



[MS. RUDER'S CLASSROOM](#)

## Parent Survival Guide

Welcome to our first grade class! In our class your child will become a part of a learning community where we all work together to become dedicated lifelong learners, eager readers, and passionate environmental activists! As a parent I consider you a valuable part of our learning community and I look forward to working with you over the next year.

This survival guide is a resource to help you stay organized and informed as a member of our learning community. If you ever have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me!

### Contact Information

Ms. Ariel Ruder

Room 121

[aruder@greenwoodscharter.org](mailto:aruder@greenwoodscharter.org)

215-482-6337 (Main Office)

468 Domino Lane Philadelphia, PA 19128

Email is the best way to reach me [aruder@greenwoodscharter.org](mailto:aruder@greenwoodscharter.org) directly if it's not an urgent matter. If you need to contact me for something urgent (transportation change, emergency, etc) please call the front office.

### Class Website

<http://www.airuder.weebly.com>

Our class website is the go-to place for everything you need to know about our classroom! I frequently post updates about what we're learning and exploring to keep parents and the Green Woods community informed. This will also be your go-to resource for homework, newsletters, and all other class information. In an effort to save paper and decrease our carbon footprint, most information will be available online rather than sent home on paper. Please bookmark this site and check it frequently for updates.

## Schedule

Our school runs on a 6-day rotation. Our specials Schedule is:

Day 1, 3, and 5: SCIENCE

Day 2 : GYM

Day 4: ART

Day 6: MUSIC

Please send your child to school in sneakers, especially on gym days. They will only be able to participate in gym class with sneakers on their feet.

Thank you!

## Snack & Lunch

Our classroom is a **NUT-FREE** room. Snacks may not contain any nuts. Thank you for your cooperation.

In our class we encourage healthy snacks each day. Students are given a morning snack break every day. In an effort to encourage kids to eat healthy snacks, we have a healthy snack schedule (THIS IS OPTIONAL):

- Apple snack Monday (whole apple, apple slices, apple chips, applesauce)
- Crunchy Snack Tuesday (popcorn, veggie straws, pretzels, crackers, etc)
- Veggie Wednesday (any fresh veggies... carrots and hummus, celery and ranch, sliced peppers, cucumbers, etc)
- Free Choice Thursday (any healthy snack)
- Fresh Fruit Friday (grapes, strawberries, apples, bananas, or any fresh fruit)

Snack donations are welcome! We are always looking for nut-free non-perishable snacks for students who forget their snack (applesauce, pretzels, animal crackers, etc.)

## Behavior

School Rules: **BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL**

In our classroom students are active participants in setting our community expectations and responsibilities. We focus on positive behavior and modeling correct behaviors. Students are frequently rewarded for positive behaviors in many ways including but not limited to classroom cheers, gems (part of our behavior management system) and reward coupons.

In our classroom, we use a behavior system that I refer to as "Gems." Students have the ability to earn gems throughout the day for exhibiting good behavior, helping others and acting as a positive role model for their peers. Gems can be taken away for disruptive behavior, lack of responsibility during classroom job assignments, etc.

Our school uses School Wide PBS- which is a school wide positive behavior management system. Here at Green Woods, we use Trailblazers. Trailblazers are given out randomly by ANY of the staff members to ANY of the students when they are caught doing something kind or good. The student has to walk to the office with their Trailblazer card where they will draw a number to determine where on the school wide board it will go. As soon as there are 10 cards in a row, those 10 lucky students will be chosen for a very special prize and the board is cleared and restarted!

Conduct Referrals are given in first grade when students endanger the safety of themselves or others or cause frequent disruptions to the learning environment. Parents will always be contacted when a Conduct Referral is issued.

### Communication Folder

Your child's Communication folder is a tool to help keep all of us organized. This folder will contain important information so that it's available at a glance whenever you need (passwords, logins, schedules, contact information, etc). It also has clearly marked pockets and pouches to keep everything safe and organized throughout the year (take home, bring back).

Please check your child's Communication folder every single day for important information. Assessments, notes, classwork, and all other important documents will be transported through this folder.

### Notes and Money

Please send all notes and money in \_\_\_\_\_. Money that does not come in a sealed envelope will be sent home. This is to prevent any miscommunication or misallocation of funds. If you are sending in cash please remember to send in **EXACT CHANGE**. Thank you for understanding!

### Assessments

All assessments will come home in your child's Assessment Folder to be signed and should be returned the following day. Please do not keep assessments at home. Assessments are saved in our classroom for grading purposes until the end of the year.

Reading Benchmark assessments occur each trimester or as needed based on each individual child. Instructional reading levels will be printed on your child's trimester report card. You can use this as a guide when helping your child choose books at home. In first grade students are not assessed beyond the Benchmark level M.

