



Ms. Shirk's First Grade



Welcome Back to School!!

2012-2013 School Year

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- Homework Policy
- Homework Schedule
- Reading Strategies
 - Testing Days
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 - Star Student

Welcome Back to School!!

*Please check my website weekly for **reading stories** ,
and my **newsletter**.*

These WILL NOT be sent home unless it is requested

Email address: stacey.shirk@dvusd.org

Web address: <http://shirksfirstgrade.weebly.com>

Parent Information

Dear Families,

Welcome to FIRST GRADE and CANYON SPRINGS! My name is Stacey Shirk and I'm looking forward to an exciting year, full of learning and fun. In this packet you will find some important information that will make for a smooth year. It should answer most of your questions you may have about first grade.

Daily Schedule

Our school day begins promptly at 8:15 and ends at 3:00.

Lunch is from 10:50-11:30

We will attend library 1 day a week.

(library day tba)



DAILY SPECIALS SCHEDULE

Special will be from 12:45-1:30

Monday

P.E

Tuesday

P.E

Wednesday

P.E

Thursday

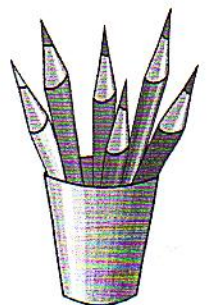
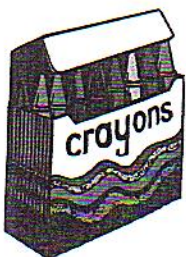
ART

Friday

MUSIC

Please have your child wear athletic shoes on P.E. days and appropriate clothing.

Please have your child bring a backpack each day. It will make it easier for children to carry and protect their needed school items.



TOYS/ITEMS FROM HOME

Please keep **all** toys, figurines, trading cards, and such at home. We have much to do and learn and there is little need for these things at school. It creates a huge distraction in the classroom. The children will have a chance to bring in special items to share with the class when they are "Star Student". Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

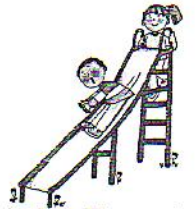
BIRTHDAYS



Your child's birthday is a special day and we enjoy becoming part of the celebration. Feel free to send in a treat or surprise. It would be best to send in a snack that would be easy for your child to serve, such as cupcakes, cookies, rice crispy treats, etc. You may send the snack in with your child or drop it off in the office. Please keep in mind if you send in a treat it must be store bought.



ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES

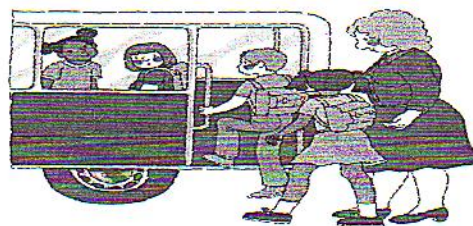


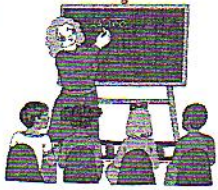
Students should not be on campus before 8:00 in the morning. This is for your child's safety. There is **no supervision** before this time. Once your child arrives at school they should go **directly to the playground**. Students will **NOT** be allowed to stand and wait outside the door. With the exception to the first week of school, students should get used to walking to the playground by themselves or with a friend. In addition, if you wait with your child at the front gate, after the first week, students should get used to walking back to the classroom on their own. A buddy system is always good idea for first graders. If your child is struggling with this please let me know. I will meet the children at the playground at 8:10 side the door.



DISMISSAL

A teacher will accompany all students to the bus and parent drop off areas after school for the first week or two of school. It is **very important** that if your child's method of transportation changes that I know about it. Please send a note with your child or email me first thing in the morning. I just want to make sure your little one gets to the right place.





Discipline Policy

2011-2012 School Year



On the next page you will find my classroom discipline policy. Please review it with your child and discuss how important following the rules are in order for **all children to learn in a safe stress-free environment**. We will be working hard on learning the rules, rewards and consequences, but it is important for your child to know that you feel proper behavior at school is important as well.

My goal is to reward appropriate behavior and improve behaviors, which are inappropriate. As a result, more productive teaching and learning can take place.

CLASSROOM RULES



Caring

Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.

Responsibility

Follow directions the first time they are given and complete assignments in class.

Respect

Raise your hand and wait to be called on.



Trustworthiness

Be honest with your classmates and teacher.

Citizenship

Use inside voices, walking feet, keep your desk area clean.

