

## Welcome to CTA First Grade at Rice Elementary in Room C9!

### **General Information:**

E-mail Address: [vandebeuken.shannon@cusd80.com](mailto:vandebeuken.shannon@cusd80.com)

Voice Mail: 480-424-8559

Website Address: <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/4116>

**Absences** – If your child is going to be absent, please call the school (480-424-8500). If your child is going to be absent for an extended period (a week or more) please notify me as well as the front office.

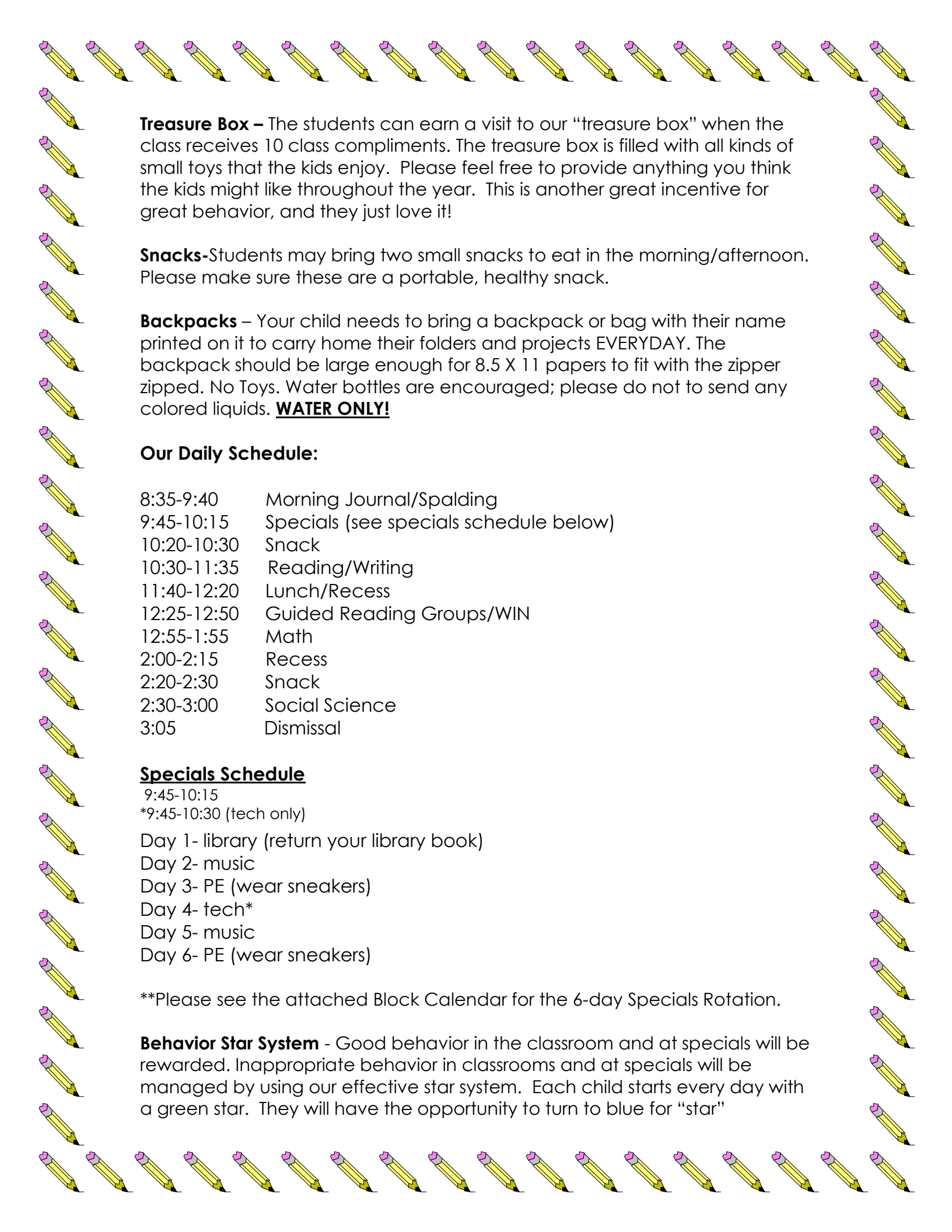
**Tardies** – When your child comes to school late, they must be taken to the office for a tardy slip. **Please help your child get to school on time because instruction will start right away. School hours are as follows: 8:35-3:05.** Please be sure your child does not arrive on campus before 8:10 a.m. as there will be no supervision before that time. playground.

