

Welcome to 1st grade!

About your teacher:

Welcome to 1st grade! My name is Mandy Dark, and I am excited to work with you and your child this year! Here is a little bit of information about myself. This is my third year teaching first grade. I was born and raised in Silver Lake, Oregon. I graduated from Western Oregon University with my degree in Early Childhood Education and my ESOL (English for Speakers of Second Language) Endorsement.

Take home folder:

A little information about what you will be receiving from your child. Each night your child will bring home a Take Home folder, and each day it should return to school. On the left they will have their homework for the night/week. This homework will include nightly math homework, reading booklets (more on that next week), and flashcards of the words that we are working on for the week. On the right side they will have their corrected work from that day and any letters and family communication that they have for the week. The family communication will include a weekly letter, field trip forms, notes from the office, etc. The corrected work can stay home with them and doesn't need to be returned.

Classroom management:

This year we will be using ClassDojo as one of our main forms of classroom management. ClassDojo is a web based program which allows teachers to track students' behaviors (positive AND negative) easily and efficiently. The program is based on points, and students can be given positive points for things like being on task, being respectful, participating, or working hard. On the other hand, points can be taken away if students are off task, talking out, or unprepared. At the end of each week every student will be given the opportunity to earn prizes based on the amount of points they have received. The points will be reset at the end of each month.

One of the greatest features of ClassDojo is that it allows me to send parents a "behavior and skills report" every Friday, or Thursday on short weeks, by e-mail or text message. All you need to do is add either your e-mail address or cell phone number on the sheet attached. After you have returned the sheet you will receive either an e-mail or text message with directions on how to connect to our class. My hope is that this will help you better understand the progress of your student's behavior on a week-to-week basis.

I am looking forward to not only getting to know your child, but you as well. If you have a desire to help in the classroom all parents are greatly appreciated. I have attached a form to this letter for you to fill out. If you would like to volunteer you can either write me a note on the bottom of the form, or send me an e-mail.

I am very excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to working with you and your child! It's going to be a great year!!

Mandy Dark

(541) 396- 2914

adark@coquille.k12.or.us