

Mrs. Rennpage
First Grade
Room 105

Welcome to a new year at Maire!

This packet contains pertinent information specific to our classroom.

Our Specials:

A day	Music	
B day	Art	Must have an art smock
C day	Gym	Children must wear gym shoes to participate
D day	Library	Library books are due each D day

Communication:

I will send home class newsletters frequently. They will indicate important curriculum information such as the start of a new unit. Please look for them in your email account you provided me with.

All other important notes from me will be in the Take Home Folder.

If you would like to contact me, you may do so by calling my voicemail at

(313) 432-5674 or emailing me at emily.rennpage@gpschools.org. I am able to respond to email quicker than voicemails.

My current web address is <https://staff.gpschools.org/rennpae>

There will be copies of newsletters, homework assignments and other handouts on this site. I also have posted a handful of really great websites for first graders. Please check it out.

Book Orders:

I will start sending home Scholastic book orders soon. When making out the checks, please make them out to the book company you are ordering from. You may order books from Scholastic online. I will provide you with the information on how to do this when I send home the book order form.

Field Trips:

We will be attending a few field trips this year. If you would like to participate by being a driver please be sure to turn in your Volunteer Inquiry Release Form. I will take drivers on a first come basis.

Room Parents:

We need two room parents to run the parties. The room parents could always use a helping hand at the various parties. If there is a specific party you would like to help with please sign up as a helper. The parties include: Halloween, Winter Holiday, Valentine's Day and the End of the Year Picnic.

Grading:

Finished work will be sent home in the Take Home Folder. These are things that we worked on in class and have completed. This pocket should be emptied nightly. Some, but not all of these papers will have marks on them (stars, grades, stickers or stamps).

Read at Home:

Please remember that the key to success is practice, practice, practice. I recommend that each child has a goal of reading **for 20 minutes, 5 nights a week**. Please consider this homework.

Reading:

Readers Workshop Units of Study:

Building good habits, Using print strategies to support conventional reading, Using pattern books to read with accuracy, fluency and comprehension, Readers talk about books to grow ideas, Nonfiction study, and Character study

Reading "Just Right Books"

Students will be reading independently, with partners, as well as with small groups. The groups will be organized according to need. Adjustments will be made depending on assignments, reading levels, learning styles or abilities.

We will also be using the Making Meaning program to build our comprehension and vocabulary.

Writing:

We will be writing in all curriculum areas in a variety of forms including Writer's Workshop and journaling. Writer's Workshop will include all the steps of the writing process (brainstorm/prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing).

Our units of study are Small Moments (personal narratives), Opinion Letters, How To and All About Stories (Nonfiction), Poetry, and Prompt Writing.

Write Traits Writing Program

This program teaches the six traits of writing which include: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions.

Spelling:

Word wall/high frequency words
FAST Spelling Program

Handwriting:

Please use the Houghton Mifflin traditional manuscript as a guide for your child's handwriting. Neat penmanship is necessary.

Math:

We will be using the Everyday Math Program which aligns with the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. There are five areas of focus. They are Number and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement and lastly, Data and Probability.

Homework will be coming home most nights. It should be returned the next day. You can find your child's math homework in their Take Home Folder on the Return To School side.

Please note that measurement includes telling time to the hour and half hour mark as well as reading and writing amounts of money up to a dollar. These are both concepts that will need to be reinforced at home when they are introduced later on in the year.

Social Studies:

We will be working our way through the Scott Foresman Social Studies Units of Study. They include, Belonging to a Group, Problem Solving, Communities, Symbols, Work, Goods and Services, and Our Earth. We will also be investigating the DeBug System with our Problem Solving unit.

Science:

We will be focusing on three units this year: Solids and Liquids, Weather, and New Plants.

Shoes:

If your child is wearing tie shoes to school and has not yet learned how to tie **please help them learn**. It is our school policy that no flip flops or open backed shoes be worn to school. They pose safety concerns. Also, if your child wears crocks they must have the back strap around their heels while out on the playground.

Birthday Treats:

On your child's birthday their name will be read on the announcements and they will get to do an activity on the Smartboard. However, they will not be bringing in a birthday treat. A large portion of our curriculum focuses on weather and seasons in first grade, so we will be celebrating our birthdays seasonally. This means we will have 4 larger birthday parties. We will start in September with those students who had summer birthdays (June 21-September 21). Fall birthdays (September 22- December 21); Winter birthdays (December 22- March 20); Spring birthdays (March 21- June 20)