**Supplies-** The list below includes items we could use in the classroom. Every child will be given all the supplies needed to start the year but please consider providing the items listed to be used throughout the school year. All supplies will be used for community purposes so they will not need a name on them, nor will your child need individual supplies/supply boxes. Supply boxes will be provided. Each child will have access to all our supplies this year.

- **Elmer's** glue sticks
- 4 packs of **Crayola** crayons (24 pack)
- baby wipes
- pencil top erasers
- hand sanitizer
- tissues
- small treasure box prizes
- Skittles, M&M's, and/or Mike-n-Ike's (for our candy machine)

Your child will need a set of coins to use during our math lessons throughout the year. Please put the coins in a baggie labeled with your child's name. Each child will need 20 pennies, 8 nickels, 10 dimes and 6 quarters. Please plan to bring these on the first day of school. These will be returned at the end of the year. Thank you. ☺

In addition, your child will need either ear buds or earphones to be used during our tech/iPad time. These will be kept in the classroom and will be returned at the end of the year.



**Treasure Box** – The students can earn a visit to our “treasure box” when the class receives 10 class compliments. The treasure box is filled with all kinds of small toys that the kids enjoy. Please feel free to provide anything you think the kids might like throughout the year. This is another great incentive for great behavior, and they just love it!

**Snacks**-Students may bring two small snacks to eat in the morning/afternoon. Please make sure these are a portable, healthy snack.

**Backpacks** – Your child needs to bring a backpack or bag with their name printed on it to carry home their folders and projects EVERYDAY. The backpack should be large enough for 8.5 X 11 papers to fit with the zipper zipped. No Toys. Water bottles are encouraged; please do not to send any colored liquids. **WATER ONLY!**

**Our Daily Schedule:**

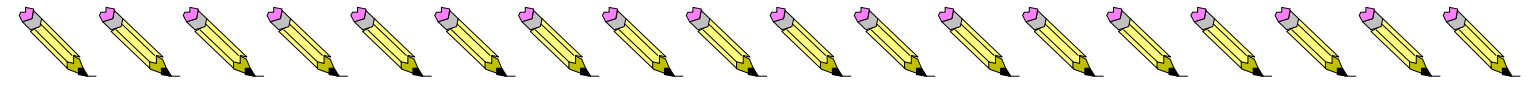
8:35-9:40	Morning Journal/Spalding
9:45-10:15	Specials (see specials schedule below)
10:20-10:30	Snack
10:30-11:35	Reading/Writing
11:40-12:20	Lunch/Recess
12:25-12:50	Guided Reading Groups/WIN
12:55-1:55	Math
2:00-2:15	Recess
2:20-2:30	Snack
2:30-3:00	Social Science
3:05	Dismissal

**Specials Schedule**

9:45-10:15  
\*9:45-10:30 (tech only)  
Day 1- library (return your library book)  
Day 2- music  
Day 3- PE (wear sneakers)  
Day 4- tech\*  
Day 5- music  
Day 6- PE (wear sneakers)

\*\*Please see the attached Block Calendar for the 6-day Specials Rotation.

**Behavior Star System** - Good behavior in the classroom and at specials will be rewarded. Inappropriate behavior in classrooms and at specials will be managed by using our effective star system. Each child starts every day with a green star. They will have the opportunity to turn to blue for “star”



behavior. This will be a celebration because a child has gone above and beyond without the teacher asking. So, for example, a child may show exceptional listening skills, or they may help another child pick-up all of their crayons that have fallen on the floor. Please celebrate with your child if they receive a blue star. They will receive a Rhino Reward as a reward.

Inappropriate choices will result in a yellow or even red star. The students will be encouraged throughout the day to make better choices for an opportunity to earn their green star back. If they are on green or blue each day of the week, they will be able to participate in Fun Friday. If they have two yellows or one red during the week, they will not be able to participate in Fun Friday. Your child's color will come home daily on his/her homework calendar.

