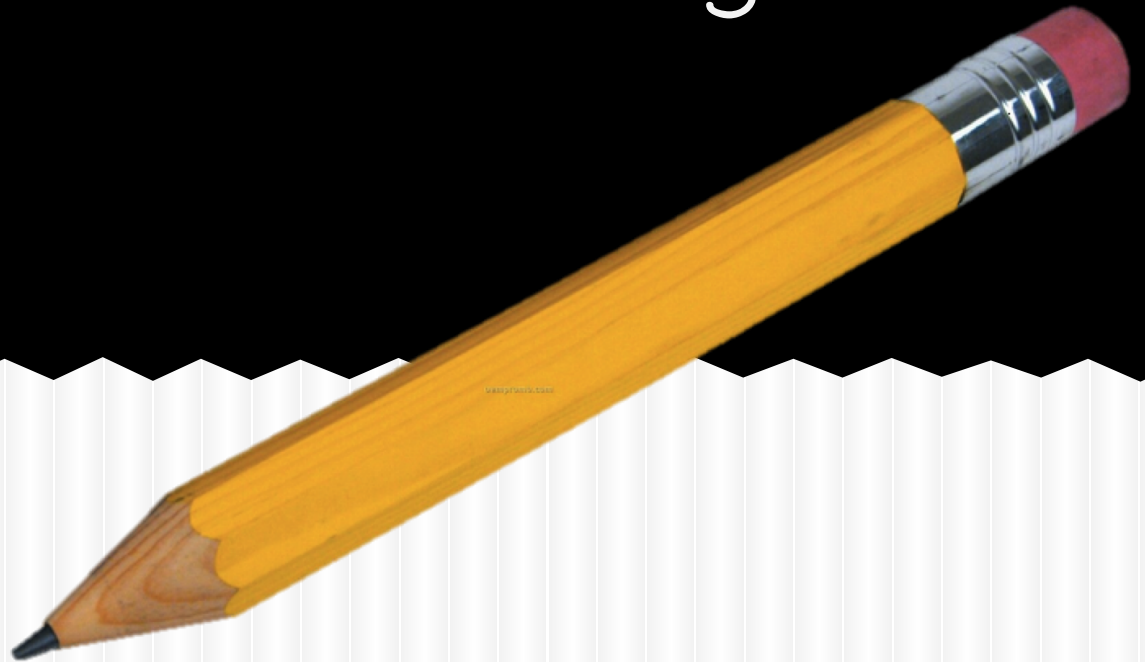


YOUR 1ST GRADE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Bear Creek Elementary



CONTACT INFORMATION

MY EMAIL: becky.alaniz@gcisd.net

Follow our Classroom on Twitter: [@MsAlanizBCE](https://twitter.com/MsAlanizBCE)

Follow 1st Grade on Twitter: [@BCE1st](https://twitter.com/BCE1st)

1ST GRADE TEACHERS:

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BCE PHONE # 817-305-4860

CONFERENCE/PLANNING TIME 12:45-1:35

1ST GRADE WEBSITE

- ★ Sign up to subscribe to the 1st Grade Newsletter
- ★ bces1st.weebly.com



NO EXCUSES UNIVERSITY

★ The No Excuses University program is based on the idea that “Every student deserves the opportunity to be educated in a way that prepares them for college if they so choose to attend.” At Bear Creek, we strive to build a culture that will empower students to reach their full potential, and encourage our young scholars to start preparing now. This year our goal is to pilot the No Excuses University philosophy. Each classroom has adopted a university to correspond with during the school year and learn about their respective history and culture.



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

- ★ Responsible, Engaged, Supportive, Perseverant, Empathetic, Courteous, Trustworthy.
- ★ Students following the “Respect Character Qualities” earn a smile in their folder. They may also be able to earn: marbles for the jar, game days, classroom jobs, toy jar, treats, etc.
- ★ Students NOT following the “Respect Character Qualities” will receive verbal warnings, move a clip, sign the book. Consequences are losing minutes from recess and/or special classroom activities.

