

Welcome to Back to School Night 2026-2027!

Please have a
seat at your
child's desk.



*Write a
note for
your child*

Mrs. Fowler's 1st Grade Class

Meet Mrs. Fowler



Gold Ridge Community

I have been part of the Gold Ridge community for the past 14 years as a parent, and teaching here for 11.



My Family

I have two daughters.

- One who is a 7th grader at Sutter Middle School
- The other in college at Sacramento State



Excited for this Year

I am excited to start this new year, getting to know a new group of students and seeing many familiar faces.

In 1st grade we want students to:

1

Feel Welcome

Feel welcome and valued here at Gold Ridge.

2

Growth Mindset

We will foster a growth mindset, encouraging students to try new and hard things to rise to their challenges.

3

Ownership & Pride

We want them to be proud of their efforts and take ownership of their learning.

4

Responsibility

Students will learn that we learn from our mistakes and accept responsibility for our actions.

School Arrival Policies

- Breakfast (free optional breakfast begins at 7:40 am, students must sit and eat).
- Regular drop off begins at 8:00 am. Students can be dropped off at the multi, where they will wait with their class. The bell rings at 8:12 am and doors close at 8:15 am. After that time, students should report to the office for a late slip. If your student arrives after 8:30 am you may get a robo call saying they are absent, please do not worry it is an automated system, you may call the office to confirm student arrival).
- Parents, please do not come onto campus without checking into the office. If you are late please do not walk your child onto campus.
- Attendance is crucial for success. Please be on time and do your best to not take vacations when school is in session. If your child is absent please call and let the office know.

Breakfast, Snack & Lunch

1

Breakfast

- Free breakfast starts at **7:40 am**.
- Students must eat if attending (not child care).
- Must stay in cafeteria until supervision at **8:00 am**.
- Essential for focus since recess is late (10:50 am).

2

Recess Snack

- Bring a small, single-serving, **healthy snack**.
- Bring a water bottle with **water ONLY**.
- **No candy** or soda.
- **No sharing** allowed.

3

Lunch Options

- Lunches can be **brought from home**.
- Alternatively, opt for the **free lunch** provided by the school.
- Students are given **two choices daily**.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

- Attendance is the #1 sign a student will graduate.
- Kids who miss 9+ days are 2x more likely to drop out.
- If your family is facing challenges, let's meet and make a plan to support your student.

REMINDERS:

- Vacations and trips should be scheduled outside of the school year. There are more non-school days than school days in a year!
- Parent-Excused Absences: You have 10 days per year for health reasons (mental or physical). After that, we need a doctor's note.

MISSED DAYS ADD UP:

- Being 20 minutes late per day = 2.5 weeks missed each year
- Missing 1 day every 2 weeks = 4 weeks missed each year

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

- Talk to your teacher, principal, or front office anytime. Let's work together!
- Please report every absence to the front office.

Daily schedule

8:15 am Morning Welcome

Language Arts/reading/writing

9:10 am Walking Club

10:50-11:10 am Recess (small healthy snack)

Math

12:30 -1:10 pm Lunch followed by recess

Science/Social Studies/art

Thursdays Only 1:15 pm Early Dismissal for all of Gold Ridge

1:21 pm **1st** Grade Dismissal (M, T, W, F) through August 21st

2:45 pm Dismissal (M, T, W, F) Beginning August 24th

Library once a week, and PE with Mrs. Allen on Monday & Wednesday mornings.



Curriculum

Language Arts: Benchmark Advance, Mystery Writing, & UFLI

Math: Thinking Math- Innovamat

Social Studies: Social Studies Alive, TCI

Science: Amplify, Mystery Science

SEL (social emotional learning): Second Step



Homework-



- Starting in September
- Look for the **red** homework folder to come home Monday-Thursday.
- It should be returned to school each day.
- Homework is assigned daily and will generally include the following:
 - Reading for 15 minutes, to be signed off by a parent/caretaker in student agenda
 - Possible second task.
- Parents/caretakers, review and **sign your student's homework sheet**, upon completion, each day (additional form of communication).
- Homework is at student's level, not instructional level AND no graded projects will be assigned at home.

