



FURLOW
CHARTER SCHOOL

WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE!

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

MRS. BUTLER

2021-2022

Dear Furlow Families,

Welcome to First Grade! I'm so excited to welcome so many of you back for more learning. For those who are new, my name is Mandy Butler. I am happy to have you and your scholar join our class. I have 21 years experience teaching Kindergarten and First Grade. I absolutely love what I do! Your child is my top priority, and I commit to working with you this year to ensure that your child succeeds. There is a lot to learn in First Grade. So, I will be asking for your support as we work together to help your child. I can't wait to see your child grow! It's going to be a JOYOUS year in 1st grade!

I would also like to introduce Ms. Sophia Winters. Ms. Winters will be working in our classroom as a GSW Student Teacher this semester. She will be graduating in December with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Winters has already proven to be a wonderful asset to our class. We are happy to welcome her to our Furlow Family.

We are looking forward to an exciting year! Please do not hesitate to contact me. I want to ensure that this is the best year for you and your scholar!

For the Falcons,

Mrs. Mandy Butler

Communication:

Communication is vital! If you need to get in touch with me, you can call and leave a message in the school office (229-931-8667) and I will return your call as soon as possible. You may also send a note with your child or email me at mbutler@furlowcharter.org. E-mail is the best way to contact me during school hours. We will also be utilizing Google Classroom and Remind this year. Please make sure you join both. Instructions and Class Codes will be sent to you. Please notify me if you need assistance.

Daily Folder/Communication Courier:

Your child will bring home a folder each day. This folder is an important communication tool between home and school. **Please initial the calendar in the back of the folder each day to indicate that you have seen the folder.** Please empty any papers that do not need to be returned, and return the folder each day. It will be your child's responsibility to take this folder out of his/her backpack each morning. All Sign & Return papers and School communication will be sent home in this folder on Wednesday of each week.

Weekly Newsletter :

The newsletter will be sent home each week. This is to keep you informed of learning objectives and special activities for the coming week. It will also include important dates and serve as a reminder of extra supplies that may be needed. Be sure to always read your newsletter. Periodically, I will send messages and reminders via Remind to help keep you informed.

Grading and Late Work:

All assignments, in class and virtual, will be due on the assigned date. Full credit will be given for work submitted by the assigned date. Scholars may earn partial credit for assignments submitted past the assigned date/class period based on the following:

- Up to 7 school days after the due date/class period - 5% deduction for each day past the assigned date
- Work missing beyond 7 school days/class periods will be marked as receiving a fifty (50%)
 - Example: Due on Monday and turned in on Thursday = no higher than 85%, 5% off Tuesday, 5% off Wednesday, 5% off Thursday

- Another example: Due on Monday and tried to turn in Thursday of next week = 50%

How Absences Affect Late Work:

Excused Absences

Full credit will be given to scholars with excused absences for work submitted by updated due dates based on our handbook, page 15.

- Extension to due dates equal to number of days absent

Unexcused Absences

Full credit will be given to scholars with unexcused absences for work submitted by original due dates, or upon their return to school, when original due dates occurred during absences.

Curriculum:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/default.aspx>

Units of Study

We will be learning many new and exciting things this year, but we will also be reviewing things that your child may know. Repetition is extremely important in the learning process and we will begin with simple concepts and work towards more complex ones. This also helps students feel confident and successful from the very start. A firm foundation is important to future academic success.

Reading/ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phonics ● Phonemic Awareness ● Vocabulary ● Fluency ● Comprehension ● Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operations and Algebraic Thinking ● Number Operations in Base Ten ● Measurement and Data ● Geometry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weather and Weather Patterns ● Light and Sound ● Magnets ● Plants and Animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American Heritage ● Geographical Understandings ● Government/Civic Understandings ● Economic Understandings

Project Based Learning

First Grade scholars will complete two PBL Units during the 2021-2022 school year. One unit will be completed in the Fall and one unit will be completed in the Spring. These units will be aligned to grade-level standards, and they will be cross-curricular. Projects will be completed for each unit. Rubrics will be used in grading these projects. Additional PBL Exercises will be conducted throughout the year.

