

H is for:

Hands on learning- I feel the best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seat work is required and necessary, but for the most part, our Classroom will be an active learning environment.

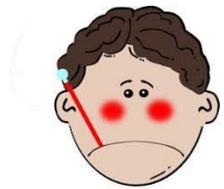


Homework- The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills being taught in class and build responsibility. A weekly homework menu will be sent home each Friday. The menu will consist of 9 activities and the students are asked to complete a set amount of tasks for the week. The signed calendar is due back each Friday. The expectation is that your child is reading/being read to at least 20 minutes a night and studying the high frequency words for the week. The most important assignment is reading every day. **Additional practice pages may be sent home occasionally. Two activities that are a part of the weekly homework menu each week are Dreambox and Amplify. Dreambox and Amplify are a great way for your child to help build their reading and math fluency. Dreambox follows along with our math standards and is a reinforcement of every lesson that we complete in class.

Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework is essential for increasing and reinforcing student learning and achievement for course standards. Homework may be differentiated to meet the needs of our varied learners. The intent of homework is to practice, extend learning, and provide opportunities for students to develop critical, independent study skills and self-discipline for their lifelong educational journeys.

I is for:

Illness- The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make him/her more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the class when they are healthy. If your child is diagnosed with a communicable disease (such as strep throat or pink eye), please inform me so that I can notify the school nurse and watch for other students who may be exhibiting similar symptoms.



Independent Reading- Because children learn to read fluently by lots of practice, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature rich environment and a life-long love of reading.

J is for:

Journals – Each student will have a writing journal kept in class that we will utilize in a variety of ways. Students will be asked to write a written response to a story that they

read/listen to. They will answer written prompts and also get the chance to free write on occasion.



K is for:

Kindness- Students in our Classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our Class as well as others in society with kindness and respect. Unkindness is not tolerated.

L is for:

Lost and found- We have a lost and found box in the Multi-Purpose room. I ask that you label backpacks, lunch boxes, and jackets/sweaters worn to school. This will help us return a lost article to its owner.



Lunch- Our class will eat in the Cafeteria from 11:05-11:25 each day. Due to Covid and federal grant dollars lunch is provided free of charge to all students. If your child is bringing a lunch from home, please don't forget to label the lunch box or sack with your child's name. Students are not able to warm food in a microwave or store food in a refrigerator at school. Upon entering the Cafeteria, all students must wash their hands. At this time, all students have assigned seats in the Cafeteria and all tables are facing one direction. Students are expected to sit facing forward while eating their lunch. They are able to remove their masks at this time in order to eat. When leaving the Cafeteria, all students get hand sanitizer on their way to line.

Learning- As a first grader your child will be learning a variety of topics as addressed by the AZ State standards. Below is a snapshot by subject area.

Reading	Read fluently and accurately, answer questions about stories, retell stories in order, main idea, text features, sight words, phonics skills, grammar
Math	Numbers to 120, place value, addition and subtractions, word problems, measurement, time, money, shapes
Writing	Complete sentences, correct spacing, correct punctuation, letter formation and handwriting, informational writing, opinion writing, narrative writing
Science	Matter, properties of objects, how things move, natural resources, Earth's materials, weather patterns, animals, plants, habitats, scientific inquiry process, light and sound

Social Studies	Rights and responsibilities, citizenship, maps, timelines, exploration, colonization, early civilizations, national symbols, Arizona symbols, economics
----------------	---

M is for:

Mission Statement- Union Park School provides an environment for students to embrace inclusivity and other cultures through the lens of awareness and Spanish language literacy. The learning community works together to inspire and empower innovative insights and rigorous opportunities for academic and social emotional growth.



Math- The Eureka Math curriculum along with the Common Core Standards provides students with mathematical practices that help develop a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue throughout their school career. Units include; sums and differences to 10, place value with addition and subtraction to 20,

ordering and comparing length, place value with addition and subtraction to 40, identifying, composing and partitioning shapes. In addition to our daily math lessons, skills are practiced during individualized Math Stations.