Earning privileges through RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY

SCHEDULE FOR 1ST GRADE

7:45 - 9:45	Announcements, Circle Up, Reading/Language Arts & Social Studies
9:45 - 10:15	Science
10:20 - 10:50	Recess
10:50 - 11:20	Lunch
11:30 - 12:20	Champ Time ~ Personal Learning Time
12:20 - 12:45	Science
12:45 - 1:45	Specials ~ P.E. (Daily), Music/Art/Science
1:35 - 2:45	Math



READING

Students will learn basic reading skills using a variety of strategies to decode words (phonics, pictures, clues, context). Examples include:

- ★ consonant review
- ★ short and long vowels
- ★ silent e
- ★ consonant blends and digraphs
- ★ rhyming words
- ★ word families
- ★ compound words
- ★ contractions

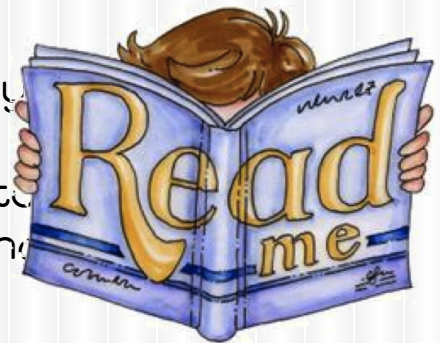


Additionally, comprehension is an important component of reading. Fluency, the rate at which your child reads, is also considered. Students must be able to comprehend and read fluently in order to progress to the next level.

- ★ Students will be assessed using iStation as a universal screener and the DRA2 for text leveling and comprehension.

READING DAILY AT HOME

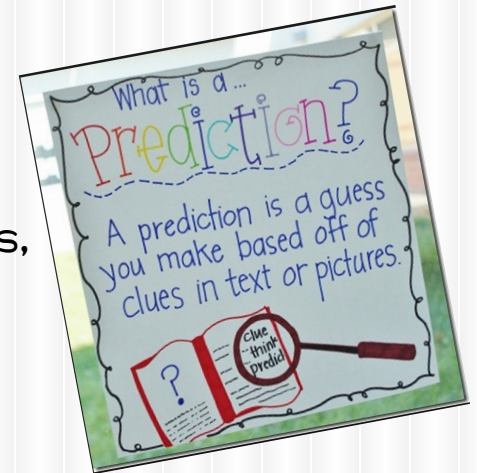
- ★ Students should be reading a minimum of 10 minutes **every** night to an adult in the home.
- ★ Students may bring 1 or more books home from school to read OR students can read their library book, books online, or books from home. **School books need to be returned to school the very next day.**
- ★ Comprehension Practice (when stories are appropriate):
 - ~Who are the main characters? What is the setting (where it takes place?)
 - ~What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
 - ~Retell the story verbally - Beginning/Middle/Ending
 - ~Can you make any connections?
 - Text to Self** (Does the book remind you of something you have experienced?)
 - Text to Text** (Does the book remind you of another story?)
 - Text to World** (Does the story remind you of something you know about?)
- ★ **The #1 most important thing you can do with your child daily is READ!**



LANGUAGE ARTS

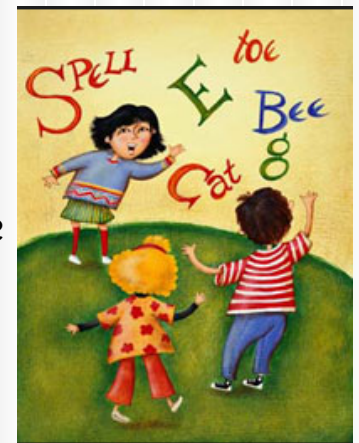
Students will demonstrate listening, speaking, reading and writing skills including:

- ★ listening and following directions
- ★ vocabulary development through phonics, sight words and context clues
- ★ making predictions
- ★ making connections from their reading
- ★ verbally retelling stories they have read
- ★ ABC order
- ★ basic grammar and sentence structure (capital letters, ending punctuation)
- ★ Writing Workshop & Reading Workshop
- ★ Spelling
- ★ Handwriting
- ★ We encourage you to practice sight words daily. Dolch Sight Words website: <http://www.dolchsightwords.org/index.php>



SPELLING

- ★ We will begin our year with a review of Kindergarten Sight Words. These are words that each child mastered in Kindergarten and should be able to read & spell with automaticity.
- ★ 1st Grade weekly Spelling lists will begin the week of Sept. 14. Lists will follow a phonics concept and have several high frequency/sight words included.
- ★ Spelling Tests will be either every 2 weeks (1st Semester) OR every week (2nd Semester). See weekly Newsletter for words and date of tests. Your child will bring home words each Monday.
- ★ **KEEP PRACTICING PAST SPELLING WORDS!** They will come up on Spelling Test sentences and students are held accountable for ALL spelling words within their daily writing!



