

WELCOME TO  
FIRST GRADE



# meet the TEACHER

I grew up in Lakeland, Florida and I graduated from Harrison School for the Arts. Then, I graduated from Southeastern University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. This is my 8th year teaching at McKeel Academy Central. I am certified in elementary education, and I am reading, civics, and ESOL endorsed. I am married and a mom of two sweet kiddos. In my free time, I love traveling, shopping, and spending time with my family and friends.

I am so excited to be your child's first grade teacher this year! This year, my goal is to enrich your child with engaging learning experiences to meet their needs and help them reach their full potential. I enjoy having fun while learning and hope to instill a love of learning in your child!





# OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

8:00-8:25 Morning work

8:25-9:25 Reading

9:25-10:00 Writing (Tuesday/Thursday)

Library: 9:30-10:00 (Monday)

Spanish: 9:30-10:00 (Wednesday)

Music: 9:25-10:05 (Friday)

10:00-10:15 Mentor Sentence/Grammar

10:15-10:30 Recess

10:30-11:14 Phonemic awareness and phonics

11:14-11:39 Lunch

11:40-12:40 Math

12:40-1:25 MAC Time (Reading Small Groups)

1:25-2:05 PE and Art (Tuesday)

2:05-2:15 Snack

2:15-2:45 Science and Social Studies

2:45-3:00 Pack Up

3:00 Dismissal





# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices.
5. Keep our dear learning community happy.





# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

## M.A.C.'s Schoolwide Expectations

1. Follow directions
2. Takes responsibility for own actions; demonstrates self-control
3. Completes and submits quality classwork
4. Listens respectfully and acknowledges the thinking of others
5. Displays best effort
6. Uses technology in accordance with school policies
7. Follow dress code expectations

# CLASSROOM REWARDS

We have several different classroom rewards which include:



- \*Treasure Box
- \*Verbal Praise
- \*Money System
- \*Class Rewards



- \*Earning Individual Paw Prints
- \*Earning Class Paw Prints
- \*Earning Positive Referral to the Office



# SNACK TIME

Our class has snack time daily in the afternoon.

Students need to bring in a snack daily.

Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle each day. It is preferred that the water bottle have a flip top closure.

The school has water refill stations available.



# LUNCH INFORMATION

Please utilize MySchoolBucks to keep money in your child's lunch account and monitor their purchases.

Students have the option to purchase cookies, fruit snacks, and juice boxes at lunch for an additional charge.

There are no lunch visitors allowed at this time.





# grading POLICY

McKeel Academy Central utilizes a traditional grading scale.

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 0-59

This year, writing grades will be included in your child's overall Language Arts grade.

Graded assignments will be sent home on Tuesdays in your child's yellow Take Home folder. Please be sure to review assignments and remove all papers.



# ATTENDANCE POLICY

**School begins at 8:15 a.m.**

Students must be at school for at least 50% of the school day, or they will be marked as absent. (11:30 am)

**Please hold onto any doctor's notes,  
as we will not collect them at school.**

Upload Doctor's Notes: You can upload doctor's notes by logging into McKeel Systems and selecting "attendance." There is an option to "upload note." Please do not turn paper notes into the school.





# ATTENDANCE POLICY

## **Automatic Notifications:**

Parents will receive an automated email from Systems every 5 absences.

## **Communication:**

Email your child's teacher if you have an extended pre-planned absence (e.g., medical procedure or other important reasons).

\*Excessive absences could result in attendance probation, and persistent attendance issues may lead to dismissal from McKeel Academy Central. Excessive absences, tardies, or early checkouts will be reviewed by administration to identify the causes and determine appropriate actions.



# ATTENDANCE POLICY

## **Arrival Information:**

Students should be dropped off in the car line by 8:10 a.m. so that we can have all students in the classroom by 8:15 a.m. and ready for the start of the school day. Any student arriving after 8:15 a.m. is considered tardy.

## **Dismissal Information:**

Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. Please make sure you are in the car line and ready to pick up your child.

Afternoon walk-up is available for all students. Parents must have a car tag with them in order for your child to be called.





# DRESS CODE POLICY

All uniforms should come from Risse Brothers.

Students are expected to wear their McKeel collared uniform shirt along with school uniform bottoms. Please make sure your child is wearing a belt if bottoms have belt loops. Only solid, navy blue jackets or a McKeel branded hoodie/jacket are allowed.

