



# FIRST GRADE AT LAKE TAPPS ELEMENTARY 2019/2020

Almost everything you wanted to know  
about first grade.

# Introductions

- Dr. Judy Martinson—Superintendent
- Pat Webster—Principal
- Katie Leslie—School Counselor
- Heidi Batten—1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
- Kelly Milliren—1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher

# Welcome to First Grade

## Purpose

- Our purpose this evening is to give you information about Lake Tapps Elementary and a chance to see the facilities, especially if you've never been here before.
- It is a time to understand the program we have for young learners.
- At the end, there will be an opportunity for questions, but feel free to ask your questions as we go through the slide show.

# Washington Achievement Award

- Lake Tapps Elementary is a four-time award winning “Exemplary” school in the category of Overall Excellence and High Progress: 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016!
- Top 5% - 8% of ALL SCHOOLS in the state, based on state testing over a 3 year period--2016, 2017, 2018

# Lake Tapps EAGLES

- E Excellence—exceptional high quality
- A Achievement—successful results brought about by hard work
- G Gratitude—being grateful or thankful for what we have
- L Leadership—ability to guide, direct or lead others
- E Empathy—understanding other's feelings and caring about them
- S Strength—ability to apply effort to accomplish a task

# Beginning of the Year

- In September, all teachers work hard to instill in students the desire to be productive, as well as eager, engaged and responsible learners.
- Routines and expectations are set during the first 2 - 3 weeks of school. Teachers and parents work together to reinforce appropriate behaviors conducive to learning.
- Once these are in place, the real learning takes off!!

# Belief and Mission

- We believe that it is our responsibility to build a strong educational foundation that will serve all children well for the rest of their lives.
- It is our mission to make sure our students are reading at or beyond grade level by the end of first grade, and that they are strong mathematicians.
- In order to make this happen, we work closely with support services and home to make this a reality.

# Safety

- Physical Safety— Our building is safe. Students are in classrooms surrounded by a large shared space. Bathrooms are within a short distance of the classroom. All doors, except for the front doors, remain locked throughout the day, unless it is recess time. We have emergency plans in place, and we practice them. Students are walked to and from specials classes, recesses and lunch by their classroom teachers.
- The entry security system is in place and works very well. Very similar to Dieringer Heights Elementary—buzz in before entering.

# Safety

- Emotional Safety-- All staff work together to provide all students with a “you can do it” attitude. We have a learning environment in which students feel safe to take academic risks.
- Spirit Days—We have spirit days each month of the year. You will be notified of the date and theme for each spirit day.
- Principal’s Book—Students are recognized for great work by getting to sign the Principal’s Book
- Soaring Eagles Card—Students are recognized for positive citizenship behaviors with Soaring Eagles Cards.
- Character Words—Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be a Contributor

# Achievement

- We believe all students can learn to their greatest potential
- We provide whole group, small group and individual instruction for students who need that support—In and out of the classroom.
- We offer reading support for students through our Title 1 Program to provide extra support for those students who need the extra targeted support.
- Special Services— Resource room, Occupational Therapy, Speech services are all offered to students who qualify for those services.

# Assessment and Learning

- Assessment and learning go hand in hand. All of our teachers assess students to determine their skills in all major academic areas. School-wide, we use Star Enterprise and/or DIBELS for reading and math. Teacher observation, curriculum-based assessments and student assessment data also help to provide teachers with information as to how each child is learning.
- Based on assessment results, curriculum and instruction are used and expanded to meet the individual needs of all students, regardless of where they are served.
- Whole group, small group and individual instruction happen every day, in every classroom

# A Typical Day for First Grade

- School starts at 8:45 and ends at 3:15. The majority of the day is spent in their classroom, learning all academic areas, yet focusing primarily on reading and math
- Each day, classes are instructed by a Specialist in Physical Education, Integrated Arts and Library.
- Students access technology every day in their classrooms. First grade is one to one with I-pads. Second and Third grades are one to one with Chromebooks.
- Lunch and recess are in the middle of the day. Lunch is a one hour block from 11:45-12:45, that includes eating and recess time.
- Another 15 minute recess is provided during the day, opposite of the Specialist the students have each day., ie. If their specialist is scheduled in the morning, then their recess will be in the afternoon.

# Lunch Time

- Three lunch rotations (20 minutes for eating)
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders eat at either 11:45 or 12:05, depending on which class they are in
- There are 7-8 classes that eat lunch at one time with at least 2 adult supervisors.
- If students are not finished eating, they move to an overflow table to finish before going outside to recess.
- They are not required to eat all of their lunch, however, we do encourage them to eat as much as they can.
- If they bring a lunch from home, we encourage them to take home what they don't like or don't finish so you know what they are not eating.
- Today's lunches have so many items that students need help opening. Please try to send items they are able to open on their own.

# Playground

- There are tons of activities for students to play during recess times.
- Students are taught and re-taught expectations for playground behaviors
- Mrs. Leslie, our counselor, works with students to teach problem solving strategies.
- If it is raining too hard outside, we have rainy day recess and students will stay inside and play games during their recess times.

