

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

My name is Beth Richards and I am very pleased to have your child in my class this year. This is my third year here at Hollywood. I am beginning my eighth year in the classroom and fifth year teaching first grade. I earned my Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina Aiken in 2010 and my Masters Degree in Elementary Reading and Literacy from Walden University in 2011. I also completed my Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development from Walden University in 2015. This is going to be a wonderful year.

Teaching is truly my passion. I want all students to feel the same joy and excitement that I do about learning. First grade is full of so many things to learn. You will be amazed at the many changes that will take place in your first grader this year.

You have been your child's very first teacher. It is a joy to join along with you in helping your child learn the skills he or she will need as a lifelong learner. I truly believe that all children can learn. I do, however, realize that children have different strengths, needs and learning styles and learn at different speeds. We must remember to be supportive of each child's efforts and progress, and celebrate his or her success no matter what they may be.

Thank you for entrusting your child to me. It is truly an honor and blessing to play a role in your child's future. I promise to do my best each day to be your and your child's companion in learning. If I can help you in any way, please contact me through a note, email or call the school at 445-8333. I look forward to a wonderful year together.

Sincerely,

Beth Richards

brichards@saludaschools.org

Agendas/ Folders

Student behavior will be communicated to you inside your child's agenda. Please check and initial your child's agenda daily indicating that you have reviewed your child's homework, daily behavior and checked for any notes in your child's agenda and folder. Please work with your child to establish a daily routine for checking his/her folder and agenda each day and then returning it to his/her bookbag so that it comes back to school each morning. Please be sure that your child brings his/her agenda, folder and guided reading folder to school every day! As a first grader, your child will be responsible for unpacking and checking his/her folder (notes, money, etc.) and checking the agenda for notes from home each morning. It is helpful to tell your child before they leave for school in the morning if they have something that needs to be turned in to the teacher. Your child will also be responsible for keeping up with his/her ice cream money. I will also be sending home graded papers and a weekly newsletter home every Monday. You will find the weekly schedule for homework as well as skills and spelling words being emphasized that week. Please be sure to check these papers as well as sign and return the weekly newsletter. You will need to sign the graded paper form and return this form to school the following day. Students will also bring home a guided reading folder with a reading log and small guided reading book Tuesday through Thursday. Please be sure to sign this reading log every day. We will be focusing on vocabulary and word work on Monday. Your child will receive a new guided reading book on Tuesday. I will check to make sure they are reading their guided reading book. They will not begin bringing these books home until we begin guided reading groups.

Homework

First graders will have homework Monday through Thursday. This homework will consist of practicing spelling words, guided reading homework and a math assignment. Any additional homework assignments will be written in the agenda. Completed homework needs to be brought back to school in your child's green folder in the "Return to School" side. Homework may also be sent home in your child's green folder in the "Return to School" side. If your child's homework is not returned or is incomplete, your child will have to complete the assignment during recess.

Transportation

If your child is to be picked up by someone else or is to ride a different bus home, you must send a note stating this with the name of the person who will be picking your child up or new bus number, date and your signature. If someone is picking up your child in the car rider line, they also need the students's car rider tag in their front window. This will help everything run smoothly at the end of the day and help keep your child safe.

Class Parties

Birthdays will be celebrated throughout the year. On your child's birthday, you are welcome to send a treat for the class to enjoy during lunch. We currently have 17 students in our class. Please be sure that you have enough for each child to enjoy! ☺

Star Student

A "star student" will be chosen each week. You will receive a note when your child is chosen. They will also be listed on our weekly newsletter. You may send pictures of your child to be displayed during that week. The pictures will be returned to you the following week.

Daily Behavior

In our classroom, we have a behavior clip chart. Each day your child starts out on "Ready to Learn". Depending on your child's behavior, he/she can either move up or down the chart, advancing one level at a time. Please keep in mind that your child may not move every day. In order to move their clips, the children must go above and beyond in their behavior choices. Your child's daily behavior will be recorded in his/her agenda each day. Please remember to initial your child's agenda daily. Below is an example of the chart:

Outstanding (purple)
Excellent Choices (teal)
Great Effort (blue)
Read to Learn (green)
Think About It (yellow)
Make Better Choices (orange)
Parent Contact (red)

Outstanding: After moving to Outstanding, your child will earn a trip to our treasure box.

Excellent Choices: Moving up to Excellent Choices will earn your child a sticker on his/her sticker chart.

Great Effort: By showing an extra effort your child can move up to this level.

Ready to Learn: Your child's clip will start here every day. Depending on his/her choices, he/she can move up or down the chart.

Think About It: Your child will move his/her clip to Think About It as a reminder to make better choices.

Make Better Choices: If your child continues to make poor choices, he/she will move his/her clip down to Make Better Choices which will result in walking laps for some of his/her recess.

Parent Contact: If your child is still choosing to make poor choices, he/she will move his/her clip down to Parent Contact which will result in walking laps and a phone call/note home.

*There may be some instances where your child walks laps at recess because he/she was on orange or red before lunch, but he/she improves his/her behavior and moves back up the chart to green after lunch, which would result in a green smiley face in your child's agenda for the day. Some serious offenses may require a child to move directly to red, which could also result in referral to the office.