\*\*Helpful Tip- Please begin working on teaching your child how to tie their shoes, especially if your child wears shoes with shoe laces. There are some really helpful videos on YouTube for teaching kids this skill. I would be happy to share them if you reach out.



# DRESS CODE POLICY

On Fridays, students may wear jeans for a \$1 or school uniform bottoms and their McKeel spirit t-shirt.

Jeans should be solid blue with no frays or designs.

All uniform bottoms should be mid-thigh or longer.

\*MAC has a clothes closet available if needed.





# OUR CURRICULUM

This year, we will use standards-based thematic units for Reading and Big Ideas Math for our curriculum.

Additionally, we use the Phonics First program, which includes the red words and High Frequency Words (Sight Words) that students will learn throughout the year.

In science, students will participate in a variety of hands-on experiments throughout the year. We will also utilize Scholastic News to help teach social studies.

# OUR CURRICULUM

## Reading

Students will...

identify and describe the main story elements (characters, setting, events) in a text.



identify and explain the moral of a story.



explain who is telling the story using context clues.

use text features to demonstrate understanding of the text.

identify the main topic and relevant details in a text.

identify an author's opinion about a text.



# OUR CURRICULUM

## Phonics First Program

This is a multisensory, systematic, structured, sequential, phonics-based, direct instruction that teaches students how to decode (read) and encode (spell).

Weekly lessons will teach students various spelling patterns throughout the year. Students will participate in daily activities to reinforce the weekly phonics skill.

Students will be given a spelling test each Friday to check for understanding of the weekly phonics skill. Students will also be given a sentence to dictate (write). These assessments will be placed in your child's yellow folder.



# OUR CURRICULUM

## High Frequency Words

Red words are typically non-phonetic sight words that require memorization because they cannot be sounded out using phonetic rules. Students will be working on reading and spelling the red words.

Sight words provide an excellent base for reading at an early age. These words can be found frequently in a text. Sight words are typically words that students can recognize immediately and can read without having to decode (sound them out).

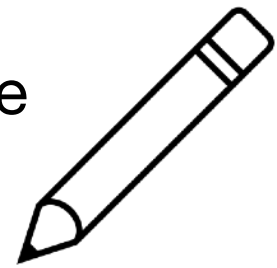
We will be using the red word and high frequency word first grade list this year.

# OUR CURRICULUM

## Writing

Students will...

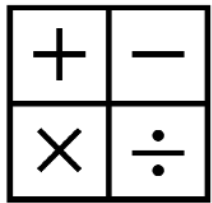
- write narratives to retell two or more sequenced events.
- write opinions about a topic with at least one supporting detail and a sense of closure.
- write expository texts about a topic, using a source, providing facts and a sense of closure.
- follow the rules of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.



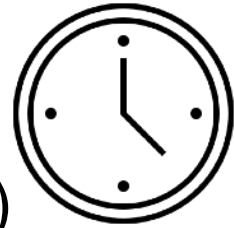
# OUR CURRICULUM

## Math

Students will learn...



Numbers to 120 (count forward, backward, skip count by 2's, 5's, 10's)



Place Value (tens/ones, greater than/less than)

Addition & Subtraction (strategies, fluency, fact families, two-digit numbers, regrouping)

Measurement (length in inches & centimeters)

Time (hour & half-hour)



Money

Geometry (2D & 3D shapes)



Data Analysis



# OUR CURRICULUM

## Helpful Real-Life Learning and Exposure for Math

Talk about money, coins, and bills

Talk about the names of coins and how much they are worth

Count coins to determine the worth

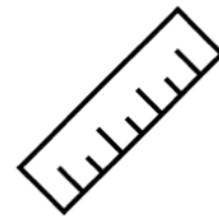
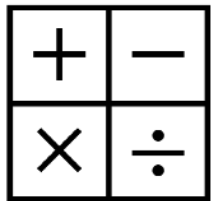
Talk about clocks and what time it is

Find and describe shapes in your home

Add and subtract using every day objects

Talk about whether a number is greater or less

Let your child help you measure when working on home projects



# OUR CURRICULUM

## Science

Students will learn...

- The Practice of Science (science tools, scientific method, 5 senses)
- Matter
- Force & Motion
- Earth in Space & Time (gravity, stars, the sun)
- Earth's Structures (natural resources)
- Life Science (living vs non-living, plants, animals)



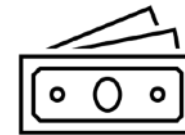
# OUR CURRICULUM



## Social Studies

Students will learn...