Sample of our
weekly
homework form.

Spelling patterns that we are
working on this week. Can be
practiced at home.

Weekly classroom updates
and events will be here.

Name: _____ Mrs. Fowler

HOMEWORK

Spelling Words
box
chest
flag
him
jump
run
shop
stand
this
wet

Monday _____
1. _____
2. _____
Parent Initials: _____

Tuesday _____
1. _____
2. _____
Parent Initials: _____

Wednesday _____
1. _____
2. _____
Parent Initials: _____

Thursday _____
1. _____
2. _____
Parent Initials: _____

CLASSROOM NEWS

Below are this week's spelling words that will be used on the Friday spelling test.
The homework pages for math should be torn out and returned with both sides completed.
Don't forget lunch, snack, and a water bottle.

Daily
homework
assignments

Please initial
that your
child read.

Nightly oral reading passage.

- Each night students are asked to read for 15 minutes.
- This can be student reading aloud, parent reads to child, echo read, partner read and more which will be detailed in a letter coming home regarding the read aloud passages.
- Part of that time we would like them to read their nightly oral reading passage.
- The reading passages will not replace rich, beautiful literature.

Reading is essential to meeting our goal of 3rd grade reading literacy for all.

Library Books



WEEKLY VISIT

Once a week

Our class attends the library once a week. Please return or renew books each week on our assigned day. (TBD)



BORROWING RULES

1 Book, 1 Week

1st graders are able to borrow 1 library book at a time, for one week, from our school library.



SAFE KEEPING

Two safe places

Books belong in your child's backpack or hands. Avoid setting them down around the house; parents are responsible for lost or damaged books.



Starfish of the Week

This is a project to be completed at home. It is not graded, but brings so much joy as students love learning about their peers and sharing about themselves. Each child will get to make a poster to share all about the person they know best, themselves!! They will have a chance to be the “starfish.” Our starfish will be chosen randomly each week and will share their posters the following monday. Students can develop pictures, glue or tape on favorite food packaging, drawings, and written responses. Encourage your child make it colorful and creative! The starfish will lead the week’s morning meetings, be a line leader and be my helper.

Trimester Grading Periods



1ST TRIMESTER

Aug 6 - Oct 30



2ND TRIMESTER

Nov 2 - Feb 12



3RD TRIMESTER

Feb 22 - May 27

Grading Policy

First grade students receive a report card each trimester with M, D, or L marks.

Academic Performance

M

Meets or Exceeds Standards

Consistently meets grade-level expectations with high quality work.

D

Developing Proficiency

Making steady progress toward fully meeting grade-level standards.

L

Limited Proficiency

Showing limited progress on standards; needs additional support.

Lifelong Learning Skills

Graded as: O (Outstanding) | G (Good) | S (Satisfactory) | N (Needs Improvement)

- Respect with adults and peers
- Attention during instruction
- Self-control and managing talking
- Responsibility for personal actions

Determined by: Tests, effort & classroom assessments.

*** Not all work is graded. Some work is just for practice.*

Assessments

- We will measure growth using Renaissance STAR reading.
- We will use both formative and summative assessments to determine what students need.
- During August we are assessing student's reading skills in all areas. Those scores are not used to grade students, the data we gather is used to drive instruction.
- We will have conferences in November to review the first trimester and discuss levels and concerns. If needed, we will schedule additional conferences during the year.
- ELPAC testing for English Language Learners,
- CAASPP testing is the state standardized testing, it does not start until 3rd grade.

S.O.A.R.

 Our behavior expectations can be found in the student handbook.

S

Self Control

Managing actions and impulses positively.

O

On Task

Staying focused and engaged on learning.

A

Achieve

Working hard even when things get difficult.

R

Respect

Showing kindness to teachers, peers, and self.