Fairness

Share and cooperate with others.

REWARDS

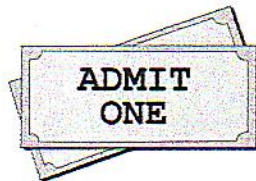
Your child will be provided with a variety of different ways to be rewarded for good behavior.



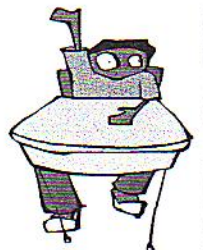
Students, cooperatively, will earn tables points during the week for working quietly, being good "tablemates" and staying on task during class. Every Friday, the table with the most points will get to pick something out of the treasure box.



As a **whole, our class**, will play a **BINGO** game for completing assignments during class, following directions during whole group activities and during center time, walking in quiet straight lines and receiving positive comments from special area teachers (art, music, P.E.) When students are on task as a whole they will pick a letter and put it on our Bingo Board. When our class gets BINGO they will earn a class reward. Students will give ideas as to a reward and we will vote on it as a whole class.



Individually, students may earn tickets for, being courteous to their classmates, following directions, listening in class and trying **their** very best in class. Names will be drawn every Friday for kids to pick a prize from the treasure box.

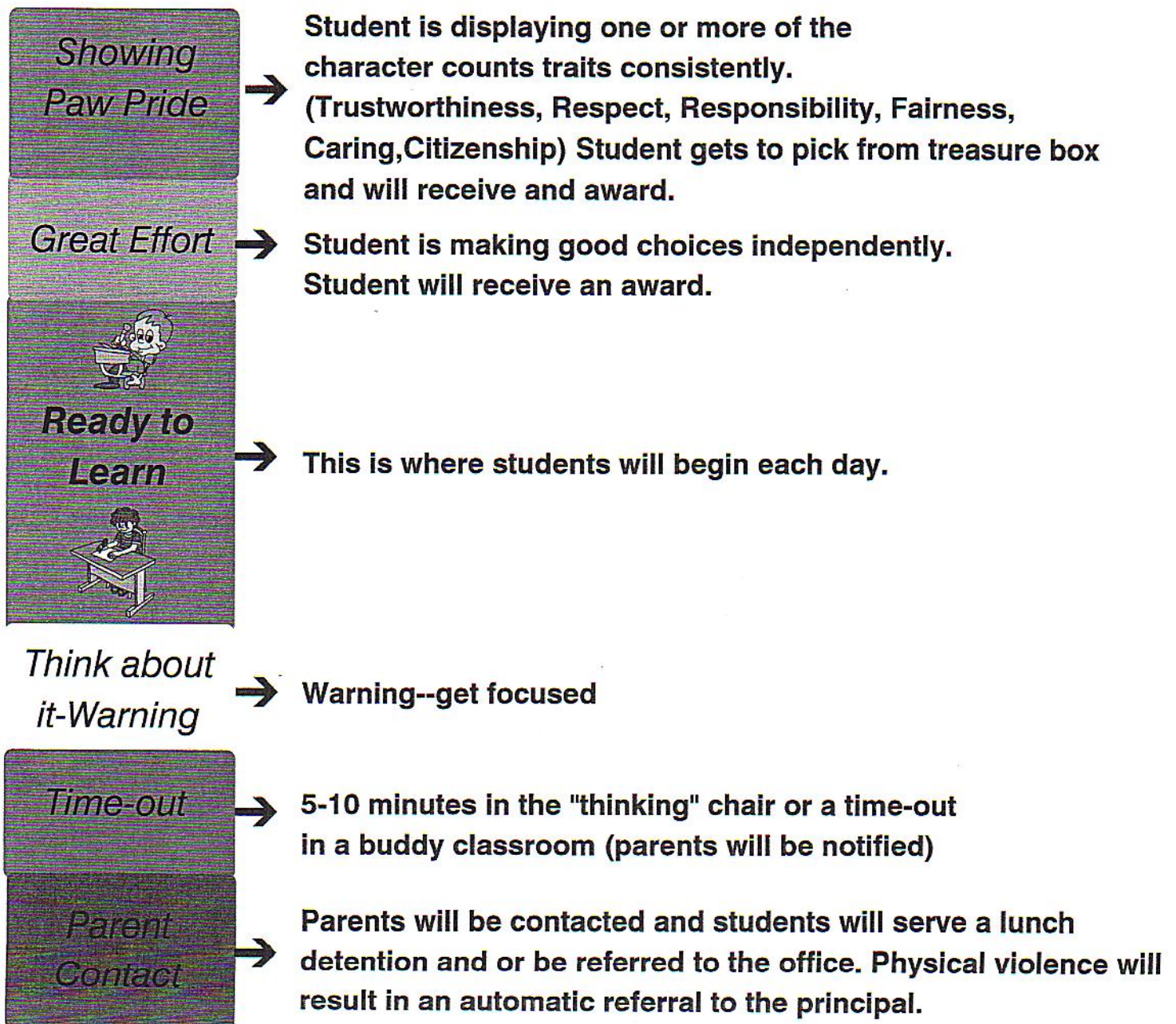


Ms. Shirk's Classroom Management System

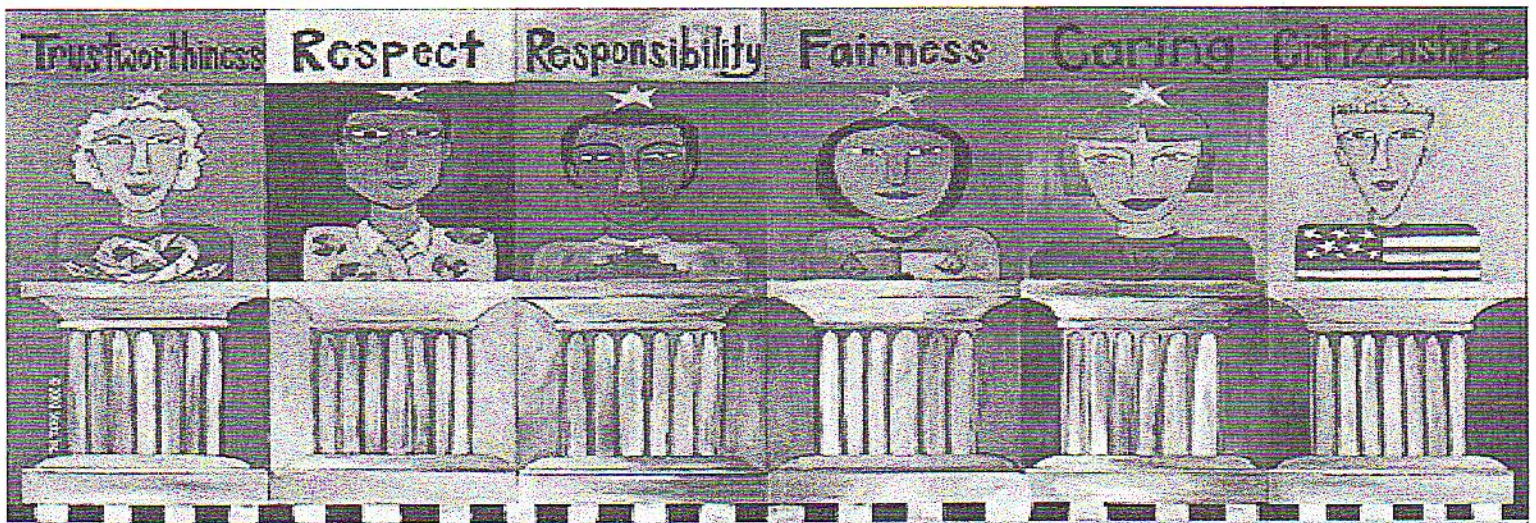
Below is an example of the Behavior Clip Chart

Behavior Clip Chart

