

The ABCs of Ms. Long's 1st Grade Class:



Absences: If your child is absent - whether sick at home, or on a planned vacation - please email me and Mrs. Max to let us know! I will collect his/her work from the day, and will send it home in a folder labeled "While You Were Absent." (If you'd like to come pick it up, let me know in that email) Please help your child complete that work and return it to me within 2 school days' time. If it's a planned absence, I ask that you support me and your child by teaching him/her to come talk to me before or after class, to turn in any work early, take tests early, etc. Thank you!

Birthdays: We will celebrate birthdays together in class on the day of their birthday (or if on a weekend, Friday or Monday - you let me know!). If your child would like to bring in treats, they are welcome to (this isn't required). If your child has a summer birthday, no worries! We'll celebrate ½ birthdays, too!

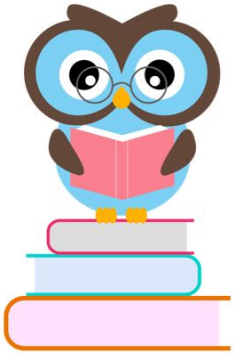
Communication: The best way to contact me during the day is my school email, dlong@stlukeshoreline.org. I check this email throughout the day, and am available from 7 am - 5 pm on school days. You can also reach me via the classroom phone at 206.542.1133 ext. 128.

D.E.A.R: "Drop everything and read!" is an attitude we share here in class, encouraging independent reading time throughout the day. Outside of class, suggested reading time for 1st graders is 10 minutes a night, and can include anything from reading fiction books, to nonfiction books, to the newspaper - reading is reading!

Essential Agreements: Our class discussed important and necessary rules to follow here at school, working together to create a list of items we agreed to hold each other accountable to. This covenant is a component of the IB program prompting students to take responsibility for their words and actions, and is posted as a daily reminder of those commitments and expectations.

Families: Your child is part of a St. Luke “family,” comprised of Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Students participate in family activities throughout the year, and occasionally attend Mass together.

Garden: Our class will have the chance to visit and work in our school’s garden throughout the year. We’ll learn about how the fruits and vegetables grow, problem solve as we plant new seeds, and help harvest the food to use in our school’s lunch program.



Homework: your child should have about 20 minutes worth of homework a night, with 10 minutes of independent reading. I’ll assign Math homework nightly, SuperKids ELA work weekly, and ask that your child read every night.

IB: St. Luke is in the accreditation phase of being an International Baccalaureate school, and we are excited to be teaching 6 IB units this year. We’ll be using students’ questions and passions to inspire our work with Science and Social Studies topics. Expect to hear more about these units as the school year goes on. Please visit IB’s website at www.ibo.org for more information.

Jobs: Students are asked to take on little responsibilities around the classroom, completing daily & weekly tasks. Jobs are assigned by the teacher, & rotate every 2 weeks.

Keep it organized: This year, we’ll be working together to teach your child some strategies and tools to keep themselves organized. It IS our theme, after all! (O.W.L.s are Organized While Learning!) Please help support this at home with things like: building homework routines, creating a “study space” for them to work at/or read, teaching them how to load their backpacks with their homework folders, lunches, etc. These little tasks go a LONG way in helping them grow more independent and responsible, and you’ll be so proud to see them grow and take ownership of their progress!

Learning Expectations: Our schoolwide learning expectations of being Active & Faithful Catholics, Engaged and Life-long Learners, and Socially Responsible People are infused into our essential agreements, classroom prayer, curriculum and more.

Mass: We'll attend Mass as a school appx. once a month at 9:30 a.m., and as a class several times a year. Please see the school's calendar (or my weekly newsletter) for specific dates. Students are expected to wear formal uniform for Mass.

Newsletter: Expect to see a weekly class newsletter posted on our class' website, as well as emailed out each Monday afternoon. Newsletters will include important notes, upcoming tests, a preview of curriculum for the week, homework reminders, upcoming events, etc.

Ordering Books: Scholastic book flyers will be sent home at the beginning of each month. If you'd like to purchase books (and help us build our classroom library!), please order online or pay by check (make check payable to Scholastic), using our classroom code: NDWX9.

Passwords: I will paste a sticker, as well as send a worksheet, of websites, log-ins, and passwords for a variety of Math, Reading, Spelling, & Phonics skills in your child's Homework Folder. Use these free subscriptions and tools to help your child reinforce skills taught in our units.

Quizzes: Students will have weekly assessments on Spelling words, comprehension with SuperKids concepts, and Math topics. About once a month, your child will have a unit Math test and facts assessments. They'll also take a SuperKids reading test, assessing their fluency, spelling, vocabulary, & comprehension skills practiced that unit.

Reading logs: Students are highly encouraged to read daily for at least 10 minutes to improve Reading skills and fluency. I'll send home a themed reading log once a month, and for each day your child reads, they color an item. Please hold on to this log for the month; it's due the 1st day of school of the next month (e.g. September's log is due Oct. 1st).

Student of the week: Every week, a student is selected as our "OWL Student of the Week," earning special privileges such as line leader, bringing in a fun treat, and sharing personal info on the "Owl About Me" bulletin board. When it's your child's turn, I'll send a poster home Friday, which they should complete & return - along with any photos, awards, etc. - to decorate the board for the week.



Technology: Students will have access to iPads & the classroom SmartBoard each day, using educational apps and websites to help enrich the content we're learning. For helpful links to use at home, please see the tab on our class' website.

Uniforms: Please review the uniform policies in the St. Luke Handbook. Throughout the day, all shirts should be tucked in, socks should be worn with shoes, and formal dress worn to Mass.

Volunteers: I'll post volunteer opportunities on our class' website for Reading groups help, administrative help, at-home help, class parties, and class field trips (dates TBD). Please make sure you've completed your Safe Environment training before helping inside the classroom or driving on trips.

Website: Our class' website is my primary mode of parent communication. Please reference it for important information and notes. This includes a list of our classroom procedures, weekly newsletters, 1st grade's curriculum map for the year, weekly Spelling lists, helpful links for homework, classroom photos, and much more.

extra supplies: students keep additional supplies on hand at school (I store them), as we ask you to buy more than necessary at the start of the school year so students can restock throughout the year. Any supplies left over at the end of the year will come home to reuse next year.

Yum! (snack): students are encouraged to bring and eat a healthy snack (or 2) every day. Snack break will be taken in the morning after recess each day. I also recommend students bring a water bottle to school each day to help keep them hydrated. Water bottles should have a cap or lid on them to prevent spills, and should have their name written on them; please no plastic (the flimsy, crinkly kind) bottles.

Zzzz's: To help your student stay energized and focused at school, please help make sure they're getting a good night's rest, giving their brains a break from our day's hard work! Remember, they shouldn't expect more than 20 minutes of homework a night (including reading), giving them plenty of time to play, relax, and rest from a hard day's work! :)

