



WELCOME FIRST GRADE VIPERS!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the wonderful world of first grade! As Sierra Verde Vipers we will be learning many exciting things together this year as we help our children grow and learn. There will be lots of information in this letter, as well as, throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.



We will be using many hands-on ways to learn our academics. In reading we will follow our core curriculum, Reading Street for instruction. Our literacy block will include small group and whole group instruction as well as literacy centers. In math we will use the district adopted Eureka Math program with supplemental hands on activities from Investigations. While much of our Science and Social Studies curriculum is often addressed through the seasons and holidays we will use Foss Science and Harcourt Social Studies to ensure that all standards are being met and taught in detail. We will be focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) throughout the year as a major emphasis. Though writing is integrated into all subject areas, we will be teaching writing each day with an emphasis on proper sentence structure. We will become authors quickly by implementing a Writer's Workshop approach to writing. Through mini lessons, conferences and modeling, all areas of the six traits will be taught throughout the year. We will also use Thinking Maps along with the Write From the Beginning program and Lucy Calkins Writers Workshop. In December 2016, the state of Arizona established AZ ELA High Academic Standards for students that must be taught. We will be following these first grade standards. These standards are available to you at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>.



During the first few weeks of school we will spend lots of time getting to know each other, as well as, learning our class routines and expectations. Structure and consistency are very important for children. For that reason we ask that your child be on time for school each day. The Sierra Verde school day begins promptly at 8:40. Students will be allowed on campus at 8:30. They will head directly to the playground until the bell rings. We will pick up the students there and head to our classrooms at 8:40. The school day ends at 3:30. If you are picking your child up from school, your child will meet you at the new Viper Gate at 3:25. Please send your teacher a note if your child needs to deviate from their usual dismissal plan.



Lunchtime will be a bit different for our first graders and we will have plenty of adults there to help them! They do go out to recess after they eat so to ensure your child eats a healthy lunch, please discuss their choices with them and your expectations of what they are to eat from their lunch box or meal. Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home, or they may purchase a lunch. Lunch w/milk is \$2.80 per day. You can set up a lunch

account for your student so they do not have to carry money to school. Information is available at www.EZschoolPay.com

 Especially during the hot months we suggest that your child bring a water bottle to school each day. **Please make sure the water bottle has your child's name on it.** Gatorade and other flavored drinks are fine for lunch but children may only have water in the classroom.

 Home/school communication is extremely important. Most information is shared electronically. Your child will have a daily take home folder. This folder will also be a great avenue for communication. Please check them each night to see your child's work and important information. If you have any notes etc... for school please put them in the folder or send us an e-mail. Each day we will check them. On Monday, our First Grade Viper Voice Newsletter will be sent out electronically. We look forward to sharing all our first grade wonders with you and hope you enjoy reading about them!

Homework will be sent home on Monday and is to be returned on Friday. It is important that students practice what they are learning and that they begin cultivating the art of responsibility at an early age. Please encourage your child to complete all of their homework. Giving your child a quiet place to complete homework or a special box of writing/ coloring tools to use will show your child that you value learning and understand the importance of it. If your child is having difficulty with the homework given please do not complete it for him/her. Let us know so that we can help your child. Students shall read or be read to for **at least 15 to 20 minutes nightly**. Please sign the reading folder each day that you read. A tic tac to homework sheet and spelling pattern/ideas will go home detailing what needs to be done each week. The spelling test will be on Fridays and homework is also due each Friday. The exception is math. Our math program differentiates assignments for the homework to be completed nightly. You will need to check the daily folder for math homework each day. You will be asked to select two lessons of math homework to turn in on Friday.

 This year Sierra Verde, along with all DVUSD schools, will continue to implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school safety system to support student behavior and classroom management. PBIS is a structure designed to ensure classroom management and student discipline are addressed in a positive, systematic way that supports the academic achievement of all students. The purpose of implementing PBIS is to:

- * Approach student discipline in a proactive manner, modeling appropriate expectations and rewarding positive behaviors, decrease disruptive behaviors in classrooms, common areas, and all campus locations.
- * Increase academic instructional time and administrator's leadership time.
- * Improve school safety and positive school climate for staff, students, parents and community members.
- * Track behavior data to determine the effectiveness and support we are providing for our students.

Sierra Verde students are expected to follow our four school wide rules: **1. Be Safe 2. Be Responsible 3. Be Respectful 4. Be Kind**. We will spend time the first week of school discussing the school wide rules and what they look and sound like in our classroom. This will become our Viper Pride. If a student has trouble following a rule they will receive a warning and we will discuss how they can change their behavior, if they continue to have difficulty they may be given a few minutes to think about their behavior at recess and parents notified. Again, we will discuss good choices. If the student needs a third reminder they will receive a note in their folder to be signed by their parent. If a student continues to have difficulties making choices they will lose classroom privileges and be put on a daily behavior plan. Students do not have the right to interfere with another child's learning. Chronic behavior issues will require parent involvement and possible office referral. Students will follow the district discipline matrix as needed. This flow chart can be found on our school website at <http://www.dvUSD.org/domain/2647>.



