

First Grade/ First Family Facts

- 1) **Times:** School starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. on full days. On early dismissal or half days, school starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 11:20 a.m. For information regarding a late start day due to inclement weather, please check the school or district website.
- 2) **Student Drop off or Pick up:** Students are to arrive no earlier than 7:45 a.m. due to there not being supervision until that time. Students may be dropped off at either the Harrison or Dodson lot. Student patrols will assist students from cars that pull up in the drop off zones. Students are not to walk across any lot during drop off or pick up times. Bus riders are dropped off in the bus lane.

All students line up on the blacktop in the morning on a designated letter. First grade students line up on the north end of the blacktop by class. Teachers will be assisting students in the first few days of the school year, aiding them with their line-up location.

During inclement weather, first grade students enter the Nelson Gym and sit in the bleachers until dismissal to their classrooms in lieu of lining up on the blacktop.

Students are dismissed by line into the building. Primary student lines are escorted to their hallway by a student patrol. The tardy bell rings at 8:00 a.m. If you arrive after 8:00 a.m. you must sign your student in at the main office and enter through the main doors on Harrison Street.

Pick up occurs in a similar fashion as drop off. You may pick up in the Harrison or Dodson lots. Students are again assisted to their car by a patrol member. Students are not to run across the lot to meet their parent/guardian. Parents are not to park in the yellow drop-off/pick-up zones. If you wish to leave your car, please park in a designated parking space. Additional information is available on our school website.

If your first grader will be attending Kids Zone after school they will be escorted to the Nelson Gym by their classroom teacher and checked in by the Kids Zone staff.

- 3) **Schedule:** Along with their academic subjects, students have a 30 minute special four times a week and a 60 minute special one time per week. 30 minute specials consist of music and PE. Art is the 60 minute special. In addition, students will have library and computer lessons.
- 4) **Recess:** First grade teachers may take an a.m. or p.m. recess determined by their academic schedule. The recess is typically 15 minutes in length.

Indoor Recess: In inclement weather, students may have an indoor recess for their lunch and classroom recess. During this time, students return to their classrooms and play with

the treasures hidden in the teachers' cabinets. A classroom recess may become an indoor recess or the classroom teacher may just continue with the day's lessons.

Students must be appropriately dressed for the weather. Winter wear is expected. We will go outside as long as the temperature is above 0 degrees with the wind chill.

- 5) **Lunch:** Students are given a 45 minute lunch. It is designed to be 20 minutes for recess and 25 minutes for eating. At the beginning of the year, first grades are given additional time for eating as they acclimate to the routines. A menu is sent home monthly on the back of the Highlighter as well as being posted on our website.

Students may purchase a "hot meal" or bring a sack lunch from home. Students may purchase a milk or water for a fee regardless of whether or not they purchase the "hot meal". There are two lines for purchasing, one for beverages only, and one for the "hot meal". Students pay for their lunch through an electronic thumb scan system. Parents deposit funds in their account either electronically or by submitting funds to Harrison Street School. All Harrison Street School first graders will have their thumbs scanned on the first day of the school year. New students will have their thumbs scanned on the first day.

For all students, there are lunchroom supervisors to assist with student needs and supervise the environment.

Students return with their coats etc. to the lunchroom as there is not time nor personnel to escort and assist with the dressing process.

- 6) **Shoes:** Students are required to have a pair of PE shoes at the school. It is important that students wear these shoes for PE in lieu of their street shoes. Additionally, flip flops are not allowed due to high incidences of injury.
- 7) **Transportation:** Information regarding busing comes to you directly from the transportation department if you are eligible to ride the school bus. All necessary documents were in your registration packets. Teachers are given a list of students who ride the bus and which bus they ride.
- 8) **Supply Drop Off:** There is not a district sponsored supply drop off for first grade. Students are to bring their supplies with them on the first day of school or they may bring them to the Kick-off Karnival on Monday, August 20, 2014. They will be assisted by staff with the carrying and distribution of their supplies.

- 9) **Snacks:** Teachers may or may not have a designated snack time depending on their lunch time and other factors. If one is scheduled, we ask that you send a healthy snack such as fruit, cheese, pretzels, etc. Restrictions may apply due to student allergies.
- 10) **Breaks:** Students are allowed to obtain a drink and use the restroom throughout the school day. Staff may schedule a whole class break or establish classroom routines for doing so individually.

If a student needs to use the restroom during a recess time, they simply need to ask the staff member in charge to re-enter the building.

- 11) **Birthdays:** Geneva CUSD 304 Board of Education policy prohibits the use of food as an incentive or reward. It further stresses the importance of wellness; that stated, students are not allowed to bring edible items to share with others in recognition of their birthday or other event. If you choose to commemorate your child's birthday we ask that you choose non-edible options. Please know, that this is a choice, and that it is perfectly ok to not include the school in your child's special day.

As a school, their name will be read over the PA system, they will be given a birthday pencil or sticker, be allowed to select a birthday book, and will most likely receive special recognition and/or a token of recognition in their classroom.

- 12) **Expectations:** Please see the Behavioral Expectations hyperlink on our website for our universal behavioral expectations.

Question:

Contact Mrs. Sims at 630 463 3305 or ssims@geneva304.org