Each student will have a clip (clothespin) that is clipped on to the **READY TO LEARN** portion of the chart. Students will begin each day on this section of the chart. Each child will have the opportunity to move to Great Effort and Showing Paw Pride for displaying exceptional behavior traits throughout the day. Although positive reinforcement is my goal, there are times consequences must be given. When students are "off task" their clips will be move down the chart. However, if their behavior improves their clip can be moved up on the chart. My goal is for students improve their behavior throughout the day, even if they get off to a rough start. I feel that giving children an opportunity to improve their behavior is much more effective and sets a positive tone in the classroom. Below you will find and explanation of each section of the Behavior Clip Chart.



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



Character Counts

Canyon Springs participates in a school wide program call Character Counts. This program concentrates on the six pillars of character. Our goal is for our students to demonstate Trustworthiness, Repect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship

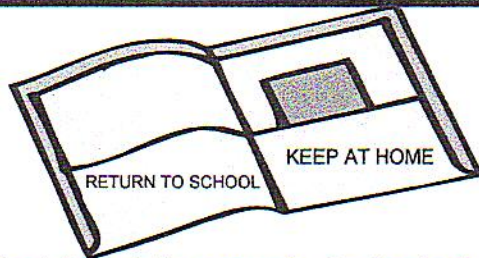
Homework Policy

2010-2011

In first grade, we establish habits that can help or hinder us as the years go by. Your child will have homework Monday-Thursday, starting the second week of school.