Our first graders will experience "specials" this year. They will go to Art, Music and Physical Education each day at 12:30 to 1:15 (for Mrs. Willis and Ms. Gerster) and 1:15 to 2:00 (for Ms. Mayfield and Mrs. Perry). On P.E. days it is important to wear tennis shoes or your child will have to sit out! **This year we have a six day rotation for special area classes. Special schedules will be attached and posted on our website.**



We will have seasonal celebrations throughout the year and information regarding these occasions will go home as they come closer. **Children are allowed to share a non-food item treat with the class at the end of the day to celebrate their birthday, if they choose.** A list of suggestions include: pencils, erasers, or party favors. Please let me know ahead of time if your child will be sharing something for their birthday. We will pick a week during the school year to celebrate our summer birthdays. Just a reminder: we are a balloon free school.



It is important that we work together to make a positive home/school connection. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call, email, or send in a note. During the school day we are busy instructing the students and we will do our best to contact you as soon as we are able. If you need to meet with us, we can set up an appointment before or after school. We look forward to working with you this school year to make your child's school experience exciting, rewarding and positive.

Sincerely,
First Grade Team

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Keep the above packet, please sign and return this bottom portion. If you have any questions, please ask.

I have read the information in the first grade packet.

I am familiar with the classroom management procedures and have discussed the appropriate and inappropriate behaviors with my child. I understand there are consequences for misbehavior.

I understand that homework needs to be done nightly and returned to school completed.

I am willing to take an active role in my child's education to ensure his/her success.

Parent Signature _____ Child Name _____

Date _____

Thank you for being actively involved in your child's education!!!



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always welcome in our classroom. There are varying tasks that you can assist with. You can volunteer to help with students or to prepare materials. Any volunteer time is greatly appreciated. If you have not done so already, the district requires you to go through a volunteer training before you can help in the classroom or attend field trips. Dates of the training will be available in the office. The training session schedule can also be found on the district website www.dvUSD.org

_____ Homeroom Parents – plans and organizes class parties (there are four throughout the year: Fall, Winter, Valentine’s Day, and End of Year)

_____ Mornings are the best for me

_____ Afternoons are best for me

Please check off tasks you are willing to do.

_____ Classroom Helper (helping with literacy stations, working with groups of students or individual students, and art projects)

_____ Office Helper (making copies, stuffing folders, or completing teacher projects)

_____ Special Activities (projects, field trips, parties, etc.)

Circle the days that work best for you

Mon Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri.

Name: _____ Student's Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (Please print clearly.)



Dismissal Routine

For safety reasons, first grade students will **not** be allowed to walk home alone.

Please check one of the following options.

_____ My child will be picked up at the main front gate each day by _____.

_____ My child will wait outside of the classroom for sibling _____.

_____ My child will take the bus home each day.

_____ My child will take the daycare bus to _____ each day.

_____ My child will attend Viper Den at Sierra Verde. Please mark which days.

_____ Monday

_____ Tuesday

_____ Wednesday

_____ Thursday

_____ Friday

Child's name _____

Parent Signature _____

If dismissal is going to differ from your plan above please either send in a note to let us know of the change, call or e-mail.

Thank you

Classroom Information

Child's Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Number(s): _____

E-Mail(s): _____

Best Way to Contact (Please Circle): Phone E-Mail Note

Name of Mother / Step / Guardian (Please Circle): _____

Name of Mother / Step / Guardian (Please Circle): _____

Name of Father / Step / Guardian (Please Circle): _____

Name of Father / Step / Guardian (Please Circle): _____

Mother's Work Phone: _____ Father's Work Phone: _____

Preferred time for home calls: _____ / not after _____ pm

Names of Siblings	Age	Teacher/Grade
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Allergies: _____

Medical Problems: _____

Glasses: _____ Yes _____ No

Religious or personal holiday Restrictions: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please discuss the following with your child:

Appropriate Classroom Behaviors:

- ❖ Work quietly so others may focus on learning
- ❖ Use **whisper voice** in the classroom
- ❖ Stay on task
- ❖ Listen carefully and follow directions when given
- ❖ Raise your hand
- ❖ Treat everyone with respect
- ❖ Use only kinds words and actions
- ❖ Complete all work in a timely manner
- ❖ Always try to do your best work
- ❖ Have a positive attitude
- ❖ Stay in your seat during work time
- ❖ Accept responsibility for your actions



Inappropriate Classroom Behaviors:

- ❖ Disrupting others learning during work time is **never acceptable**
- ❖ Calling out/ talking when you're not supposed to
- ❖ Yelling/shouting inside school buildings
- ❖ Out of seat, not doing work
- ❖ Name calling or unkind words
- ❖ Being disrespectful to adults or classmates
- ❖ Pushing or hitting
- ❖ Being unsafe
- ❖ Constantly being reminded of proper behavior



Students who chose inappropriate behavior will be given a think sheet to complete and have parents sign. The sheet will state the consequence for the behavior they have chosen. A daily behavior chart will be used if necessary. Behavior that continually disrupts others will require a parent conference and alternate consequences. Office referrals/ detention will be given if necessary and students will follow the district discipline flow chart. It can be found at <http://www.dvusd.org/domain/2647>