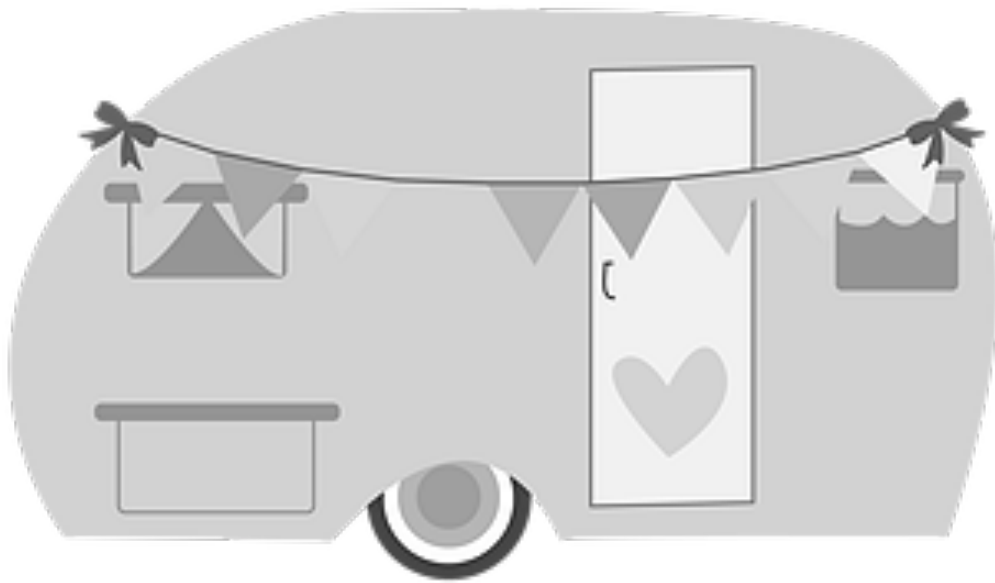


# WELCOME to MRS. BEARD'S CLASS



LEARNING IS AN ADVENTURE

# HELLO, FIRST GRADE FAMILIES!

I would like to welcome you and your child to our very special class! I am excited about the new school year and all that we will experience together. I know how important your child is to you and I want you to know that they are very important to me, too. I care about their social and academic growth and will treat each child as the important individual they are.

I anticipate a very busy and enriching year with your child. While all subjects and skills will be taught, you can expect an increased emphasis on reading, writing, and math during first grade. You will be amazed at the progress you see throughout the school year. I have high expectations for all my students, and hope that you encourage your student at home by participating in take home activities (i.e. homework, family activities, projects, etc.). I highly encourage parental involvement, as it enhances your student's education experience and keeps you well-informed to the happenings in our classroom. I hope that many of you will have the opportunity to visit our classroom during the school year so you can see our curriculum in action!

Attached is an overview of important information about our classroom. Please maintain a copy for your records.

## School Information

Teacher: Mrs. Monica Beard

Email Address: [beardmo@platoacademy.net](mailto:beardmo@platoacademy.net)

Phone Number: (727) 793-2400

Class Website: You can access the class website through

[Clearwater.platoacademy.net](http://Clearwater.platoacademy.net).

School Day Hours: 8:40am - 3:10pm

## Uniform

All uniform apparel must be purchased by the Plato Academy approved uniform vendor. Students must wear an official Plato Academy solid-colored shirt with logo. All uniform dress shirts (button-down) must be tucked in; Plato Academy polo shirts can be un-tucked. Students may not wear jackets or coats that do not meet dress code in the classroom during the school day. Jackets or coats must either be Plato uniform jackets or coats, or must match Plato Academy colors (i.e. red, blue, white,, etc.) with no logos, insignias or other items. Socks and leggings must match the uniform colors and be plain with no designs.

FRIDAY ATTIRE: Any shirt or top with Plato Academy insignia (i.e. Spirit shirts, team jerseys, and cheerleading uniforms) may be worn on Fridays.

## CAMP GUIDE Binders -

All students in my class will have a CAMP GUIDE binder. Information about this binder is found in page protector inside it.

## Behavior Management

As a class we will create a class contract that promises their right to learn and enjoy school without interference. We will review this contract daily during our Morning Meetings. We will make class goals and work on individual goals to do better than we did the day before. Our morning meetings are a very important part of the day where we will be discussing various character traits.

Rules:

1. Listen and follow directions.
2. Raise your hand before speaking.
3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
4. Respect your classmates and your teacher.

## Consequences:

1st time a rule is broken: Warning

2nd time a rule is broken: An appropriate consequence for action.

Example: Not using nice words a friend. Consequence: Writing an apology letter to that friend during their recess time.