Homework serves a four-fold purpose:

1. It provides extra practice of a specific skill that has been taught at school.
2. It gives parents insight into how their child approaches and completes assignments.
3. It teaches responsibility.
4. It ties home and school together.



Your child will bring home a folder labeled Homework. On the inside, one side will be labeled **RETURN TO SCHOOL** and the other side will be labeled **KEEP AT HOME**. Homework that needs to be completed and returned will be placed on the side labeled **RETURN TO SCHOOL** along with other papers that may need to be signed and returned. When your child has completed their homework it should be placed back on the side labeled return to school. **All homework (reading and math) is due on Friday only, unless otherwise specified in my newsletter.** All other letters, handouts and graded papers will be placed on the **KEEP AT HOME** side of their folder. If you send a note with your student please place in on it the side labeled **RETURN TO SCHOOL**.

You may see some papers come home that are not graded. This means we either did it in class together or it is center work. I do not take grades on center work. In general your child will receive homework **4 days** a week. Homework will include **spelling, math and reading**. From time to time projects will be sent home that need to be completed at home.

Please **supervise** your child when completing his/her homework. Homework will be checked for **completion only**. Completing homework should not be a cause of anxiety or stress for you or your child. If you find it to be difficult for your child, please contact me as soon as possible.

HOMWORK SCHEDULE

All Homework is due on Friday ONLY. Please do not send homework in early.

Spelling: With our new curriculum this year, we will not have weekly spelling tests. We will be focusing on spelling patterns and students will be tested on the correct spelling of words through dictation sentences.



Math: Monday-Thursday

Students will have math **homework Monday-Thursday**. Students should complete one worksheet per night. Math homework is not due until Friday of each week. Please staple all math papers together and have your child turn them in on Friday. Tests days will vary due to the length of the unit. **Homework is due every Friday** and should be turned in to his or her homeroom teacher. *Students must turn in at least 2 homework papers on Friday to receive 5 points for homework. Homework is awarded points for completion only.*



Reading: Monday-Thursday

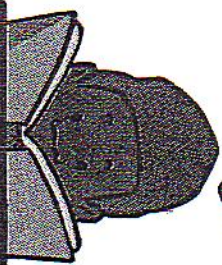
Please have your child **read 10-15 minutes** each night. After your child has read, initial the monthly calendar in their agenda. I will check their agendas on Friday. Although making sure your child reads each night is the most important part of their reading homework, they must bring their agenda as proof that they have completed their reading homework (this also instills responsibility). **Reading homework is due every Friday.**

Reading at Home: (shirksfirstgrade@weebly.com)

Please have your child read the story that is on this website under the reading tab each night. These are purposefully typed without any pictures. This will help prepare your child for the **DIEBELS** assessment that is given throughout the year. After that, they should read the book I have sent home with them. If I have not sent a book home please allow them to read a book of their choice or visit **pearsonsuccessnet.com**. Their book of choice should be easy for them to read. If they are struggling with more than 4 words in a sentence that book may be too difficult. Please make sure your child is reading to you for their homework. This should be an enjoyable experience for your child. Happy Reading :)

Please make sure all books are returned the next day, so all students will get a chance to read these books. Thank you.

Science & Social Studies: From time to time students will have projects that need to be completed at home.



What To Do When You Get Stuck on a Word

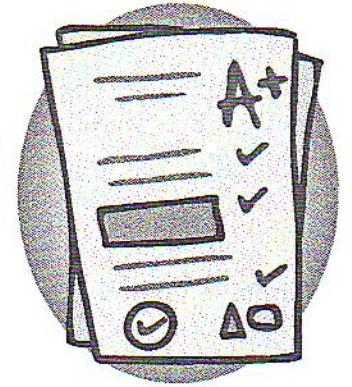
Use Reading Strategies



1. Look at the picture. It may give you a clue as to what the word is.
2. Try sounding out the letters in the word. (c-a-t Then slide the word **back together so it is not choppy**)
 3. Look for word chunks you know. (at it)
4. Skip the word and finish reading the sentence. Then, **go back and re-read the sentence.**

What word would make sense in that sentence?