# Playground Procedures

- 6 – 7 classes at a time at recess
- We teach students the expectations for each area during the first month of school
- We teach students how to make friends, how to join a game, what to do if/when they encounter a problem with another student.
- All students spend time on the playground every day. Appropriate shoes should be worn. Footwear must have straps around the ankles—no flip flops.
- The students line up under the covered area to reenter the building
- Teachers drop off and pick up their students from the playground.
- **PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN ALL OF THEIR COATS**

# Technology at LTES

Thank you for passing the Technology Levy!

- First grade is one to one with I-pads. They use these for individual practice of skills, in small groups and whole group skill building.
- Audio systems in all classrooms—Amplifies the teacher's voice to ensure all students can hear the teacher speaking
- 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades are one to one with Chromebooks and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has seven I-pads in each room.
- Interactive TVs and document cameras in every classroom

# Overview of First Grade

- Approximately 154 students in first grade next year
- 17-18 students in each class
- One “Multi Age” classroom—Students in first and second grades in one larger classroom with two teachers—Mrs. Nyberg (1<sup>st</sup>) and Mrs. Cromwell (2<sup>nd</sup>). Students switch for different subjects.
- 7 traditional homerooms—one homeroom teacher.
  - *The majority of students will be placed in a traditional homeroom*

# Why Offer Different First Grade Classroom Configurations?

- In Multi-age classrooms, the routines are in place at the beginning of the second year, and little time is lost at the beginning of each year setting expectations and routines.
- Research supports multi-age classrooms, however, effective instruction is effective instruction, no matter what classroom configuration is in place.
- No matter what, you can't go wrong! We have very effective and talented teachers at LTES at all grade levels.

# Curriculum

- Reading— Reading Streets —allows for differentiation. All students get what they need in order to be successful readers.
- Writing—Teachers focus their instruction using the Reading Streets curriculum and other materials that foster the joy and skills of writing. Each grade develops a Writing Rubric to assess students' writing and growth with writing skills.
- Math— Expressions —aligns with math standards and teaches students conceptual level of math skills.
- Science—Mystery Science and Stem Scopes
- Social Studies—Highly integrated in the reading program and in magazine format for current events.

# Curriculum

- Some parents may look at our first grade curriculum and initially judge it to be too easy for their child—be patient.
  - *All our curriculum is research-based and will meet your child's needs*
  - *Reading Streets has differentiation built into it—to meet the needs of low readers and high readers*
  - *The first month of school, the curriculum focuses on reviewing skills already learned. It quickly moves through the review.*

# Beyond First Grade

- Once First Grade is complete, students either move on to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in a traditional classroom setting, or they stay in the same classroom if they are in the multi-age style classroom.

# What Can You Do At Home This Summer?

- Make sure your child knows the kindergarten words—on website
- They should know their address and at least one parent's phone number
- Rote count to at least 100 and write numbers to 25
- Know letters and sounds of the alphabet
- Know how to tie their shoes
- Know shapes and colors, left and right, forward and backwards, over and under, etc.
- Know how to open lunch items—Gogurts are messy 😊

# Kindergarten Sight Words

see go like he two the me  
we with of I have my you  
little here where a do green she  
that come are three to am look  
yellow what from is one five four  
for was they said blue

# Things to be aware of

- We expect first graders to be more independent
- They will come home exhausted the first month of school.
- School will be very different for them. Most will love the transition. Some will have trouble adjusting to a new school. Please be sure to be in contact with the teacher if your child is struggling with something. There are many things that we can do together to help.
- Homework—once routines are established, homework will come home with 10-20 minutes of reading, plus 10 minutes of “paper/pencil” type homework each night.

# Other Items of Interest

- Treats—We encourage healthy treats be brought for birthday celebrations, and at the end of the day
- We will have an Open House, called Eagle Day, on Wednesday August 28, from 3:00-4:00pm pm. Families can come and meet the teachers and tour the building. You will receive an email and/or a phone message to help remind you.
- Parent Information Nights for each grade level will be held in September.

# Volunteers

- We LOVE volunteers
- Our students benefit from volunteers—helping students with reading, writing and math.
- We need help outside the classroom to copy papers, correct papers and cut things out.
- Be sure to talk with your teacher if you are available to volunteer
- A Volunteer Handbook is required reading (and signing) for all district volunteers. Your teacher will give you the required information at the beginning of the year.
- PTA also needs support from volunteers to make our school so great.

# Touring the Building

- There are first grade classrooms in the far two wings—Mystic Mountain and Tranquil Waters
- Feel free to tour those wings, as well as the rest of the building.
- Be sure to check out the library and the playground.
- The two first grade teachers, Mrs. Leslie and I will each be around the wings and hallways to answer any questions you may have
- Make yourself at home

Thank you for joining us tonight!

Questions before the self guided tour?