**Fun Friday** – The students can participate in Fun Friday by earning green or blue stars each day in a week. Fun Friday is a special time for them to choose their own activity and interact with other students. It is a great incentive for great behavior.

### **Whole school behavior**

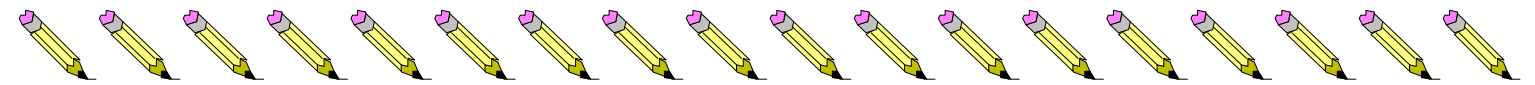
R- respectful  
I-inclusive  
S-safe  
E-engaged

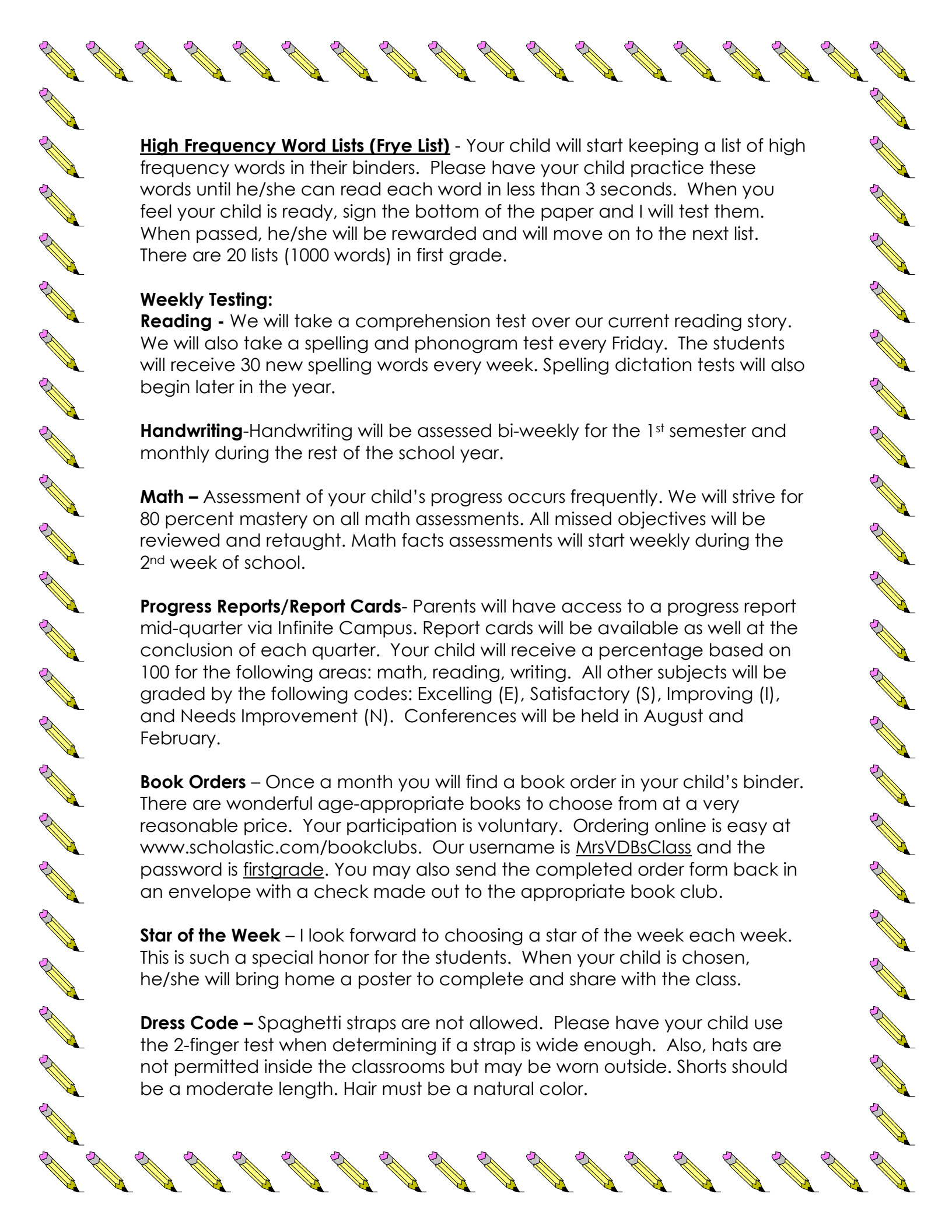
Students will earn Rhino Rewards throughout the day for demonstrating these behaviors. They can "buy" rewards in the classroom using these tickets.