Testing Days

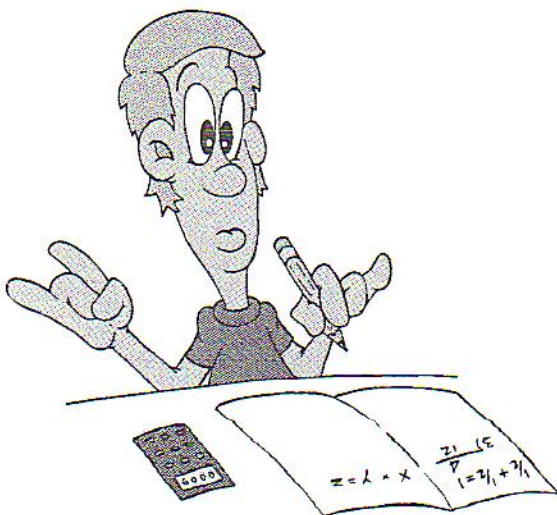


Fridays: Reading Comprehension Test

Students will have a reading comprehension test every **Friday**. This will cover the story we read in class together. We will be reviewing the story and sight words all week. Please read the story at home each night, which is on my website under the reading tab. The stories will be typed without any pictures. I have done this on purpose. Although using pictures clues is a beginning reading strategy I use, I do not want students to become solely dependent upon figuring out words based upon pictures. Please read the story and go over the sight words each night with your child.

Math Tests

Math tests will be given at the end of each unit. Testing days will vary, depending on the length of the unit. **Testing days will be listed on my newsletter.**





Parent involvement is all about the children. Participation in your child's education is proven to boost your child's achievement in school. We are committed to treat parents as partners while keeping lines of communication open and focused on the need of your child. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is required to maintain a positive learning experience at nay school. We believe that your trust in Canyon Springs is required to ensure your child's success.

As we get the school year under way, I will be sending information to parents regarding volunteering in the classroom. I typically will be in need of volunteers the 4th or 5th week of school. As we approach that time frame I will send out more information. In addition, I would love to have a parent or team of parents help plan our parties for this school year. Thank you so much for your support in advance.

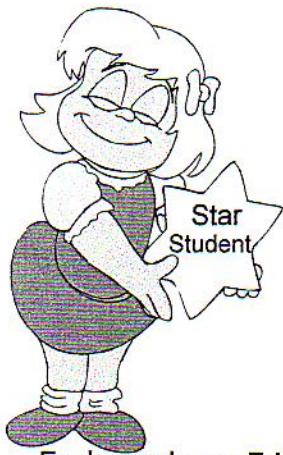
Fall Party (October)

Holiday Party (December)

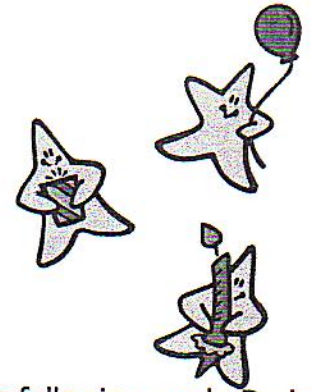
Valentine's Day (February)

Volunteers!





Star Student



Each week, on Friday, I will choose a student to be our STAR STUDENT for the following week. During this week your child may **bring in something special to share with the class** (awards, pictures, trophies, a special toy, book etc). I will also send home an ALL ABOUT ME poster that you and your child can complete together. This will be shared with the class on Monday, so we can get to know each other better. If you would like to send in a treat on Friday to share with the class that would be wonderful, but please do not feel obligated. This is completely voluntary. Please keep in mind if you do send in a treat it must be store bought and packaged.

In addition to the above, your student will be bringing home our class pet on Friday. **This pet is not real.** They will have the weekend and the next week to care for our class pet. A journal will also be sent home for your child to keep track of activities that he or she does with our class pet. This is a good way to integrate writing into a fun experience for your child. The journal along with our class pet needs to be returned on the following Friday, so the next student chosen to be STAR STUDENT can take our class pet home.

I have explained to the students that they need to take care of our class pet while it is with them for that week. We have talked about the responsibilities that come along with caring for a real pet as well as personal property. Thank you for your cooperation on this. The students will really enjoy taking care of our class pet for the week. I am going to let the class name our pet, so be sure to ask your child what name the class decided on!

Thank you,
Ms. Shirk

Friday: **Student will bring home the class pet, journal and All About Me poster**

Monday: **Please return ONLY the All About Me poster.**

Next Friday: **Please return the class pet and journal.**

