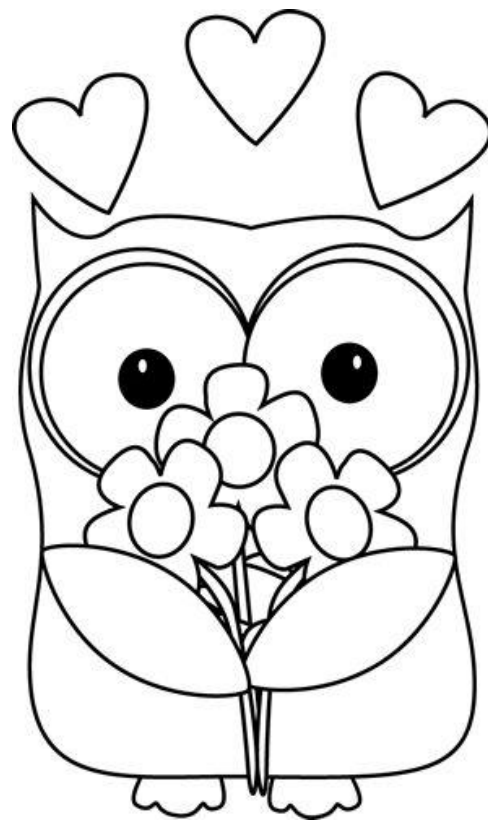


WELCOME TO
MRS. GREGORY'S
CLASS!



Grow wise little owl!

HELLO, FIRST GRADE FAMILIES!

Let's just keep it real and say it like it is. This whole thing situation is not ideal. It will have its positives like everything does, but it'll be hard and a constant learning curve for all involved. Neither you, nor I have done this before. Let's take deep breaths on the regular and keep searching for the silver linings every day. We can embrace the good and the hard together.

Due to this insane mountain teachers and working parents are running up to do the best they can and survive, please make GRACE and PATIENCE be two of the most important words in your vocabulary during this season and even more so in your actions. Grace for yourself, grace for your kid(s), and grace for your kid's teacher(s). Buckets and buckets of it.

Lastly, on behalf of all the teachers/students in the education community, PLEASE refrain from airing your child's remote learning experience online for the world to see and hear. A teacher spends their days carefully crafting their classroom and building a special community. To students, school can be a safe and sacred place, something that belongs just to them. The same goes for teachers. That component is now missing with everyone being able to have a birds' eye view and be a part of the process. It's a beautiful thing, forming partnerships with you and teachers are so grateful for you and all you do. It also opens up teachers and students to a whole different level of vulnerability. Before you decide to share anything on the internet about school from your home, please ask yourself...

- Is what I'm about to post kind?
- Do I have permission/consent to post this image or video (if there are other students or teachers present)?
- Is what I'm going to share protecting other parties involved?

Much love to you, parents, always and forever. ♥ Let's do this with deep breaths, grace, and respect for each other. Let's stay safe and embrace the silver linings in this wild, learning adventure.

Ms. Gregory

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Teacher: Ms. Angela Gregory

Email Address: gregorya@platoacademy.net

Phone Number: 727-205-6360

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:00 pm

Emails will be returned within 24-48 hours during office hours.

Class Website: <https://mrsgregorysfirstgrade.weebly.com/>

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.

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.

Students will start the day off on a green smiley face. If a student is making a bad choice, the student will be given a warning. If the behavior continues, the student will change their personal class face to a "meh" face and will have a consequence related to the bad behavior. For example, a student that is being unkind to another student would be asked to write a kind letter. If the student's behavior continue to make poor choices will change their personal face to a sad face and will have a more severe consequence like sitting out of all recess.

Students can work their way back to a smiley face! A letter and email will be sent home for all "meh" and "sad" faces. Letters are to be signed and returned.

RULES:

1. Follow direction the first time.
2. Try your best.
3. Raise your hand to speak.
4. Keep your body parts to yourself.
5. Be kinds, safe, honest and resepectful.

