

Mrs. Candler's

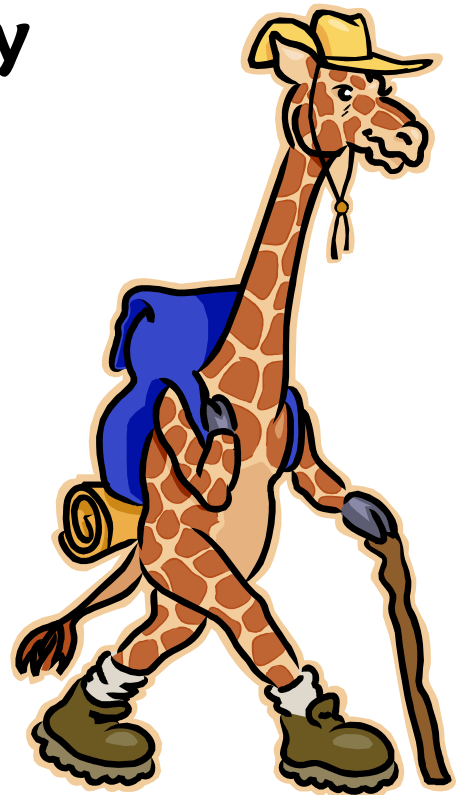
Class Handbook

2008 - 2009

**Stoney Point Elementary
4th Grade**

**Candler Kids
on the Web
www.candlerkids.com**

Journey to Success!



August 25, 2008

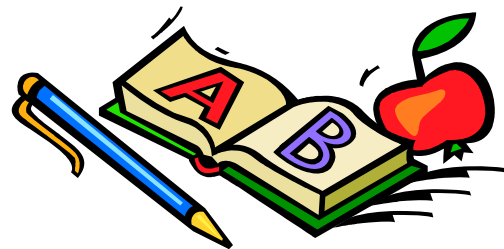
Dear Parents,

This week begins a brand new school year for all of us, and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to my new students. As always, the start of a school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas.

I have put together a handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with my expectations for the school year. Take a day or two to read through this information, and then sign below by Friday. (Please make sure you send this handbook to school each day with your child because we will be using it for several class activities.) Then you may want to keep the handbook in a special place so that you may refer to it throughout the year. If you need to contact me, I prefer email if possible. My email address is lauracandler@att.net. I check my email each day and I will respond promptly. If you do not have email, you may call the school and leave a message (424-3945).

In a few weeks, I will host a parent meeting in the evening so that I can answer your questions and share some ways you can help your child at home. I'm looking forward to an exciting year with my class. Thank you for your cooperation in getting this year off to a great start!

Sincerely,



Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Cooperative Learning

I wholeheartedly believe in cooperative learning in the classroom. I have placed my students in mixed ability groups so that they may help each other during the learning process. Research has shown that all students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn valuable social skills they will need throughout life.

Parents are often concerned about grades in the cooperative learning classroom. Don't worry! All grades come from individual assignments and tests. No student's grade will be raised or lowered based on the performance of others in the group. I welcome the opportunity to discuss cooperative learning with anyone who has questions or concerns. I've had great success with this technique in recent years, and I'd love the chance to convince anyone of the benefits of cooperative learning!



Class Newsletters/ Weekly Progress Reports

I send home a Class Newsletter & Weekly Progress Report each Friday, and I ask that you sign it and return it on Monday. I will attach all the graded papers for that week to the newsletter. Please remove the papers, read over the comments on the progress report, sign it, and return it to school with your child on Monday.



I will always send home a weekly progress report (or notify you that one will not be sent), so don't accept any excuses for your child not having a progress report on Friday. If you do not receive one, please email me (lauracandler@att.net) or call the school (868-5211) to let me know.

Physical Education Program



Our class participates in physical education every day. We do exercises, run laps, practice P.E. skills, and play games. Therefore, your child needs to wear appropriate clothing and footwear each day. Students who wear dress clothes or shoes should be prepared to change into appropriate clothing before our P.E. period. Slick shoes or restrictive clothing can be a hazard during physical education activities. If you feel your child should not participate in P.E. on a particular day, please write a note stating the reason. All children will be expected to participate unless they have a note excusing them.

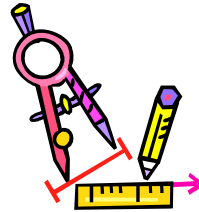
Candler Kids on the Web

Our class has a home on the Internet! We have a class web page on which we display student work and list our honor roll and other awards. Parents can visit the web page to view see weekly spelling words and keep up-to-date on classroom events. Our web site is located at www.candlerkids.com. I only use students' first names and last initials, and I don't match pictures with names. If you do not want your child's picture, stories, or other work on our class web page, please write me a note or send me an email. Be sure to visit our web page before you make this decision! I hope that all students will be able to be included on our class website.