Masks- As per district policy, masks are optional throughout the school day. Students are allowed to take mask breaks during class and there are designated “Mask Break Zones” if they chose to come to school with a mask. All masks should fit snugly on their face and not be too big or hanging below their noses. We ask that all students keep a back up mask in their backpacks as accidents do happen and they can become wet throughout the day. We will be maintaining social distancing as much as possible within the classroom and washing hands and sanitizing often.

Media Center- We will visit the media center every week. The students are allowed to check out 1 book. Please make sure your child returns his/her book by Tuesday each week...he/she will not be able to check out another book until it is returned.

Medication – Please see the school nurse ASAP to ensure that your child has the medications he/she needs. Under NO circumstances is medication allowed in the classroom; this includes cough drops. If a child is seen with any form of medication, it falls under the no tolerance policy. Please see the DVUSD Student Handbook for more information on this and other policies.

N is for:

Newsletter- I will be sending home newsletter communication via email when there are reminders and important information to be shared.



O is for:

OK Folders (Organized Kids)- Your child will bring home his/her folder each night. Please return it each day. I will check the folders each day for notes, papers, or anything you need me to see. Please make sure these things are in your child's folder (I will not look in anyone's backpack for things sent from home). All papers will go home in this folder, so please check the folder daily and remove papers...they fill up quickly.

P is for:

Parent Involvement- Participation in your child's education is proven to boost your child's achievement in school. I am committed to treat parents as partners while keeping lines of communication open and focused on the needs of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is required to maintain a positive learning experience at any school. I believe your trust in Union Park is required to ensure your child's success. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school.

Powerschools- Student grades will be reported in Powerschools weekly. Parents are encouraged to monitor student grades and stay on top of progress being made. I do not want grades on a report card to be the first time you see them. If your child is not doing well in a given area please reach out for suggestions on ways to help your child improve.

Parties and Celebrations- We will have several class parties for different occasions such as Fall, Winter, Valentine's Day, and the end of the year. Please let me know if your family does not celebrate certain holidays. These are generally done as a rotation with the grade level where each student gets the opportunity to visit each of the first grade classrooms to participate in a themed activity pertaining to the celebration i.e. a directed drawing of a scarecrow in the fall.

PTSA- Please consider joining the PTSA. This is a great way to help earn money for our school.

Q is for:

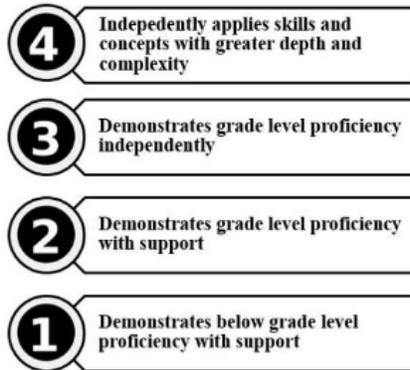
Questions- If you still have some unanswered questions, please feel free to call me at school (623) 445-5834 or e-mail me at Naomi.Arnold@dvusd.org.



R is for:

Report Cards- Report cards go home 4 times a year. These Standards Based reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various first grade standards. Just as in kindergarten the following rating scale is used and a 3 is the target goal. 4's are rarely given as this means students are independently working above and beyond the first grade standard.

For K – 6th Grades



S is for:

Science- Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in Life, Physical, and Earth Science; including the study of the 5 Senses/Body, Plants/Animals, Life Cycles, Light/Sound, and Weather. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

STEM- STEM units are integrated into all other content areas. They are standards based and consist of a culminating activity in which students are asked to use the engineering and design process to solve a given problem.

Social Studies - The social studies standards explore American History, World History, Civics/Government, Geography, and Economics. The curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Holiday celebrations will also be highlighted. Activities will help the children engage their natural curiosity for the world around them.

