

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you and your child to first grade. We are looking forward to a new school year and have many exciting things planned for your child. To achieve the best learning environment, your child will be asked to follow these rules:

1. I will keep my hands and feet to myself.
2. I will raise my hand to speak.
3. I will use good manners.
4. I will follow directions.
5. I will stay on task.

Please review these rules with your child. The behavior folder will reflect the behavior(s) that need improving.

Appropriate behavior will be rewarded with verbal praise, positive notes, and occasionally a small treat/sticker.

### **Arrival/Dismissal Procedures**

Please have your child here on time; we begin instruction promptly at 7:45am. If your child is not in the classroom by 7:50, he/she will be considered tardy. If you need to pick your child up from the classroom during the day, please send a note to inform us and have the office “buzz” us to send your child to meet you in the office. At 2:45, the children are escorted by a first grade teacher to their designated pick-up area.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is taken each day at 9:00. If your child is absent, please send a written notice within 3 days of the absence. Do remember, however, that as much as we want your child here every day, do not send a child who is truly sick. Tardies will be recorded on the report card this year.

### **Birthdays**

You may bring cupcakes or cookies to be served at lunch only. Individual treat bags may not be handed out to classmates. Birthday invitations are not allowed to be passed out at school!

### **Book Orders**

Book Orders will be sent home with your child throughout the year. This is a great way to purchase books at very inexpensive prices for your child, but you are in no way obligated to purchase books at any time during the school year.

## **The Bush Discipline System**

Bush uses a school wide discipline program as well as individual classroom requirements. Our first graders have a behavior chart that must be signed every night and returned to school the next day. You will find this in the red folder.

## **Changes in Transportation**

If your child's mode of transportation changes for a day or for the entire year, please send a note or an email to that effect. Sometimes a change occurs during the day, so sending a note is out of the question. In that case, please call the office and request that they give the homeroom teacher the message over the public address system. They may instruct you to leave a voice mail, but sometimes we do not have time to check our messages until after school. Of course, that's too late to help your child get to the right place at dismissal time!

## **Conference Time**

**Our conference time is from 10:10 – 10:55 every day but Tuesday.** If you would like to schedule a conference, try to schedule it at least two days in advance.

## **Dress Code**

Students at Bush are expected to wear uniforms, or adhere to the dress guidelines. A copy of guidelines was sent home in the first day packet. An additional copy appears in the Bush Student Handbook. Children who are not in uniform are sent to the office and the parents will be called and asked to bring a change of clothes.

## **Field Trips**

We will go on 2 field trips this year. We will let you know more about these trips as we schedule them. Two parents, per class, will be allowed to chaperone. **Parents MUST ride the bus and be approved through the office.**

## **Grading Scale**

Reading, Language Arts, Spelling, Math, Science and Social Studies will be graded numerically on the report card. Grades are as follows:

A=100 – 90

B=89 – 80

C=79 – 75

D=74 – 70

F= 69 and below

## **Homework**

Homework for the week will be assigned each Monday. The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills learned in class and encourage good study habits. A weekly newsletter will accompany all homework.

Your child is expected to complete the assignments and return the **BLUE** folder every **FRIDAY** to his/her homeroom teacher. Homework can be completed and returned any time during the week. Remember that we are trying to teach the children responsibility. The homework will be checked in class each Friday morning.

We expect students to do their best job on their homework. We expect them to do the work on their own. Your child should ask for help only after he/she has given their best effort. Please read over the directions with your child to make sure he/she understands each assignment.

We feel parents are the keys to making homework a positive experience for their children. Make it a top priority, provide necessary supplies, set up a daily homework time, and provide praise and support. Please contact us if you notice a problem.

We would like to explain three homework assignments that your child will have every week:

- **.Beginning with the second nine-weeks, the children will take 5-minute timed math fact tests. Each test will have an average of 29 problems.** A grade of 90 or above will move your child to the next level. A lower score will result in your child taking the same fact test again until mastery is shown.
- **Spelling Homework:** Your child will have worksheets that practice reading, writing, and use of the spelling words. Also, have them write each word 3 times until they are comfortable writing the words correctly. Please give a pre-test Thursday night.
- **Readers:** Decodables (little paper books) will be sent home in the back pocket of the Red Folder with a sign off sheet as they are read. The decodables may be kept at home, but please keep the checklist in the red folder.

### **Jacket/Sweaters**

With so many students in our classroom, it is very difficult to keep the room at a comfortable temperature for every child. We suggest that your child bring a light jacket or sweater, **solid red, white, or blue**, that can be left at school so that he/she may be able to put it on as needed. This way every child can be comfortable in class! Also, please be sure to write your child's name inside all jackets and sweatshirts that your child brings to school.

### **Library**

This year students will visit the library once a week as part of the ancillary schedule! As always, children will be asked to choose a book that is within their

reading range. It is very important that they library book be returned timely. Your child will receive an “N” on a progress report or report card if books are not returned weekly. Students will be given a diagnostic reading test to determine their reading level. Books on their level will be checked out.

### **Lunch Money**

Lunch with milk is **\$1.60**. Your child is responsible for lunch money. To make it easier, you can pre-pay (cash only) in the cafeteria on Monday mornings. **If you decide not to pre-pay, please put your child’s lunch money in a small coin purse or a Ziploc baggie.** We encourage your child to keep lunch money in his/her backpack until lunch.

### **Party Time**

We will enjoy 2 class parties this year! Our Winter Holiday party will be December 18<sup>th</sup> and our end of year party will be May 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Projects**

Students are expected to complete one project each nine week period for a total of 4 projects. We will give detailed instructions and ample time for you to help your child complete these assignments at home. **Our goal is to create life long learners who love the process of research, along with the delivery of an excellent product!**

### **Progress Reports**

Progress reports will be sent home during the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> week of each nine-week grading period. These reports are to inform you if we are concerned that your child is in danger of failing in a particular subject. If your child has any failing grades, please schedule a conference with us.

### **Promotion Policy**

HISD has promotion standards for all grade levels. To pass first grade, students must demonstrate a passing yearly grade average of 70 or above in reading, other language arts, and math. Students also need to pass the reading assessment (TPRI) which is given at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year, as well as the HFWL (High Frequency Word List). Students must be reading at a rate of 60 wpm at the end of first grade. If this is not met, he/she will be recommended to attend Summer School. Finally, students must score within one grade level on the Stanford, a norm-referenced test given in the spring. Don’t panic! If we notice your child is struggling, we will contact you.

### **Recess**

It is still very hot this time of year. Please be sure that your child brings a water bottle (water only) for recess to beat the heat.

## **Study Hall**

When necessary, students will work during a portion of recess to finish incomplete or missing work or take a make-up test.

## **Tests**

Each Wednesday, graded tests will be placed in the red Communication Folder. Please sign and return any papers with failing grade. Students receiving a score of 69 or below on tests will have an opportunity to take a retest. The original failing grade and retest grade will be averaged together to determine the final grade.

Example:  $69 + 95 = 164$ ;  $164/2 = 82$ , so 82 would be the score recorded in the grade book.

**We are thrilled to be teaching your child this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us. We want to keep the lines of communication open between school and home. Thank you in advance for all of your support and hard work this year!**

Sincerely,  
Robin Brown  
Pat Cramer  
Dorothy Baldwin  
Pat Cramer