SOAR Tickets & Prizes

We will be giving out SOAR tickets to encourage good choices, which students can trade in for exciting prizes!



Birthdays!

We LOVE to celebrate birthdays. Feel free to send in a pre packaged treat that can be easily taken out to recess and enjoyed with other classmates.

Common choices are cupcakes, cookies, brownies, or any variety of packaged snacks. You may also bring in non-food treats to share as well.

Your student will have the opportunity to be line leader and choose a fun 5-10 minute activity to do with the class.

*Due to several food allergies, please do not bring treats that are homemade or contain any nuts.



Important Info.

Shoes: All students must wear closed toe shoes , with a strap on the back. Please have your child be independent with tying their shoes. If they don't know how to tie laces, please send them in velcro shoes. We will have the great shoelace challenge.

Clothing: Do not show belly when arms are lifted or under garments. Straps should be at least two finger width, not spaghetti straps. Jersey material should not have holes that make the shirt see through. No blood, weapons, or bad language.

Water bottles- Are for water only please, put names on bottle.

Sharing: We will send out a monthly calendar for share. Students can bring **one small item** to share on their assigned day. It must fit inside the student's zipped backpack. They can also share something fun or exciting happening at home. Sharing helps build student self-confidence in a positive manner.



No toys at school unless it is on share day and in backpack besides when sharing.

Campus Reminders

- Items forgotten at home should be left in the office.
 - Parents may not enter campus without signing in to the office. This is for safety precautions.
 - No pets/dogs on campus at any time.
 - Parents may not show up at field trips without prior approval and signing in.
 - Bikes should be walked into bike parking, never ridden on campus.
-

Communication to watch for

- Each week students will have a **homework sheet** in their homework folder. I will include reminders and important information so please read it each week.
- I will use parent **emails, Parent Square and phone** numbers that you have communicated through the sign in sheet and office records
- Most general school information (PTO events, school calendars, special school events, after school clubs, etc) will be communicated to you in your student's **Wednesday Folder** (occasionally Thursday) or on Parent Square. Folders should be returned the next day. Feel free to return signed documents in this folder and I will forward them on. Also, I will send home completed school work in the Wednesday Folder as well.

Classroom needs

Thank you all for the many donations! Our class is set.

Headphones: Each student needs a pair of corded headphones, to be used in class. Please put their name on them and place them into a large ziplock bag. These will stay at school all year.

Time Capsules: We need **cleaned out, regular size** (5.2 OZ) Pringles cans, to turn into time capsules. If your family eats Pringles we would LOVE to get your empty cans. Please bring them in as soon as possible.

Names: Please put your child's name on any loose items: lunch boxes, water bottles, jackets and sweaters.

Volunteers

- If you are able and would like to volunteer, please complete the Parent Volunteer sheet. In addition, please stop by the Administration office and inquire about required clearances to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips.
 - Eagle Art Teacher (orientation + once a month) - 2-3 volunteers needed
 - Room Parent - 1-2 volunteers needed
 - Chaperones for field trips - as needed, will be chosen on first come, first serve basis.
 - 2-3 Garden docents

All volunteers must be cleared as a category 2 volunteer.

Volunteers must be pre approved with teacher, then check in at the office and wear a badge on campus.

Preparing Your Child for Success

How can you help at home?

- Encourage reading everyday!
 - The Goodwill or any thrift store is a wonderful resource for inexpensive books
 - The school and public library
 - Scholastic Book orders are an additional resource that helps build our classroom library
- Ask your child what they are learning, who did they play with.
- Have a **positive attitude about school**.
- Make sure your child gets a lot of sleep and eats healthy throughout the day.
- Be on time and present every day.
- Help them stay organized, check folders and backpacks daily.

Questions??

Don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Parentsquare or Email is the best way to reach me.

Lfowler@fcusd.org



Thank you!!

For taking the time to attend Back to School Night!

I look forward to getting to know all of your children this year!

