



# Welcome to 1st Grade



August 1, 2024

Dear Mariposa Room Families,

**Welcome to First Grade!** This will be an exciting year filled with lots of new friends, adventures, and learning. I absolutely love teaching First Grade. It is my mission to instill a love for learning in my students so they will develop a desire to become life-long learners. I believe that every child has wonderful gifts, strengths, and talents to share in the classroom. I am so excited to get to know you and your child! I look forward to a great year together!

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.

Students not only understand content more deeply but also learn how to take responsibility and build confidence, solve problems, work collaboratively, communicate ideas, and be creative innovators.

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 them.
- **school and classroom expectations** to create an engaging, respectful, and meaningful learning environment.

### Meet the Teacher

My name is Stephanie Hawley. I am a native Tucsonan. I love Tucson's desert habitat and feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. I grew up in Tucson and have wonderful family and relatives that live here too!

I have been teaching for 20 years. I hold a Master's degree in early childhood education. Throughout my teaching career, I have taught Kindergarten, multi-age K/1, and First Grade. Most of my experience has been in First Grade now and it is my happy place.

### Parent/Teacher Communication

Since we are all working toward the same goal, it is important for us to communicate often. I will send a newsletter home every other Tuesday informing you of our activities and learning. 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.** In the following week's newsletters, I will send home the daily schedule, and our classroom expectations.

## **Student Information**

Please fill out the **Mariposa Room Student Information** and return it to the classroom to me after you have filled it out. Please fill out the **Home to School and School to Home** form and give the form to me before or on the first day of school. This is important information that I will need for the **first day** of school.

**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 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 can 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/gogurts, fruit snacks, popcorn, animal crackers, chocolate chip granola bars, bananas, apples, cutie oranges, 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. **\*\*Reminder: We will be a nut free classroom.** If your child has dietary restrictions, please let me know.

## **Breakfast and Lunch**

If your child is getting a meal at school, since we are a Title 1 school, the cost for breakfast or lunch is free. **You will need to go to the link below, in order to apply for free breakfast and lunch for your child. Please do this as soon as you can.** <https://www.tusd1.org/food-services-meals>.

Your child is welcome to bring their own lunch from home. Please write your child's name on their lunch box and water bottle if they are bringing one to school.

**Water bottles** - Your child may bring a reusable water bottle to school. Please put your child's name on their water bottle. This would be a great idea as it is still quite hot in August and September.

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.)**

**Birthday Celebrations** - Borton's "Birthday Celebration" policy is: We will acknowledge each child's birthday by singing to them on their birthday and, on the last Friday of each month, the Borton Community will acknowledge birthdays by singing to students at pledge. Classrooms will celebrate with a birthday treat during snack time, on that last Friday of the month. You are welcome to bring a store bought, treat, such as cupcakes, cookies, donuts, popcorn, etc. If we already have a family member that is bringing a treat, you are welcome to donate something to the classroom instead that we could use, such as a ball for outside playtime, or a book that you think the students would love to have in our classroom library.

## Wish List

A wish list will be given out a registration the day before school starts, with items that are needed for the classroom. I would appreciate any donations you are able to give!!! All items brought in will be shared and used by the whole classroom.

## Borton Policy

Please remind your child that **toys and candy** are not allowed at Borton school! They will be taken away for the day and will be returned to the parent after school. **Weapons of any kind are not allowed at school. We are a kind and safe school and if any weapon items are found, Mr. Eric, our school principal will need to be involved.**

**Cell phones should not be brought to school by your child.** If they do bring them to school, they will need to be not turned on before, during, or after school and need to be away in a backpack or cubby. If they are turned on and with the student, the teacher will need to take it, and return it to a family member after school.

If your child is wearing a **smart watch** at school and it is distracting to them, they will receive a warning. If it is still distracting them, they will need to put it in their cubby or backpack. If it continues to be a distraction to them during the day, the teacher will have to hold onto it for them and return it to family at the end of the school day.

Thank you for helping to remind your child about our Borton policies. These policies are to keep your child safe and learning at school. 😊

## Attendance

School starts at 8:20am. It is essential for your child to be at school every day and on time. **Students are expected to be with their teacher at 8:20am, with the class for our school-wide pledge 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!

**School-Wide Intervention Time** - This year, Borton will have a school-wide **Intervention Time for Math and Reading/Writing**. Students will begin practicing the procedure for this Intervention Time beginning, Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Intervention Times for Math are M/T/Th/F from 9am to 9:30am. Intervention Times for Literacy are M/T/Th/F from 2:10pm to 2:30pm. Throughout August, students will be engaged in beginning of the year assessments with their teacher as they learn the procedure for our Interventions. In September, full implementation of this school-wide intervention time will happen as we will know how to group your child based on their skill level and knowledge. **It is essential that your child is at school every day on time, so that they do not miss out on important learning and intervention times.**

### **Dropping Off/Picking Up Your Child**

When dropping off your child in the morning, **they may play outside on the playground as early as 7:30am**, or **students can jump rope in the inner courtyard when there is adult supervision in the courtyard and music is playing**. **If there is no adult supervision in the courtyard yet, then students should be playing on the playground or in the dining room, enjoying breakfast**. 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. Teachers will meet the children in the inner courtyard for pledge at 8:20am when the bell rings. **Students are expected to be with the teacher at 8:20am, with the class for our school-wide pledge time.**

**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 at 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 on 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.

**\*\*\*It is helpful to the Borton Staff if you pick up your child on time. Children often worry if you are not on time. 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.\*\*\***

### **Parent Volunteers**

I encourage all parents and guardians to come and join us and be involved in many of the exciting things we will do this year. Research states the more directly parents are involved in their child's education the more successful the child will be in school. No experience is necessary to volunteer! Volunteering in and out of the classroom is a win, win opportunity. You are able to see how your child interacts with others, and you get to participate in our daily learning experiences. I would love for families to volunteer after the first month of school.

**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.

### **First Days of School**

Your child will undoubtedly be tired at the end of the day and maybe a little weepy. This will get better!!! **If you are planning on picking your child up after school right at 2:45pm M/T/Th/F and 1:45pm on Wednesday**, you might want to bring him or her a healthy snack to eat in the car. The food can help prevent a late afternoon meltdown.

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:stephanie.hawley@tusd1.org) at stephanie.hawley@tusd1.org or by phone at 520-225-1000. I look forward to building a relationship with you and providing the best education for your child.



Sincerely,



Stephanie Hawley