Specials- We are on a 6-day rotation schedule

Day 1- PE (please wear tennis shoes) Spanish

Day 2- PE (please wear tennis shoes)

Day 3- Music

Day 4- Art

Day 5- Spanish

Day 6- Music

Snack- We have a community snack policy in first grade. We ask that all families donate a snack for the entire class once or twice a month. All snack donations are due by the first Friday of the month. No nut products are permitted. Snacks must be from the approved snack list and must be individually packaged for distribution. Plan for enough snacks for 25 students. Below are the approved snack items:

- Graham crackers, Goldfish, Ritz crackers, Teddy Grahams, Animal crackers, Cheez-Its, Nilla Wafers
- Wheat Thins, pretzels, Pirate's Booty,
- Applesauce pouches, pre-packaged sliced apples and carrots, Cutie oranges

T is for:

Transportation – If any changes occur regarding your child's transportation please notify me in writing/email. If changes need to be made after the school day has started call the front office and ask them to notify me. Do not leave a message on my voice mail. I don't always have time to listen to my voicemails before we go home. Again if any changes to transportation occur please notify me as soon as possible so I can assure that your child gets safely to their after school destination.



Tardies – Instructional time begins promptly at 8:15 A.M. Campus gates will be locked for safety and any child that arrives after that time is required to enter through the office and obtain a tardy pass.

Tax Credits- Tax credit donations can be made specifically to a program or activity. Married couples may donate up to \$400 and single individuals up to \$200. Tax credits reduce your tax burden to AZ dollar for dollar. Tax credits are also a great way to help offset the cost of any fieldtrips that are planned.

Toys – Students are not allowed to bring toys (including stuffed animals, Pokemon cards, fidgets, etc) to school. This is a school policy.

U is for:

Unique schedule- As you are aware we have adopted an early release on most Fridays. This time will be used by teachers to work in PLC teams. Additional information as well as the dates of the early release Fridays can be found on the district website here: <https://www.dvusd.org/plc>. Please note that we also have a 6 day rotation for our specials schedule. A specials rotation calendar will be sent home at the beginning of each month so that students know which special we will have daily.

V is for:

Vision for Union Park- Empowering tomorrow's leaders with second language literacy and fostering extraordinary, motivated, and culturally conscious life-long learners.

W is for:

Wish list- Throughout the year, we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our Classroom materials (such as egg cartons, paper towel rolls, etc.). These needs will be posted on the Class website, newsletter, and/or email. I have also created an [Amazon wishlist](#) with items that would be nice to have in the Classroom.



Writing- Our daily modeled writing program will focus on the writing process along with the 6 traits of writing through daily lessons/mini lessons, and modeled writing. Expressive (personal narratives, stories, poetry, songs, and dramatic pieces), Expository (nonfiction writing that describes, explains, informs, or summarizes ideas and content), Functional (Classroom rules, letters, experiments, recipes, notes/messages, labels, directions, posters, graphs/tables), Literary Response (opinion/feeling about a piece of literature), and Research (simple class report where the teacher is the scribe) will all be introduced. Writing will be used across the curriculum in all subject/content areas. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paper at home, and encourage them to use inventive (phonetic) spelling on their own. This is where students write words the way that they sound rather than perhaps the correct way until the correct spelling is learned. For example when trying to write the word pizza they might use the spelling pesu since those are the sounds they hear when saying the word.

Water bottles- Please send a cold water bottle labeled with your child's name each day.

Website- Our class website is www.dvusd.org/Domain/1786. Go there to find information about curriculum, the Classroom, and helpful links.

X is for:

eXtra special and eXpectations- Every member of our class is Extra Special! I have high expectations for all the children in our class. I expect them to learn, to try their best, and to always act appropriately. Children who receive lots of encouragement in a supportive environment feel secure to try new things and take risks in learning. School should be a fun place where all children grow and develop at their own rate and become the best they can be.

Y is for:



You! Please remember that **YOU** are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can! You can help to make your child feel successful this year by discussing your child's school day with them. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?", "What did you work the hardest on?", "What was the best part of your day?" or "What are you getting better at?" These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information. Don't let them tell you "nothing." Ask your child about centers, reading, or math work. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will have a direct effect on how he/she feels about them. Show an enthusiasm for learning. It is contagious!

Z is for:

ZZZZZ's- Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime schedule is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help him/her be alert and ready to learn each day. Don't forget to read a book before bedtime!

Zoom- Sit back and watch your child's skills take off! You will be amazed and surprised at the incredible growth and changes your child makes this year!

Here's to a fabulous year of learning and fun!