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: gregorya@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.

O.W.L FOLDERS

Your child will receive an O.W.L. (Organize While Learning) binder. This needs to be brought to school each day, taken home each day, and emptied each day.

It will contain:

- Monthly calendar with class and school events
- Graded work from the day
- A pocket for important notes home
- Homework
- Resources for your child.

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 for 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, math quiz and a reading test every other Friday. Math tests will be given and dates will be in the class weekly e-mail and the calendar in O.W.L binder. In addition to tests, I closely monitor students using various tools including running records, and anecdotal records. Grades will be posted on FOCUS.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

Attendance is very important. Please have your child on time at school unless sick, doctor's appointment, or an emergency. When absent, a note is required or it will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Any student who is not in class by 8:40 is considered tardy and will be issued a tardy slip. Tardies accumulate to form absences; every three unexcused tardies result in an absence. Tardies not only affect your child, but the flow of our classroom and the other students. Please strive to have your child on time for school consistently.

Students are only allowed 3-5 absences (excused or unexcused) per quarter.

Numerous absences and/or tardies can result in parents/guardians being contacted by the school and other authorities (State Department of Children and Families), as well as a possible loss of enrollment preference for the following school year.

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. 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 no 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..

HOMEWORK

Our class will be using a "booklet" as the format for our homework this year. Please read below to familiarize yourself with this booklet and its routines.

READING

Our class will be using reading passages this year for homework. These passages will help your kiddo practice reading fluently and responding to text. There is also some practice with language skills, such as nonsense words, rhyming, spelling, and grammar. This comprehensive resource will help your kiddo meet the expectations of 1st grade. Below are some guidelines for completing this homework at home.

Fluency: This term means reading with appropriate speed, accuracy, and expression. Your kiddo will have 4 separate readings. Please DO NOT read all on one night! It is meant to be spread out through the week. Record how far your kiddo reads in 1 minute. Make a mental note of how far your kiddo reads DON'T stop them. If your kiddo reads the entire passage in under a minute, have them begin reading the passage again until the minute is up. Count the number of words read. If your kiddo had an error (a word they didn't know or a word read incorrectly), subtract that from the number of words read. Each day you will administer the same way and ideally your kiddo will read more words each time with fewer errors.

Fluency (cont):

If your kiddo is reading---very---slowly, the repeated readings will help. Let them have some time to use word attack strategies on the word (picture clues, sounding out). Wait about 3 seconds before helping them with the word.

If your kiddo is a strong reader and can read really fast, encourage them to slow a bit and add in expression. A strong reader should pay attention to punctuation and change their reading voice as appropriate

Comprehension Questions

Your kiddo may work through the comprehension questions as it seems appropriate. You may help guide your kiddo through the questions. Be sure they find the best choice. Going back to the passage to help find the answer is a great strategy! Please be sure to write a full sentence for the written response question.

If it took your kiddo a while to read through the passage, it is best to wait to do the comprehension questions until more readings have been done. As your kiddo builds fluency and reads most or all words correctly, they will also be able to understand the content of the passage better.

If your kiddo reads quickly through the passage, it would be appropriate for them to work on the comprehension questions at any time.

MATH

Behind the passage in the booklet is our math review/preview. This page displays skills/concepts we will be learning throughout our 1st grade year. At some times, your kiddo will be reviewing what we have already learned in class and it will be a refresher to keep them 'sharp.' Other times, it will be more of a preview, featuring skills and concepts to be covered at a later time in the year.

SPELLING

The children will be provided a 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 these 15 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.

Students can pick any activities off of the spelling menu located in their O.W.L binders and on my website.




Spelling homework will not be graded. Please have your student complete as many or as little activities as they need to be successful.

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK

READING

Spend each night reading for 15- 20 minutes. 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.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 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 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th 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.

(Hagy and Brown, 1982.)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.