Welcome to the Neighborhood - Scholars will learn about the community in which they live and go to school. Scholars will develop a plan for teaching new friends about their community. They will create a pamphlet and a “Tiny Town” model to present at the end of the learning unit. This unit will include ELA and Social Studies standards.

Hello, Butterflies Scholars will learn how butterflies help the environment. They will work with High School Service Learning Scholars to create a butterfly garden at our school. Scholars will research and develop a plan to bring butterflies to our school environment. They will host a Butterfly Garden dedication ceremony at the end of the learning unit. This unit will include ELA, Math, and Science standards.

Classroom Rules:

- Listen and follow directions the first time given
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Speak in a quiet, indoor voice
- Be where you should be
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on during a lesson
- Work during work time
- Treat others with respect

Hallway Rules:

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Walk in a quiet line
- Stay in your personal space

Playground Rules:

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Use equipment safely
- Line up quickly

Discipline Procedures:

Furlow Charter uses The Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) schoolwide for discipline. At Furlow, we expect scholars to SOAR by being safe, on-time, accountable and respectful. Appropriate classroom behavior is vital to the learning environment. We will utilize a color-coded clip system in the classroom to monitor behavior. ALL students begin the day on dark green. If your child has unacceptable behavior, their clip will be moved to the next color. Below is a list of colors and the consequences for each color.

Green - Excellent Day! No warnings or one verbal warning given.

Light Green - Two verbal warnings have been given. This gives them a chance to think about their behavior and make better choices before moving to yellow.

Yellow - Warning Note will be in their folder and will miss 10 min of recess.

Red: Note will be in the daily folder, miss 15 minutes of recess and a parent will be called. Possible referral to the office may occur. **Automatic office referral may occur for severe problems.**

At the end of the day, scholars who stay on dark green will receive a star to put in their folder. Please remove the stars daily and keep them in a safe place at home. Putting a Ziploc bag on the refrigerator to accumulate stars is an excellent way to keep up with them! **I will not replace lost stars.** When your child receives 10 stars, return the bag for a prize. The star is basically a note letting you know that your scholar had a great day. No star indicates that your child had difficulties that need to be discussed. In this case, you will find it notated in your child's behavior calendar in the daily folder.

Our high expectations for your scholar is very important in your scholar's life. Our home to school partnership this year will make a huge difference in their behavior.

PBIS/Rewards:

- Verbal praise
- Stickers and stamps
- Notes and phone calls to parents
- Treats (treasure box, popcorn, popsicles, etc)

Wish List Supplies:

- 1 container baby wipes
- 1 container Lysol or Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes of Kleenex tissue
- 1 box Ziploc Quart size Bags

- 1 box Ziploc Gallon size bags
- 2 rolls of Papertowels (Bounty)
- All scholars will need a backpack and water bottle

Homework:

Specific homework will be sent home throughout the year. You will need to read with your child 20 minutes nightly. In the take home folder you will find sight words, a hundreds chart and a blends and digraphs chart. Please help your scholar become familiar with these. Please let me know if you need additional material to work on at home. Please refer to the weekly newsletter so that you know when certain skills will be accessed. I will send home assignments periodically for additional practice.

Technology:

Your scholar will have their own assigned Chromebook that will be used in the classroom daily. We will work on various reading, math and social studies/science skills. We will learn basic typing, and will visit several educational websites, as well. Scholars must follow technology guidelines which can be found in the FCS Family Handbook. All technology guidelines apply to Distance Learning as well. At no time should a scholar be using their school issued computer for watching youtube or playing games that are not assigned by an advisor.

Independent Sills:

We will be fostering the goal of independence as the year progresses. Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Your child will be learning to do many things on his/her own this year. Please work on the following self-help skills at home with your child: zipping, tying, restroom etiquette, dressing, opening lunch items, etc.

