

August 1, 2024

Dear Cardinal Room Families,

Welcome to First Grade! This will be an exciting year filled with lots of friends and learning.

For the first few weeks of school, we are going to focus on learning Barton expectations, classroom procedures, and getting to know one another by building a classroom community.

I love implementing Project Based Learning, S.T.E.M., and Systems Thinking into the curriculum as much as I can. I have learned over the years as a primary school teacher that young children learn best by “doing.” When students are engaged with their hands and their minds, they are focused and motivated to learn. When these teaching methods are blended together and accompanied with student voice and choice, children take ownership of their learning.

The first few weeks of school will be devoted to:

- **community building** so students get to know one other and feel connected and valued.
- **socio-emotional learning** to foster a child's self-confidence, empathy, the ability to develop meaningful and lasting friendships, and a sense of importance and value to those around him/her.
- **school and classroom expectations** to create an engaging, respectful, and meaningful learning environment.

Meet the Teacher

My name is Ms. Amber. I was born and raised in Scottsdale, Arizona. I moved to Tucson in January of 2023. I love Tucson's desert habitat and feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. I also spent many summers in Douglas, Arizona, with my extended family. I enjoy all things southern Arizona.

Parent/Teacher Communication

I will send a newsletter home every other Tuesday informing you of our activities, learning, and eventually student work. Your child will receive a **Classroom Newsletter** and other important school information inside of their **Take Home Tuesday Folder**. The Newsletter will also be available online on the Borton Website.

Please make sure your child returns the Take Home Tuesday Folder to the classroom by the following Monday so that I can send out new Borton information to your child every Tuesday.

Student Information

Please fill out the **Cardinal Room Information Sheet** and return it to the classroom to me after you have filled it out. **Please let me know how your child will go home on the first day of school and if their plan changes on how they go home.**

KIDCO

We have the **afterschool program KIDCO** each day until 6:00pm for those who are enrolled. Please contact KIDCO at 520-791-4873 or go to the Parks and Recreation Website to find out how.

Extra Clothing

In the event that your child has an accident, I ask that you please bring in a change of clothes to keep in their cubby or backpack. This includes a change of socks, underwear, shirt, pants appropriate for the current season. Please put in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. If at any time I have to send soiled clothes home, please send a replacement back to school as soon as possible.

Snack

We will have a snack every day to help our minds and bodies! I would appreciate it if families could donate a snack for the entire class at the beginning of each month. **Please send in individually wrapped snacks per our current health guidelines.** Some healthy snack food suggestions are pretzels, cheese sticks, carrots, applesauce, yogurt/gogurt, fruit snacks, popcorn, animal crackers, chocolate chip granola bars, bananas, apples, cutie oranges, and Goldfish. I will also accept donations of cookies, rice Krispie treats, and chips. We could also use donations of spoons if you bring something that requires them. ****If your child has dietary restrictions, please let me know.**

Water bottles

Your child may bring a reusable water bottle to school. Please put your child's name on their water bottle. If your child does not bring a water bottle of their own, the school is **no longer** providing them to students. The drinking fountains are available to all students.

Helpful Reminder

Students have 35 minutes for lunch. They have outdoor playtime for the first 15 minutes of lunch and then have about 15 minutes to eat their lunch. Since students have a limited time to eat, please remind your child to eat their food first at lunch time and then chat with friends when they are done eating. **Please write your child's name on all their belongings (lunch box, water bottle, backpack, and jackets.)**

Borton Policy

Please remind your child that toys, candy, and cell phones are not allowed at school. They will be taken away for the day and will be returned to the parents after school. Thank you for helping.

Attendance

School starts at 8:20am! It is essential for your child to be at school every day and on time. Attendance is taken right after our morning pledge time. If your child arrives at school later than 8:35 your child will be marked tardy. They will need to stop by the office first to get a late slip to bring to the classroom. Please be on time so your child doesn't miss out on important learning!

Dropping Off/Picking Up Your Child

When dropping off your child in the morning, they may play outside on the playground or jump rope in the inner courtyard. There are playground monitors that supervise in the mornings for the safety of your children. Your child may also choose to have breakfast in the dining room. We will meet the children in the inner courtyard for pledge at 8:20am when the bell rings.

Class Dismissal is 2:45pm M/T/Th/F and at 1:45pm on Wednesdays. You may pick up your child outside of the classroom or at the designated parent pick-up area which is located at the west gate. We will begin walking the students to the west gate by 2:40pm. **If you will be picking up your child at the west gate, please write your child's name and classroom in big letters on a piece of paper and place it on the dashboard on your car. This will help us to call your child quickly and help make the car line go faster.** The west gate will be locked at 3:00pm. Please pick up your child in the office if it is after 3:00pm.

**** Please do not take your child without letting your teacher know you are leaving. We worry if we do not see students leave with their family.*****

Dress for Success. Students at Borton spend a lot of time outdoors for P.E., outdoor learning/gardening, and sometimes in our desert environmental learning lab (B.E.L.L.). It is important that they are dressed in appropriate outdoor clothing and closed toed shoes. This is so they can fully participate in these activities.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is a question or concern you would like to discuss. You can reach me by [email](mailto:amber.ybarra@tusd1.org): amber.ybarra@tusd1.org or on our classroom dojo. I look forward to building a relationship with you and providing the best education for your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amber