HANDWRITING

- ★ Students will be expected to form letters and numbers correctly and legibly with spaces between words.
- ★ We use **primary** handwriting paper most of the time and we encourage your child to practice handwriting skills at home.
- ★ The focus in 1st Grade is on manuscript NOT cursive.
- ★ Please encourage your child to use capitals and lowercase letters where appropriate.
- ★ We use the **Zaner-Bloser** Handwriting Curriculum.



MATH

Math includes both concepts and basic computation. Students will use hands on activities to gain a deeper understanding of these concepts:

- ★ graphing and data analysis
- ★ number sense to 120- identify, count, and write
- ★ place value to 120
- ★ basic addition and subtraction to 20
- ★ geometry and fractions
- ★ time (hour, half hour)
- ★ money
- ★ measurement
- ★ problem solving



- ★ Students will be assessed using a District Benchmark test at the end of each unit.

SOCIAL STUDIES & SCIENCE

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- ★ Students will predict, observe, and record data.
- ★ They will recognize past, present, and future, cause and effect, and be able to compare facts, formulate ideas and apply concepts to solve problems.
- ★ **Social Studies:** Community Rules, School Rules, Citizenship, Communities, Financial Literacy, Historical Figures, Celebrate Freedom
Science: Weather, Seasons, Soil, Water, Sky Objects, Matter, Energy, Motion, Magnets, Animal Characteristics, Life Cycles, Plants



SPECIALS - CONFERENCE PERIOD

- ★ 12:45 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.
- ★ P.E. Daily - Wear sneakers everyday!
~District Policy: If a student has an injury note to miss P.E., they MUST also sit out at Recess & any KidzU playtime.
- ★ Music, Art or Science will be half of Specials Rotation



Standards-Based Report Card

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Curriculum Night Overview Information

What Is A Standards-Based Report Card?

A standards-based report card is a detailed report to parents every 9 weeks that shows:

- ❑ The skills and expectations that have been taught during the grading period
- ❑ The degree to which students have mastered these skills at this point in the year



Where do the standards come from?

The standards on the report card include the most critical Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) from our state's curriculum.

They are sequenced on the report card in a way that matches the order they are taught in GCISD.

MATHEMATICS	1	2	3	4
Money (Penny-P, Nickel-N, Dime-D)	P	P,N	P,N,D	Mixed
Identifies coins by value and describes the relationships among them				
Counts a collection of pennies, nickels or dimes by twos, fives and tens				
Number Concepts and Algebraic Reasoning	#s to 50	#s to 50	#s to 99	#s to 120
Counts and represents numbers using objects, pictures and standard form				
Orders whole numbers using place value and number lines				
Uses number patterns to count forward and backward				
Uses number patterns to skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's				
Represents numbers in expanded form				
Compares numbers using $>$, $<$ or $=$				
Organizing and Analyzing Data				
Constructs picture and bar-type graphs				
Uses information from graphs to generate questions				
Uses information from graphs to answer questions				
Number Operations		+/- to 10	+/- to 20	+/- to 20
Represents and solves problems involving addition and subtraction				
Adds and subtracts two or three numbers				
Explains a variety of strategies used to solve problems				

For More Information

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Within the first month of school, updated K-2nd grade Standard- Based Report Card information will be placed in the “For Parents and Students” portion of the district website. Here, parents will be able to:

- ◆ See the list of standards being assessed in each grade
- ◆ Access a GCISD Parent Guide for more information about the specifics of our newly revised report cards
- ◆ Read more about the advantages of this form of assessment



TAKE HOME FOLDER

- ★ Each day your child will bring home a folder. This folder will be a place for correspondence between school and home. It will contain notes, homework, and a calendar of your child's daily behavior.
- ★ Please check your child's folder daily. Initial the behavior calendar and keep any papers.
- ★ Math Homework & Spelling Words will begin approximately the 4th week of school. It will be inside your child's daily folder. Your child is responsible for completing Math and returning it to their folder each day. Math Homework is checked daily.
- ★ If you have notes for school, you can send them in this folder and remind your student to give it to their teacher in the morning!



LUNCH

- ★ 10:50 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.
- ★ Lunch is \$2.60
- ★ We **do not** have a “snack time” in 1st Grade.
- ★ Back of lunch menu calendar contains form for parents to submit to limit snacks/desserts and super-sizing. Please check this out!



BACKGROUND CHECKS & RAPTOR

★ Background Checks

Please be sure to complete a background check online AS SOON AS POSSIBLE or you **WILL NOT** be able to volunteer or attend field trips. There are **NO** exceptions.