Materials Needed

- ◆ Two 1" View-Binder notebooks (not a trapper keeper!)
- ◆ Loose-leaf notebook paper (college or narrow ruled)
- ◆ Single subject composition book
- ◆ Pencils with erasers
- ◆ Box of colored pencils
- ◆ Highlighters (4)
- ◆ Pocket folders with 3 prongs (at least 2 plastic)
- ◆ Pack of dry erase markers
- ◆ Fiskars scissors (child-size)
- ◆ Zippered pencil case (heavy duty canvas)
- ◆ Sturdy clipboard (not plastic)



Bookbag Info

Please do not send in large bookbags or rolling bookbags. We just don't have the space to store them. Thanks!

Reading Program

The Accelerated Reader program is used at Stoney Point. Students read novels from a selected list and then take short computer quizzes to test comprehension. Students earn points based on the difficulty of the book and their performance on the quiz. Also, students will be expected to keep a Reading Log to document their reading at home. Each week they need to read for a minimum of 120 minutes (or 2 hours). I encourage students to read a variety of books, not just AR books. They can even read magazines and newspaper articles! If you see an article in the paper that might interest your child, please clip it out and share it with them. One part of their reading grade will be based on their Reading Log and the other part will be based on AR performance. More details later!



Attendance

Regular school attendance is critical to the learning process. Our school day officially starts at 8:00 a.m., but since most bus students arrive at 7:30 we begin "morning work" assignments at that time. When your child is absent or tardy, he or she misses valuable instructional time. Please send a written note whenever your child is absent. State law requires us to code each absence as lawful or unlawful. **Lawful** absences include illness and doctor's appointments. **Unlawful** absences include out-of-town trips, missing the bus, and family vacations.

Daily Math Drills

In my experience, students cannot move on to higher level reasoning in mathematics until they master their basic math facts. In addition to regular math assignments, your child will be performing daily drills until he or she has mastered the basic facts. You can help your child prepare by studying with flashcards or having them spend 15 minutes a day working with online flashcards at www.mathfactcafe.com. You can even call out math facts to your child while driving in the car or waiting in the doctor's office! Mastering Times Tables is particularly challenging, so when everyone knows their times tables we will celebrate with an ice cream party!



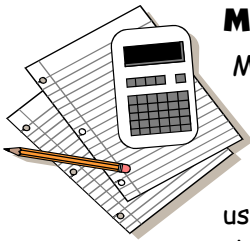
Homework/Classwork

I believe that homework is necessary for practicing skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. On the other hand, I don't believe in overloading students with busywork! In many cases, homework is simply classwork that was not finished. I try to give ample time in class for the completion of assignments, but some students work more slowly and must finish at home.



In order to help students get their homework assignments done, students will be given a Student Planner and a homework folder. They will write their assignments in their planner and place any important papers in the folder. After they complete an assignment, they should place it in the front pocket of the folder. The homework folder includes the Home Reading Log which must be signed each evening. I encourage parents to review the contents of your child's homework folder and planner each night when signing the Reading Log.

I expect all homework and classwork to be turned in on time. Late assignments will be graded if they are turned in within a week, but later work will receive a lower grade. Students will not be allowed to call home if they forget their work. Students should pack their bookbags at night with all the materials needed for the next day. Organization is the key to success!

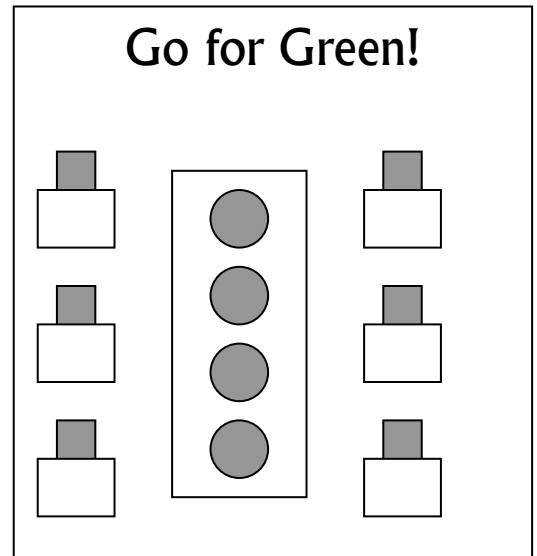


Math Word Problems, Calculator Use, and Accelerated Math

My students will be learning to solve increasingly complex mathematical word problems this year. It's important that they learn to use a calculator as a problem-solving tool. Students may use calculators to complete math homework problems that involve geometry, fractions, word problems, etc. However, students may not use calculators for skill drills and basic computation, and they may not use it on Accelerated Math assignments. We will start Accelerated Math a few weeks into the school year and I'll provide more information about the program at that time.