- Civics & Government (rules, rights/responsibilities, good citizenship, American symbols, etc.)
- American History (compare past to present, holidays, timelines, etc.)
- African American History (identify African American artists)
- Geography (mapping skills,
- Economics (goods vs. services, needs vs. wants, earning-spending-saving)





# OUR CURRICULUM

## **Accelerated Reader (AR)**

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a program we use to help encourage reading. Students can read a book and take a short comprehension quiz on the book. Based on their score, they will earn points.

- For the first quarter, we will practice AR for fun.
- Next nine weeks, your child will get his or her first goal. It is personalized to their reading level. Please encourage your child to read to make his or her goal. Students that make their goal will earn rewards.
- I will also be reading AR books to the class at school to help them make their goals.
- Your child will get a new goal each nine weeks.
- Your child may use the book to help them on the AR test. AR tests can only be taken at school during school hours.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Teacher Professional Development	Monday, July 22, 2024 - Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Teacher Work Days	Wednesday July 31, - Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Paras Return to Work	Friday, August 2, 2024
Student Orientation	Monday, August 5, 2024
First Day of School** Polk County Schools Begin Monday, August 12, 2024	Wednesday, August 7, 2024
<b>HOLIDAY - Students/Staff (Labor Day)</b>	<b>Monday, September 2, 2024</b>
Interim Reports	Wednesday, September 11, 2024
End of 1st Grading Period	Wednesday, October 9, 2024
FTE Week	Monday - Friday, October 7-11, 2024
Grades Due	Monday, October 14, 2024
<b>McKeel Closed Students &amp; Staff (District Work Day)</b>	<b>Friday, October 18, 2024</b>
<b>McKeel Closed Students &amp; Staff (Polk Schools in Session)</b>	<b>Monday, October 21, 2024</b>
Distribute Report Cards	Tuesday, October 29, 2024
McKeel Open Students & Staff (District Holiday)**	Monday, November 11, 2024
Interim Reports	Wednesday, November 13, 2024
<b>HOLIDAY - Fall Break</b> Polk Schools in Session Friday, November 22, 2024*	<b>Friday-Friday, November 22-29, 2024</b>
End of 1st Semester/ Last Day of 2nd Grading Period	Thursday, December 19, 2024
<b>HOLIDAY - Winter Break</b> Polk Schools in Session Friday, December 20, 2024*	<b>Friday, Dec. 20, 2024 - Monday, Jan. 6, 2025</b>

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Teachers Return (Staff PD & Work Day)	Monday, January 6, 2025
Students/Paras Return	Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Grades Due	Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Distribute Report Cards	Wednesday, January 15, 2025
<b>HOLIDAY - Students/Staff (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)</b>	<b>Monday, January 20, 2025</b>
FTE Week	Monday - Friday, February 3-7, 2025
Interim Reports	Wednesday, February 5, 2025
<b>McKeel Closed Students &amp; Staff (Polk Schools in Session)*</b>	<b>Friday, February 14, 2025</b>
<b>HOLIDAY - Students/Staff (President's Day)</b>	<b>Monday, February 17, 2025</b>
End of 3rd Grading Period	Friday, March 14, 2025
<b>HOLIDAY - Spring Break</b>	<b>Monday-Friday, March 17-21, 2025</b>
Grades Due	Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Distribute Report Cards	Tuesday, April 1, 2025
<b>No School for Students/Staff</b>	<b>Friday, April 18, 2025</b>
<b>McKeel Closed Students &amp; Staff (Polk Schools in Session)*</b>	<b>Monday, April 21, 2025</b>
Interim Reports	Wednesday, April 23, 2025
<b>HOLIDAY - Students/Staff (Memorial Day)</b>	<b>Monday, May 26, 2025</b>
Last Day for Students EARLY RELEASE	Thursday, May 29, 2025
Last Day for Teachers/Paras	Friday, May 30, 2025



# FIELD TRIPS


More information will be coming home soon about our scheduled field trips for the entire year.

There is a \$30 first semester due for ALL students.

This will include the cost of our first grade field trip shirt and first semester field trips. Please pay by 9/12.



Parents have the option to buy a field trip shirt on MOO for \$15.