★ Raptor

All campuses, including secondary campuses, will remain locked during the school day.

- Visitors should go to the main entrance and press the intercom button located near the front door. Designated campus personnel will respond and determine who the visitor(s) is/are and the purpose of the visit.

Once access is granted, visitors must check in with the front office through a new visitor system called RaptorSoft (Raptor).

- This system is used to help track visitors, students, faculty, contractors and volunteers at our schools.
- The first time a visitor, volunteer, or the first time a parent comes into a school, we will ask them to present a driver's license or state-issued ID. The ID will be scanned into the system and the personal information on the ID will be checked against a national sex offender database. This will provide an added layer of protection to ensure our schools remain secure environments for students, staff, and approved visitors.

ABSENCES, TARDIES, & SCHEDULE CHANGES

- ★ Students need to be in classrooms at 7:45 to be on time for school!
- ★ ALWAYS send a written note or email when your child has been absent.
- ★ Pamela.Preston@gcisd.net is the attendance clerk for Bear Creek.
- ★ Be aware that tardies and early dismissal towards your child's attendance.
- ★ District has guidelines in place for excessive absences and tardies.



TRANSPORTATION

- ★ Please make sure that your child knows how she/he is getting home each day.
- ★ If you change the mode of transportation, **please send a note** with your child as emails may not be read in time.



BIRTHDAYS

- ★ If you choose to send in a treat for the class, it will be done during the day, **NOT** in the cafeteria.
- ★ Check with your child's teacher about any specific food allergies.
- ★ Store bought mini cupcakes, cookies or donuts are a good choice. (Quick & easy for teachers).
- ★ **NO CAKES PLEASE!** No "Cupcake Cakes"!



HEADPHONES

- ★ **PLEASE** send a pair of headphones to school with your child.
- ★ **No earbuds.**
- ★ Students will use these **daily** with iPads
- ★ If your child's headphones break, a note will be sent home with broken headphones.

PLEASE REPLACE ASAP!

Thank You!



BCE FUNDRAISER

Boosterthon September 23

- ★ **One day event** that will take place at school during the school day
- ★ Students will collect pledges for walking laps.
- ★ Information coming home soon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dufTC-RSQjI>



(Replacing Chocolate Sale fundraiser)

WATCHDOGS

★ What is WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students)?

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative of the National Center for Fathering. Learn more about WATCH D.O.G.S.[here](#).

★ What are the goals of a WATCH D.O.G.S. program?

- 1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
- 2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.



WATCHDOG SIGN UP

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Background Check Required-

Background check link: <http://www.gcisd-k12.org/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=735>

Please sign up for WATCH D.O.G.S.!



Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click **this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/8GJkNY>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Maria.martinez@gcisd.net (counselor) to sign you up manually.

GEIST 100 BOOK CHALLENGE

- ★ This is a school-wide incentive to encourage students to read.
- ★ This is done independently, at home, on their own time.
- ★ Color in a square every time you read a book.
- ★ When students have read 50 books, they will show Mrs. Johnson, the librarian, their paper and have their picture taken in the Star Wars photo booth!
- ★ If you have any further questions, you may contact Mrs. Johnson.



MISCELLANEOUS

- ★ Early Dismissal Days Coming Soon: October 7, 8
Wednesday & Thursday ~ 11:45 a.m.
** Conferences will be scheduled for the afternoons

take
note!



- ★ Title I ~ Bear Creek Elementary is a Title I school. This means that BCE receives federal funds for the number of students who are part of the Free & Reduced Lunch program. If you think you may be a candidate for this program - please complete the form sent home last week or pick one up from the office.
- ★ Around the World at BCE - See green half sheet on your desk
A day to celebrate diversity at Bear Creek!! Parents, family members and students are able to bring items to share about their country and culture. Volunteers needed!!

MORE MISCELLANEOUS

- ★ **Student Goal Setting for 1st Grade: Reading Text Level**
~ On grade level for end-of-year is Text Level 18, with comprehension
- ★ **1st PTA Meeting September 24th**
Topics: Come to hear about programs & clubs for students:
~Orchestra, Marimba Band, Choir, Ecology Club, Girls on the Run, Destination Imagination, Technology Club
- ★ **TAKE FIVE** - A great way to talk to your child about their school day! ~See handout

THANK YOU



Thank you so much for coming this evening.
I am excited about being a part of your child's
success in First Grade.
Thank you for sharing them with me this year!