**Homework Binders** – Your child will bring home a binder every day. This binder is to help keep them organized and should come back and forth every day. The left side will consist of papers that should be looked at with your child and kept at home. The right side, as well as any sheets in the page protectors, should be returned to school. Approximately 30-50 minutes of CTA homework will be assigned nightly. Please read the homework calendar, help your student complete the assignments and sign the calendar. The signed calendar, completed homework, and behavior star chart **MUST** be returned daily. Incomplete homework will be completed during recess time.

**Homework is expected to be returned complete and correct.** Parents, please make sure the homework is checked to insure it is turned in without any mistakes.

As part of the nightly homework, your child is expected to spend 15-20 minutes reading nightly. There is a section on the homework slip to log the nightly reading. ***The more we read, the smarter we get!***





**High Frequency Word Lists (Frye List)** - Your child will start keeping a list of high frequency words in their binders. Please have your child practice these words until he/she can read each word in less than 3 seconds. When you feel your child is ready, sign the bottom of the paper and I will test them. When passed, he/she will be rewarded and will move on to the next list. There are 20 lists (1000 words) in first grade.

**Weekly Testing:**

**Reading** - We will take a comprehension test over our current reading story. We will also take a spelling and phonogram test every Friday. The students will receive 30 new spelling words every week. Spelling dictation tests will also begin later in the year.

**Handwriting**-Handwriting will be assessed bi-weekly for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and monthly during the rest of the school year.

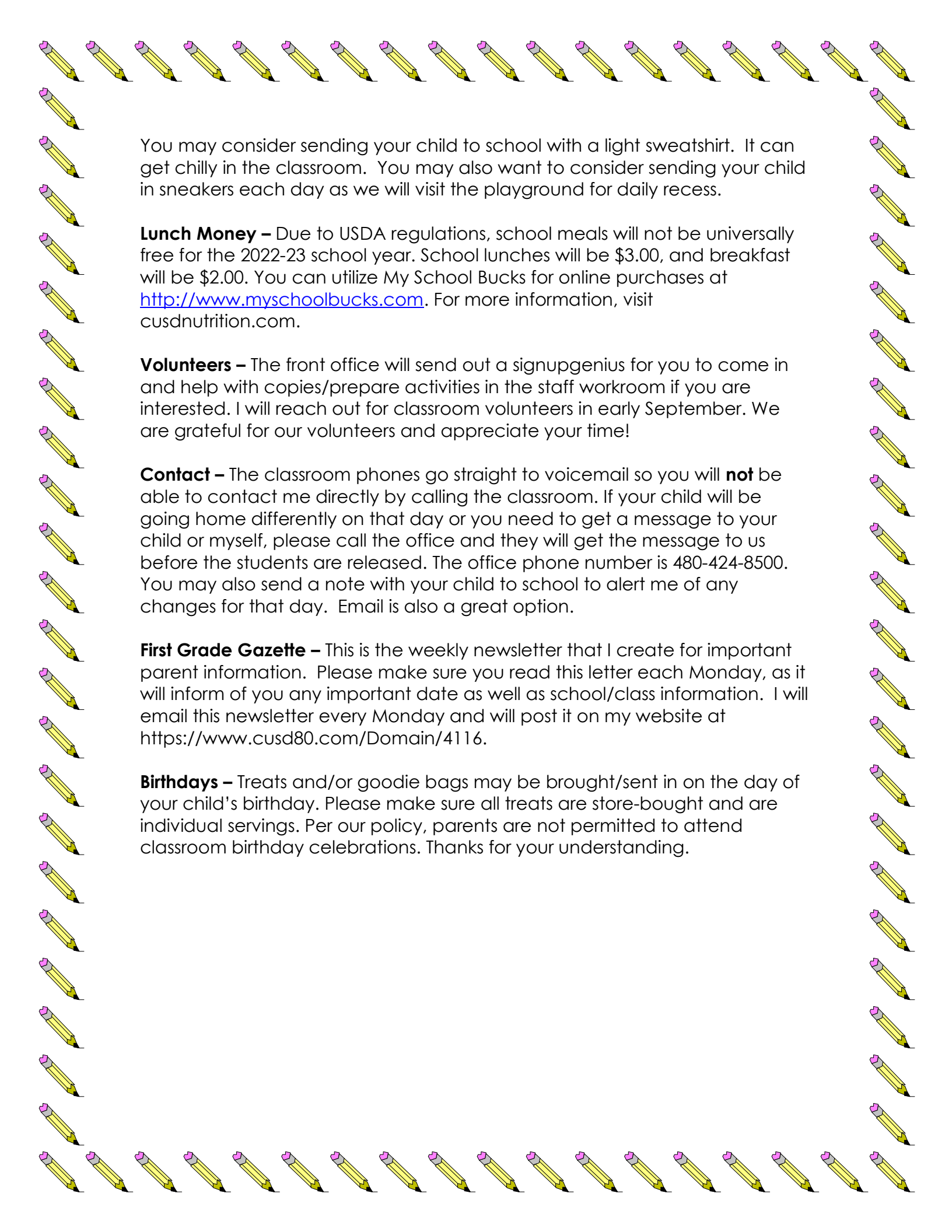
**Math** - Assessment of your child's progress occurs frequently. We will strive for 80 percent mastery on all math assessments. All missed objectives will be reviewed and retaught. Math facts assessments will start weekly during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school.

