

# First Grade Disclosure Document

Northridge Elementary  
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**First Grade Website: [FlyingInFirst.weebly.com](http://FlyingInFirst.weebly.com) (updated weekly)**

*Welcome to our Northridge First Grade! First grade is a wonderful year for children, as they continue the learning process. We plan to work side by side with you in helping your child to grow and develop socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. Education is truly a "united" team effort! Let's make this year an adventure in learning and a positive experience for everyone. We are looking forward to working with you!*

**Reading/Language Arts:** We will be following the Utah Common Core Standards as we enter our third year with the new Wonders Literacy program, published by McGraw-Hill. We will also involve the children with a wide variety of balanced literacy activities. These will address phonics, whole-language, literature-based readiness skills, fluency, comprehension, and more, as they progress along the road to reading mastery. We will offer many writing experiences for the children such as making class books, writing in journals, shared group writing, writing individual stories, etc.

**Math:** We will use the Common Core Standard-based math program, McGraw-Hill My Math that uses many "hands-on" materials and group activities to build a basic math foundation. You will be able to support your child's math experience each week with math activity suggestions that will be sent home and/or can be found on our First Grade website.

**Other Curriculum:** We cover many other subjects in first grade, including social studies, science, physical education, art, music, dance, health, and educational technology.

**Something Special:** To prime our "teaching tool box" with the best and most innovative ways to help every child reach his/her full potential, Northridge will continue to include two very exciting school-wide projects! It's a super time to be a Nighthawk!

- The Apollo Project – This incredible program has been in the works with BYU Engineering and Education professors, a few select principals in our very own Alpine School District, and professors at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The students (and teachers) had a wonderful experience with the launch of this program last year, and we look forward to continuing the journey! This amazing program brings the Engineering Design Process into the hands and minds of students K-6, as they discover and think of new and innovative ways to solve problems, work together to reach a goal, go through the process of trial and error, and many more skills and strategies through the **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Be sure to watch our First Grade website and talk with your fabulous first grader about these exciting activities and discoveries!

- The Leader in Me – Northridge will continue to receive the honor and privilege of being a “The Leader in Me” school! This is a directly due to our amazing community – YOU! Thank you! As a “The Leader in Me” school, we will continue to strengthen and grow our school’s culture of being responsible and respectful citizens who are passionate about helping others and taking care of the world around us, as we reach our personal best. An important foundation for this launch will be the 7 Habits of Happy Kids (Dr. Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits). For more information about “The Leader in Me”, please visit the Northridge and/or First Grade websites.

**Remediation/Enrichment:** In all areas of the curriculum, we will implement small groups where students will have an opportunity to have extra help from the teacher when needed, as well as extension activities for those students who have demonstrated understanding of several concepts. Your child will also have the opportunity to work one-on-one with either the teacher or a parent volunteer on a regular basis.

**Homework:** First Grade children think homework is *wonderful* so please take advantage of this and use these “golden teaching moments” to work on something school-related for a short time each day. Reading to and with your child 20 minutes each day is highly encouraged and will greatly benefit your child. Homework will be sent home on Monday (or the first school day of the week) and is due on the following Friday. Additional math pages may be sent home for practice. These pages are optional to return, however we do see a much better understanding of the skills and concepts in students who have the extra practice at home. Also, Reading logs will be sent home at the beginning of the month and are due at the end of the month. Thank you for your wonderful support!

**Attendance:** Class starts at 8:00 (Early Birds) and 9:15 (Later Gators). Attendance is taken within the first fifteen minutes of class. If your child **arrives after 8:15 or 9:30** please have your child check in at the office. It is very much to your child’s advantage to be at school each day. However, it is not advisable to send children to school when they are sick. **For safety reasons, please do not have your child arrive at school any earlier than five minutes before the start of class.** A more detailed attendance policy can be found in the Northridge Handbook or on the Northridge website ([www.northridge.alpineschools.org](http://www.northridge.alpineschools.org)).

**Grading As Reflected on Progress Reports:** Each child will be accountable to master the skills and curricula that are outlined in the curriculum. We will be using the Skyward computer-grading program. First Grade progress reports will be sent home three times a year. The grading scale is listed below:

**4**—Consistently and independently meets expectations with no support.

**3**—Frequently meets expectations independently with minimal support and/or intervention.

**2**—Occasionally meets expectations independently and requires moderate support and/or intervention.

**1**—Rarely meets expectations independently and requires considerable support and/or intervention.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in October and February where your child's progress will be shared in more detail. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, contact your child's teacher. You can also monitor your child's progress by reviewing his/her work when it comes home.

### **Discipline Plan:**

We expect our students to follow the **Northridge School Rules**, which are:

1. Follow directions-Respond appropriately to a polite request.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
3. No name calling, put downs, or teasing.

These standards will be in conjunction to what we expect as a class as well.

We are excited to give a lot of praise, positive feedback, send positive notes home, etc. for all of the responsible and positive choices that the students make. We also realize that sometimes, a different choice may be made, and that has consequences as well. If a child chooses to disobey a rule, the following consequences will be administered.

1. A warning is given to the child.
2. The child is removed from the situation, but will remain in the group.
3. Time out-the child is removed from the group.
4. Parents are notified.
5. The child is sent to the principal

**Class Supplies:** NOTICE: The items on this list will be used during the regular school day. They may be brought from home on a **voluntary basis**, otherwise, they will be furnished by the school.

- **pencils**
- **erasers**
- **scissors (round tip)**
- **crayons**
- **highlighters**
- **colored pencils (sharpened)**
- **glue sticks**
- **markers**

**Donations:** We are requesting a \$20.00 donation or whatever you are comfortable with donating. This will cover the cost of theme days, Christmas and Mother's Day gifts, and one field trip. No child will be excluded from an activity because they did not pay a donation. We would greatly appreciate any other classroom items that you would like to donate (i.e., tissues, paper towels, Ziploc bags, hand (baby wipes) and Clorox wipes, hand soap/sanitizer, small wrapped candies for the treat tub, and/or small toys for our treasure box). Thank you **SO** much! If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our First Grade website and click on "Donations". Many thanks in advance!

**Volunteers:** There will be many opportunities for you to volunteer in your child's class. A few ways that you could help are: Theme Days, holiday parties, small group time, one-on-one help, and doing projects at home. If you are able to help, please feel free to fill out the volunteer forms that are in your child's Back-to-School envelope. We appreciate any and all help that you are able to give this year! Thanks!

*We are looking forward to a fabulous year with your child in first grade!*

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jacobson, and Mrs. Crandall*