# FIELD TRIPS

## 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Field Trips:

- Tuesday, October 2nd: “Alice in Wonderland, Jr.” Children’s Play @ Lakeland Community Theater & lunch @ Barnett Park
- October (TBA): Lakeland Police Station
- December (TBA): Nursing Home & Barnett Park

# STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

McKeel Academy Central does not celebrate student birthdays. However, I will recognize your child's special day with a birthday crown and a little gift. Your child may bring in a snack for the class to share on their special day. It must fit in their backpack (no cupcakes). Please contact me directly to make necessary arrangements for your child's special day.



# REPORT CARD SCHEDULE

October 29, 2024

January 15, 2025

April 1, 2025

May 2025



A sample report card titled "REPORT CARD" is displayed on a blue background. The card is a white rectangle with a thin border. It contains a table with two columns: the subject name and the grade. The subjects listed are Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, History, Art, and P.E. Each subject has a grade of "A+" written in red text.

REPORT CARD	
Reading	A+
Writing	A+
Mathematics	A+
Science	A+
History	A+
Art	A+
P.E.	A+



# testing SCHEDULE

## STAR Testing

Your child will take the STAR Reading and STAR Math Assessments 3 times during the school year. This is a computer-based assessment so students will be using their iPads to take the assessment.

PM #1: Fall - Scheduled for 9/5 & 9/6

PM #2: Winter - TBA

PM #3: Spring - TBA

STAR reports will be sent home after each assessment period in your child's Take Home Folder.



# TAKE HOME FOLDER

Students will bring home their YELLOW Take Home folders every Tuesday. Included in the folder are papers your child has completed in class and graded assignments/assessments. The high frequency word list can be found in a page protector.

Please be sure to clean out the folder and leave the papers at home.

Please keep it in your child's backpack.





# HELPING THE TEACHER

Volunteer Applications are now open and the **deadline is October 14th**. You **WILL** need to be an Approved Volunteer for **ANY** field trip you plan to attend. You will also need to have your ID scanned before the first field trip.

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDE5Mzplbi1VUw==>

I will let you know when activities are going on in the classroom for you to sign up to help.



# HELPING THE TEACHER

We have a Class Amazon Wish List. Throughout the year, I will add items to this list. Additionally, we will do several room transformations this year and specific items will be needed to make these “special learning experiences” possible. Information will be sent out to families so they can help support our classroom if they would like.



# HELPING THE TEACHER

We need disinfecting wipes. Please help us stay healthy!





# HELPING THE TEACHER

## MAC PTO

Helps support the teachers and staff with enhancing and enriching the educational opportunities for our students. With your support the MAC PTO has been able to:

- Provide yearly grants to all teachers to support their educational instruction
- Support House Activities
- Purchase Playground Equipment
- Purchase 3-D printers & Technology Equipment
- Purchase New Gym Bleachers
- Purchase Banner/Sign Machine
- Sponsor Science Nights
- Sponsor Teacher Appreciation Week/Breakfasts/Luncheons & Sponsor Teacher Birthday Gifts
- Book Fair Support
- Sponsor the MAC Christmas Float
- Sponsor Field Trips
- Sponsor Spirit Nights
- Sponsor Father/Daughter Dance & Mother/Son Event

You can help support the MAC PTO!

For more information email: [macpto@mckeelschools.com](mailto:macpto@mckeelschools.com)

Make sure to like the McKeel Academy Central PTO Facebook Page (Maroon Paw).

Join the PTO as a Member for \$5 per Family (form to be filled out)

Purchase a Parent Spirit Shirt

Sponsor a Gym Paw Print for \$25 (form to be filled out)

Support the Walk-A-Thon the PTO's biggest fundraiser

Send in all Grocery Receipts with your child (PTO will scan the receipt using the Box Top for Education App)

Use SMILE.AMAZON.COM to shop online (choose McKeel Elementary Academy as your charity (our previous name)

Attend the Monthly Spirit Nights at local Lakeland eating establishments

Volunteer with the PTO and in your child's classroom

# NIGHTLY READING

First grade relies highly on the support from parents with reading at home each night.

We ask that you read with your child at least **3 nights** a week for 15-20 minutes. Reading at home greatly helps your child grow. You may read to your child or have them read to you.

Students may borrow a book from me if needed.

Also, please work on the sight word list for each 9 weeks.





# keep in TOUCH

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

You can contact me either through:  
Email: [vivianfry@mckeeschools.com](mailto:vivianfry@mckeeschools.com)

Remind: Message me directly

Agenda: Write a note in your child's agenda and I will respond back that day.