

Mrs. Schanen's Class Handbook

Attendance: It's helpful if you email me when your child will be absent, come late, or leave early. If you email me I will inform the office. Or you are welcome to call the attendance line. The attendance telephone number is 952-496-5953.

Bathroom: We will take group bathroom breaks a couple times a day. There is also a bathroom in the classroom so the students may use it when needed. **It is a good idea to have a change of clothes in your child's locker or backpack. Accidents sometimes happen in this new environment even if they wouldn't normally. (Also students sometime spill on their clothes or get dirty at recess and the change of clothes can come in handy😊).**

Birthdays: We will celebrate your child's birthday on their actual birthday unless it is a no school day. Then we will celebrate on the closest school day (I'll email you ahead of time). We will celebrate summer birthdays in May and June (I'll let you know which day). When we celebrate birthdays, the students are welcome but certainly not expected to bring a small non-food party favor. This could be a pencil, sticker, or small toy. It is a school policy that students cannot bring in any food items for birthdays.

Breakfast: Breakfast is free to all Kindergarten students at Red Oak. When the bell rings at 8:45 all students wanting to go to breakfast can go to the cafeteria and eat. They will need to put use their lunch numbers.

Book Orders: I send home book orders about once a month. This is a completely optional but I highly encourage having plenty of books at home and this is one way to do that. When you order books, it gives me points to earn books for our classroom!

Early Release Days: Throughout the school year, there are 4 scheduled early release days. This means that school will be dismissed 2 hours earlier than usual. This time will be used by teaching staff for in-service and training as we strive to continuously grow as professional educators in order to continue to provide our students with quality instruction.

Early release dates are: Sept. 26th Nov. 28th Mar. 13 April 24

Field Trips: We will have two field trips. Before each field trip you will get all the field trip information along with a permission slip that needs to signed and returned.

Homework: There is no official homework. We work hard during the school day. When students leave school, they need to play (especially outside), spend time with family and friends, and pursue interests outside of school. Even though there is no official homework we hope you are making reading and books a daily activity. We believe that reading out loud to your students and interacting with the book is the single most important thing you can do to help your kids succeed in school. 😊

Ipads: We have 12 ipads in our classroom. First students will need to sign an ipad agreement before they can use the ipads. We mostly use the ipads during our different centers and to record our writing.

Jobs: Each student will have a job in the classroom. We keep the same jobs or helpers for two weeks. Some of the jobs are to be the helpers with lights, lunches, library books, garbage's, morning meeting, and calendar.

Library books: The students will check out books during the Media specials. Students may have one book checked out at a time. If they forget to bring their book back they will look at books but won't be able to take one home until they bring back their checked-out book. You do not have to wait until Media day to bring your book back. If your child is done with it they can put it in the orange bin in the classroom.

Lunch: Your student can bring a lunch from home or eat the school lunch. At the beginning of the students will have one choice for school lunch—the regular hot lunch. After a while they will add the Saber lunch. This is a cold lunch, offering a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, meat sandwich, or salad along with milk, fruit and vegetables. Your student will need to make their lunch choice in the morning after they arrive at school. At the beginning of the year we will start lunch early to give the students time to get through the line. After we get going into the school year you are welcome to join your student for lunch. You can bring a lunch or purchase the school lunch. You may want to check the lunch time with me in case we are still on an alternative lunch schedule. When you arrive, check in at the office, and meet us in the cafeteria or classroom.

Newsletters: There will be a monthly newsletter that gets sent home in the red folders and I'll post it on Seesaw. I will also do weekly updates on Seesaw.

Parties: We have three official parties during the school year. The fall party, Winter Party, and Valentine's Day Party. Please look for flyers in the red folders giving you more details about each party as the party dates gets closer.

Pick up: If there is a change in the way your child is to get home please contact the office before 3:00. This allows everyone to receive the information so your child goes home the correct way.

Recess: This is a fun and important time for the students. Please make sure your child is properly dressed. They will play outside every day unless it is raining or below zero (including wind chill). When there is snow on the ground students will be required to wear boots and snow pants if they want to play on the snow, otherwise they can play on the blacktop only.

Red Folders: Red folders go home on the first day of the week that there's school (usually Monday unless there's no school, then Tuesday). This is where all the papers from the district and school will be. Please look through these papers and send the red folder back to school.

Seesaw: This is the app/website I will be using in my classroom to share pictures & videos and post announcements & reminders. Your child will be using Seesaw to create a digital journal of the work they do this school year. You do not want to miss out! You can download the app or use the website. (the app is nice because it will send you notifications when there is a new post). You will need your child's individual QR code or link to get into their journal. If you need yours, just ask.

Shoes: Students need to wear gym shoes or tennis shoes during gym class. They can keep a pair at school to change into or they can come to school wearing tennis shoes and they don't need to change. Students need to wear boots in the winter and need to bring their shoes to change into once they get to school. **If your child cannot tie shoes but send them in shoes that don't need to be tied (i.e. Velcro).**

Snack: The students will be given an opportunity to have snack every day. This is something your child needs to bring every day, I do not provide snacks. Please please send a healthy snack that is easily eaten. Please do not send a beverage. The students are welcome to drink water. Each child needs to eat their own snack; sharing snacks is not allowed for health and safety reasons.

Specials: Every day students will go specials. These are art, gym, music, and media. I will send the schedule home. On Gym days the students need gym shoes, on media days the students need to return their library book in order to check out a new book

Star of the Week: Each student will be the Star of the Week. I will send out an approximate schedule but this will most likely change as things come up. I will send home the "Star of the Week" Bag home on Friday for your child to complete over the weekend. Please return the bag filled with the following items on Monday: Completed star of the week poster, favorite book, and favorite toy and any family pictures they'd like to share. The book, toy, and pictures will be returned home by the end of the week.

Supply/Activity Fee \$: Every student needs to bring \$5 in an envelope. This money is used to cover the expenses for classroom supplies as well as party supplies.

Take home books: Later in the year I may send home books for your child to practice reading. Your student should practice reading the book by pointing to each word and saying it out loud. If they don't know a word they need to use a strategy to figure it out themselves. Some strategies are looking at the picture, trying to sound out the words, or trying a word and seeing if it makes sense. Take a day or two to read the books (unless otherwise noted) and then bring it back to school. If you are looking for more books for your child to read at home, let me know.

Volunteers: I so appreciate any help! You can do take home projects, come in to work with students, come in and do prep type work, chaperone field trips, and help with parties. If your schedule doesn't allow you to volunteer, I totally understand. All volunteers need to fill out volunteer forms for the district. They are on the school website and need to be filled out each year you volunteer. I will send a separate flyer to see who is interested in volunteering.

Water Bottles: Unlike most of the other classrooms in the school, we do not have a drinking fountain in the classroom. So, I encourage each student to bring a water bottle to school. They can keep them in their locker and take drinks whenever they need as long as it is an appropriate time :)