**Progress Reports/Report Cards**- Parents will have access to a progress report mid-quarter via Infinite Campus. Report cards will be available as well at the conclusion of each quarter. Your child will receive a percentage based on 100 for the following areas: math, reading, writing. All other subjects will be graded by the following codes: Excelling (E), Satisfactory (S), Improving (I), and Needs Improvement (N). Conferences will be held in August and February.

**Book Orders** - Once a month you will find a book order in your child's binder. There are wonderful age-appropriate books to choose from at a very reasonable price. Your participation is voluntary. Ordering online is easy at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). Our username is MrsVDBsClass and the password is firstgrade. You may also send the completed order form back in an envelope with a check made out to the appropriate book club.

**Star of the Week** - I look forward to choosing a star of the week each week. This is such a special honor for the students. When your child is chosen, he/she will bring home a poster to complete and share with the class.

**Dress Code** - Spaghetti straps are not allowed. Please have your child use the 2-finger test when determining if a strap is wide enough. Also, hats are not permitted inside the classrooms but may be worn outside. Shorts should be a moderate length. Hair must be a natural color.



You may consider sending your child to school with a light sweatshirt. It can get chilly in the classroom. You may also want to consider sending your child in sneakers each day as we will visit the playground for daily recess.

**Lunch Money** – Due to USDA regulations, school meals will not be universally free for the 2022-23 school year. School lunches will be \$3.00, and breakfast will be \$2.00. You can utilize My School Bucks for online purchases at <http://www.myschoolbucks.com>. For more information, visit [cusdnutrition.com](http://cusdnutrition.com).

**Volunteers** – The front office will send out a sign up genius for you to come in and help with copies/prepare activities in the staff workroom if you are interested. I will reach out for classroom volunteers in early September. We are grateful for our volunteers and appreciate your time!

**Contact** – The classroom phones go straight to voicemail so you will **not** be able to contact me directly by calling the classroom. If your child will be going home differently on that day or you need to get a message to your child or myself, please call the office and they will get the message to us before the students are released. The office phone number is 480-424-8500. You may also send a note with your child to school to alert me of any changes for that day. Email is also a great option.

**First Grade Gazette** – This is the weekly newsletter that I create for important parent information. Please make sure you read this letter each Monday, as it will inform of you any important date as well as school/class information. I will email this newsletter every Monday and will post it on my website at <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/4116>.

**Birthdays** – Treats and/or goodie bags may be brought/sent in on the day of your child's birthday. Please make sure all treats are store-bought and are individual servings. Per our policy, parents are not permitted to attend classroom birthday celebrations. Thanks for your understanding.