At the end of each math unit there will be a written assessment. These assessments have two parts. Part A contains skills that students should be comfortable with. Part B is a pre-assessment of upcoming skills and is used to guide my teaching. I encourage you to look at each problem to see which skills your student has mastered on these tests. Please sign and return these assessments so I may keep them for my files.

Foundations Assessments are given weekly (sometimes bi-weekly, depending on the skill). This will test letter sounds as well as words that your child should be able to spell based on the phonics skill taught that week. Four sight words will also be assessed at this time. The sentence dictation portion of our assessment lets me know if your child has mastered the spelling pattern in an authentic way.

Sight Word Assessments will occur each trimester or as needed based on the words we have learned up to that point. You will receive a copy of words your child has mastered in addition to suggested activities to practice sight words at home.

### [Clearance Information](#)

I strongly advise all parents, family members, or others who are considering volunteering with Green Woods in any capacity immediately apply for up-to-date clearances. Clearances are accepted and considered valid from the date of the Clearance to one calendar year later. **Volunteers must have clearances on file with GWCS to participate in school activities including, but not limited to, the following:**

- Homeroom parents
- Working with a small group of students or an individual student
- Assisting in the classroom
- Attending a one-time classroom presentation, read-aloud, or party
- Chaperoning a field trip
- Working in the school building during school hours

How to obtain clearances (click links below):

[Criminal History Record](#)

[Child Abuse History](#)

[FBI \(fingerprint\)](#)

## Homework

Please refer to this chart when establishing your homework routine:

Parent Expectations for Homework	Student Expectations for Homework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a daily routine for homework</li> <li>● Provide access to necessary materials (including technology)</li> <li>● Assist child in mapping out weekly assignment plan</li> <li>● Read directions to child, if assistance is needed</li> <li>● Set a timer, if needed.</li> <li>● Communicate issues and concerns with classroom teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with parents to make a weekly homework plan</li> <li>● Complete assignments on time</li> <li>● Return assignments to school when due</li> <li>● TRY YOUR BEST!</li> </ul>

## Reading and Books

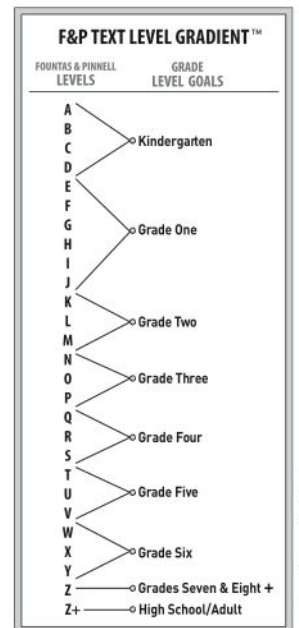
In our class we LOVE TO READ! We work hard all year to build reading stamina and become true lovers of books. Research shows that the most important component to creating passionate readers is providing access to a variety of high quality literature. We provide our students access to books in a several ways:

Classroom Library - We have a variety of books for students to read when they are in the classroom. These books are shared among students and will not come home.

Public Library - In September, part of your child's homework will be to obtain a public library card and bring it in to join our class's Library Club.

## Scholastic Reading Club

On the 15th of each month I will place our class's Scholastic Reading Club order. Orders will be delivered to school, and I will send them home in your child's bookbag. Scholastic orders may only be submitted online. Please visit <https://orders.scholastic.com/ND62J> to place your order! Each order placed earns rewards for our class to buy more books! There are also fantastic discounts and freebies available to families. I highly recommend using this resource!



## Birthdays

Birthday celebrations are a special part of first grade. It is my priority to ensure all students feel important and loved on their special day. Birthday celebrations in the classroom will include a song, a birthday certificate, and a trip to our sticker box!

In order to promote healthy habits and ensure the safety of all students due to food allergies, **edible birthday treats will not be permitted in the classroom.** If you would like to send treats for the class, we ask that they be something **other than food**. Some options are: goody bags, books, pencils, bookmarks, and small games. I cannot wait to celebrate with you!

## Star of the Week

Each week we will have a star student! You will receive a reminder the week before it is your child's turn to be the star student. When your first-grader is the star student it will involve many special things!

**Star Student Poster:** Create a unique poster to tell all about yourself! Bring it to school on Monday of your star student week and it will hang in the hallway all week for everyone to see! A poster to complete and decorate will be sent home the weekend before your child is the Star Student.

**Sock's Diary:** Our classroom "pet," Sock the Monkey will come home on an assigned Monday with your child. Throughout the week, please have your first-grader write and draw about what they do with Sock in Sock's Diary. Feel free to include photos or other scrapbook-type artifacts! On Friday, return Sock so your first grader can share their fun week with the class!