3rd time a rule is broken: Letter Home to Family

## Communication

I love hearing from parents. I welcome communication from you anytime. In order, to ensure that I am able to provide you with the time you need, these are the best ways to contact me:

e-mail: [beardmo@platoacademy.net](mailto:beardmo@platoacademy.net)

Please take note that parent communication is important to me, and I will respond within 24-48 hours. If an e-mail is sent during the school day, please note I may not see the e-mail as I am busy teaching or planning. If you send an e-mail after school hours, I may not see it until the following morning.

Mornings and afternoons can be a very busy time, with getting children settled into class, these are not the best times to drop in with a concern or comment that will require time and attention. Please contact me via phone or e-mail. I'd be happy to schedule a conference in regards to a concern. Thank you for your understanding.

A classroom newsletter e-mail will be sent every week to your e-mail address. It will outline our learning goals, special events, class announcements, and other pertinent information.

## Conferences

There will be times throughout the year when it will be important for us to meet face to face to discuss how your child is doing in school. This is a time for us to discuss your child's successes, areas needing improvement, and future plans. In September, I will begin setting up beginning of the year conferences. A sign-up genius link will be sent out with various times. If no times work with you, please let me know and we can work together to find a time we can both meet.

## Assessments and Grades

Students will be given a weekly spelling test and reading every Friday. Math tests will be given and dates will be in the class weekly e-mail. In addition to tests, I closely monitor students using various tools including running records, group projects and anecdotal records. Grades will be posted on FOCUS.

## Birthday Celebrations

You are welcome to send in treats for your child's birthday. Please make sure that they are store-bought and you have enough to serve 18 students. It is helpful if I know in advance that you are sending them so I can accommodate time for treats in our schedule. Treats do not need to be edible, they can be gift bags, etc. If they are edible I ask they be bite size treats. We typically will celebrate birthdays the last 10 - 15 minutes of the school day and students will make a birthday book for that child.

If your child has a summer birthday and you would like to have them celebrate it in school please let me know what day you would like to do so.

## Snack and Water Bottles

We will be having a snack built into our daily routine. Each student must bring his/her own healthy snack daily. This is meant to be a quick snack to get them to the end of the day. We prefer healthy snacks that do not need utensils, like pudding or fruit cups. A granola bar, dry cereal, pretzels, or any non-refrigerated item works the best.

I recommend that students bring a water bottle to school everyday. The students get very hot at recess and P.E. and need a drink. Please make sure to label the water bottle with their name. There is a designated area in the classroom for water bottles.




Finally, we are going to have a wonderful time meeting this year's expectations! I believe that every one of my students will both inspire and be inspired this year. I look forward to working with you and your child. Please feel free to contact me at any time. You can email me at [beardmo@platoacademy.net](mailto:beardmo@platoacademy.net). You will have a response within 24-48 hours. I look forward to working closely with you to insure a most enjoyable, successful year for your child. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs. Monica Beard

# HOMework

## Reading

Spend each night reading for 15- 20 minutes. This year your child has the opportunity to be a member of our classroom "100 Club." To earn their way into this optional club, your child must complete reading 100 books during the course of the school year. You and your child can read the books together, you can read some to them, or they can read them on their own. I would love for you to do a combination of those things - this way your child is hearing you read fluently, they are practicing reading out loud to develop fluency and expression, they are working on their own independent reading, and you'll get to spend some time together too. More information attached in link below. I am very excited about this optional way to encourage reading outside of the classroom. Thank you for helping your child become a great reader this year.

<b>WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?</b>		
<b>Student A Reads</b>	<b>Student B Reads</b>	<b>Student C Reads</b>
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.
<p>If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.</p> <p><small>(Oney and Evans, 1982.)</small></p>		
<b>WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.</b>		

## Math

A math homework practice sheet will be sent home Monday-Thursday with 7-10 questions reviewing concepts that were taught in the previous week. This is to assure that students are mastering skills taught in class and for you to see the concepts being taught in class. Math homework is not graded or collected, but to be used as a tool for additional practice.

Download the FREE app that corresponds with our math textbook. Bounce Pages will allow you to scan your child's math homework (there's a little green icon in the corner of the page ) and a brief video of the day's lesson will appear. This is a great resource as certain skills may be taught differently than you are familiar with.

## Spelling

Spelling is going to look a little different than you may be used to, but it will greatly increase your child's spelling skills. It aligns with the new Florida State Standards and will teach the children to use the sounds they learned in kindergarten to make many different words instead of simply memorizing a short list of words.

The children will be provided a long list of words. Each word will have the same sound, for example, the 'short a sound.' The words will be very short at first, but lengthen as the school year goes on. Each Friday, the children will be tested on 15 random words from the list and 5 predetermined bonus words. At first, the children will be given hints and reminders, for example: remember that *grass* ends with a double s.

For your child's homework, they may choose any 12 words to use when completing their activities. They may use a different 12 words each day. They can record their homework in their spelling notebook. If it is a hands on activity you may take a picture and e-mail it to me or you can print the picture and paste it in the spelling notebook. Printable activities are also available on our class Spelling City page. I will collect the Spelling notebooks on Friday and check for completion of 4 different activities.