Bathroom:

Your child is given the opportunity to use the bathroom when needed. He/she will visit the bathroom alone. Please discuss appropriate bathroom behaviors with your child. We will be following CDC guidelines for safety.

Dress Code:

In our classroom, we will participate in many activities everyday. Sometimes, we will be doing “messy” artwork or we will be going outside to the playground. Try to keep this in mind when helping your child dress for school. Comfortable, weather appropriate clothing is best. It is also important that your child wear shoes, in which he/she can run, jump and play. Our class has P.E. every other week. Athletic shoes are best for taking part in these types of activities. No flip-flops or backless sandals are allowed. Due to COVID 19 guidelines, please help us by ensuring that your scholar wears comfortable shoes that do not require adult assistance (Velcro, slip-on, sandals with back strap, etc.). Note: Our classroom gets cool at times, please send a jacket/sweater in your child’s backpack.

Breakfast & Lunch:

If your scholar(s) plans to eat breakfast at school each day, please have him/her at school by 7:45 am. Breakfast **MUST** be eaten at home or at school. Please do not allow your child to skip breakfast. Our lunch time this year is 12:12. Your child can not learn if he/she is hungry. Lunch boxes are allowed, but please make sure that your scholar has a balanced lunch and can open items with little or no assistance. Your child does not have to get a tray if they bring their lunch, but can get one if they desire. Please talk with your child about your expectations for eating at school.

Snack:

Due to our late lunch, we will have a morning and snack each day.. Please look for your scholar’s name on the newsletter to indicate your week to bring snacks. I will also contact you prior to your week to let you know. Please bring enough snacks for 16 scholars for each day of the week. Snacks should be **individually wrapped**. Please do not send any snacks requiring forks/spoons. Snacks should be healthy options for students. **Snack ideas:** pretzels, popcorn, cheese nips, crackers, and granola bars. You may bring popsicles for a cool refreshing treat for recess during these hot months. With our snack rotation, you will only have to bring snacks twice a year.

Water:

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, Public water fountains will be closed. Scholars **MUST** bring a filled water bottle to school each day. The bottle should be labeled with the scholar's name and should have a cap that minimizes spills. FCS staff will help scholars refill their bottles throughout the day.

Birthdays:

If your child would like to celebrate their birthday with the class, please send 16 individually wrapped snacks that are easy to serve. All food items must be store bought due to safety regulations. If your child has a summer birthday, I will let him/her choose a day in May to celebrate. Birthday celebrations will be held in the afternoon in our classroom. I am happy to help pass out invitations to birthday celebrations outside of school if everyone in the class, or all boys or all girls are invited. Otherwise, invitations will need to be mailed.

Toys:

Our days are packed with many fun-filled activities. Your child is given hands-on opportunities all throughout the day. Please keep any toys at home. Scholars should not bring any form of electronics to school at any time.

Dismissal:

Your child will only be dismissed from school the way you have informed the teacher. If you have a change in dismissal or someone different will be picking up your scholar, please send a note and put it in the notes section of the folder. If you need to pick your child up early, you will need to go to the office and sign them out. Please try to limit early checkouts by making all appointments after school or on holidays.

Safety Protocols/Illness -

- Mask or Face coverings are recommended when in close proximity to others.
- Your child needs to stay home if he/she has:
 - *a temperature of 100.4 or higher
 - *vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- Please notify me if your child is going to be absent and send an excuse when he/she returns to school.
- Ms. Marcia, our school nurse, serves K-12 scholars. She is on campus daily for urgent care. Please monitor your child's health at home and let me know of any changes as they arise. We will try to only send scholars to the nurse if necessary. Please talk with your child about the importance of limiting nurse visits to lessen their exposure to other sickness.

**We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you this year!
It's going to be a "BEE-utiful" year in 1st grade!!**