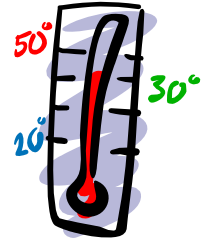
Stoplight Behavior Management System

I want to explain a very effective behavior management system that I use in my classroom. The bulletin board at the front of the room shows a stoplight with four colors. Each student has a number, and each person's numbered pocket contains a strip of colored paper. Everyone begins each day on green. If a class rule is broken, the color changes to yellow, which is the first caution. If another behavior problem occurs that day, the color will change to orange, the second caution. Furthermore, the student will have to complete a Time Out worksheet explaining their inappropriate behavior and how they plan to correct the problem. These forms will be sent home to parents to be signed and returned. The color red is reserved for very severe discipline problems and results in a phone call home or a trip to the office.



Science Buddies Program

Our class will participate in the Science Buddies program. This program involves students taking home one science activity a month to complete at home with an adult Science Buddy. The experiments use simple household materials and generally take no more than 30 minutes to complete. Each activity comes with several questions to talk over. You will receive more information about this program at the end of the month. Your first activity will be sent home on August 1st and will be due later that month. Both parents and students have loved this program in the past, and I'm sure you will look forward to each month's investigation.



Lunch Money

As you know, students who do not receive free lunch must either pay for one or bring their own from home. Each year I have many students who forget their money or lose it before lunch. Lending money to students is very inconvenient and expensive, since students frequently forget to pay me back. Having students pay by the week or the month can eliminate most lunch money problems. Our school has a computerized system that effectively keeps track of all money paid in to each child's account. When a student is absent or chooses not to eat lunch, the money remains in his or her account for the next week. The cost of school lunch is \$1.65 (40 cents for reduced) so a weekly ticket will cost \$8.25 (full price) or \$2.00 (reduced price). Please help me avoid lunchtime problems by purchasing a weekly ticket if you normally pay on a daily basis.



Mid-morning Snacks & Water Consumption

I have found it beneficial for the class to have a mid-morning healthy snack. Each student needs to bring a small snack each day. Only send enough for one day, and please don't send snacks that need refrigeration. Please do not send in sweet or sticky items like cake, brownies, frosted cookies, or cupcakes. I also permit my students to bring a water bottle to school to keep on their desks during the day and to use at recess. Plain water is the only beverage permitted, and the bottle must have a secure lid. Water bottles should be taken home regularly to be cleaned. The following are examples of healthy snacks that we can enjoy while we continue to work.

- ◆ apples
- ◆ carrot sticks
- ◆ peanuts
- ◆ oyster crackers
- ◆ cheese crackers
- ◆ small box of raisins
- ◆ grapes
- ◆ pretzels
- ◆ graham crackers
- ◆ dried fruit
- ◆ peanut butter crackers
- ◆ protein or nutrition bar
- ◆ peanut butter sandwich



Parent Volunteers

I love to have parent volunteers in the room! You can file papers, staple progress reports together, read with students, help with math, or anything else that needs to be done. I can be a much more effective teacher when I have volunteers to share the load. If you are interested in volunteering, please send a note or email me. It would be great if you could come in regularly on a certain day of the week or at a certain time. Doing so will help me plan activities that need a helping hand! So if you would like to volunteer, please send a note with the best days and times for you to work in our classroom. For example, you might tell me that you would like to work one morning a week, and give me some possible days. I generally don't need as much time in the afternoon because that's when we have our resources classes and PE.

Spelling Program

My spelling program is very flexible and is based on the needs of my students. I start the year by having students learn their classmates' names. We write down their full names, but students only need to learn to spell their first names. We will practice in class, but please quiz your child at home. Because students don't have much time to study, we are going to split the list in half. Students will have a quiz on the first half of the list on Thursday. They will be tested on the other half Friday.

Next week we will use the number words as a basis for our spelling list. Students at this age should be able to spell numbers and write word names for numbers without making errors. After that, we will begin our regular spelling program which is coordinated with the words in our reading series.



Our Intern (Student Teacher)

This fall I'm excited to have an intern working with me. Her name is Ms. Lindsay Jeter, and she comes to us from East Carolina University. Ms. Jeter actually grew up here in Fayetteville and attended Jack Britt when she was in high school. We will be working closely together to plan instruction and teach our students. It will be like having two teachers for the price of one! 😊



Lunch and Resource Schedule

Recess (M - Th) 11:10 - 11:40

Lunch 11:40 - 12:05

Resource Time 12:30 - 1:10

Monday - Computers

Wednesday - Music

Thursday - Art

Friday - PE

