



# The ABC's of Mrs. Leite's Classroom



## ABSENCES

Please call the school (605-696-4602) and email or call me if your child will be absent. If you do not call the school, the secretaries will call you to make sure your child is safe.



## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

School starts at 8:15 a.m. and dismisses at 3:22 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Dismissal time for Wednesday is 2:22 p.m.



## AUTHOR STUDIES

We will have author studies throughout the year. Some of the authors that we will be studying include; Mike Thaler (The Black Lagoon Series), Jill Eggleton, Dr. Seuss, etc.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

The first few weeks of school will be spent getting to know each other and becoming familiar with new routines. As a class we will discuss classroom rules and our behavior management program (Bobcat ROAR).



## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

The student planners are used for communication between the parents and the teacher to allow you to see your child's behavior and homework completion in class. If your child has a star on the bottom of their planner, all went well for the day. If your child happened to receive an incident/mark on Bobcat ROAR that day, you will see what type of mark he/she received. I am expecting that your child explain to you why the mark was received, but if

you need more clarification, please call. If the mark was given by an encore teacher (music, P.E., art, guidance, technology, or library) and you want to discuss the matter further, I encourage you to contact them since I was not there when the incident happened. I will write where they received the ROAR mark if it was not in our classroom. **I do expect that your child's planner be signed stating that you are aware of how your child's day went.**



## BIRTHDAYS

Treats are allowed to celebrate your child's birthday. If you and your child want to celebrate his/her birthday, simply bring in the treats to be shared from **10:20-10:30**. **They must be store bought or packaged treats. No peanut or tree nut containing products please as we do have students with allergies at Hillcrest.** For those that have a summer birthday, we will celebrate your child's ½ birthday.

You can drop the treats off in the classroom between 7:45 and 8:10 a.m. but anytime after that, please leave them at the office to avoid disruption. Your child can also bring the treats in with him/her in the morning. Also, please be sure to bring in the necessary amount of treats (**21 children**) and napkins/utensils if necessary. I will allow your child to pass out treats to other teachers, but not to other classes.

Students **will not** be allowed to hand out birthday party invitations at school. I have had issues with hurt feelings in the past. I also cannot give out students' home addresses due to our privacy policy.



## BOBCAT BUCKS

This is an incentive program that I use in my classroom. Students can earn \$1.00 (or more) of bobcat bucks a day for following classroom rules and showing great behavior. The students will come up with things that they need to work on as a class. For example: putting their names on their papers, keeping their chairs on the floor, lining up quietly, etc. If a student receives a ROAR mark for the day (from any teacher or supervisor), does not follow the rule we voted on as a class, or is absent they will not earn their dollar that day. Each Friday during Ipad time, students will individually come to the table and we will discuss together how their behavior was for the week and I will give them the bobcat bucks they have earned. Students will have individual pouches to keep their bobcat bucks in and I will also keep track myself on a clipboard of how much money each student earns. At the end of each month the Bobcat Store will open up and students will be able to "buy" items that are worth \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100. Students can decide if they want to spend or save their bobcat bucks each month. They can also trade in their bobcat bucks for bigger bills at this time which makes this incentive program a great math lesson! I have done program for two last year. My students loved it and in return I had some very well behaved 2<sup>nd</sup> graders! ☺



## BOBCAT ROAR

BOBCAT ROAR is a behavioral discipline plan that will be used throughout Hillcrest Elementary. Your complete guide to this information is located on the Hillcrest Elementary website and in your child's planner.



## BOOK BAGS/BACKPACKS

Your child should bring a backpack to school every day.



## BOOK ORDERS

Every month I will be sending home book order forms for you and your child to look over. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices and are a great way to build your own home library. If you would like to order your child a book as a gift, just let me know and we can work it out for you to pick it up without your child knowing. Our class online code is GPTPT.



## CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION

Please send a note or call the office if your child will be going home a different way than what is listed on the enrollment card. If your transportation plans change after 12:00/noon, please **CALL me at (696-4637)**, do not email as I do not always have time to check it.



## CLOTHING

Students need to wear appropriate, comfortable clothing to school. Please put names on coats, boots, gloves, hats, and backpacks. Also a reminder that sandals are permitted, but remember that your child will be out for daily recess. Your child will need tennis shoes for P.E. every Monday and Wednesday and is encouraged to wear them at every recess to help prevent possible injury.



## COMMUNICATION

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to write a note, email or call. I can be reached at 696-4637. My email address is [Nicole.Leite@k12.sd.us](mailto:Nicole.Leite@k12.sd.us).



## EMAIL

I usually check my email before school, at lunch, and after school. Again, if it is after 1:00 and it is a change in how your child gets home, please call me instead of sending an email.

I often send out emails for announcement/reminders. Please let me know if you would like me to use an email different from the one listed on your child's enrollment card.



## FIELD TRIP

We will be taking one field trip to the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. You will be getting more details as the field trip nears.



## F.R.O.G. BINDERS

Your child will receive a F.R.O.G. Binder that will be sent home on a daily basis. The folder inside is labeled "Bring Back to School" and the right side is marked "Stay at Home". Please clean out the take home papers each evening. Also, make sure you initial the planner and study the spelling words written on each weekly page each evening. New this year, there will be some page protectors with the monthly newsletter, the book-it reading calendar (this goes from Oct.-Mar.), the second grade list of high frequency words (your child will have to know how to read and spell these words by the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), and homework help sheets in the back. ☺



## GUIDED READING

During our learning centers each morning, a group of students will be joining me for a guided reading lesson. This gives me the opportunity to work with a small group of students and track their reading progression throughout the year. There will be about 4-5 students in each

group and every student will meet with me at least once a week.



## **HANDWRITING**

We use Zaner Bloser handwriting books. Cursive handwriting is taught in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is typically assigned the first school day of the week and is usually one sheet with spelling/reading on the front and a math sheet on the back. For those nights that homework is not assigned students should read for 15-20 minutes. Spelling words need to be studied Monday-Thursday evenings. In the case that homework is not completed by the last school day of the week, the student is to stay in at recess to finish it and they will receive a ROAR mark on the behavior chart for not following directions. If there is a valid reason why the homework cannot be completed in the time given, parents are to write me a note and an extension will be provided. Homework can be turned in any time before Friday.

If your child has trouble with his/her homework at home, please write me a note at the top of the page, so that I can spend some additional time with your child. If you've written me a note, I will count their homework as complete for that day, even if the assignment is not completed entirely.



## **LUNCH**

A debit card system has been designed for your child each time they purchase lunch at school. A letter will be sent home to inform you when the balance is low so that it can be replenished.

If you would like to join your child for lunch and eat school lunch, please email, write a note, or call me before 8:15 a.m. so we can add your requested meal choice to the lunch count so the kitchen has enough meals for everyone.

### **Meal Prices**

#### **Breakfast**

Student price is \$1.50  
Reduced price is \$0.30  
Adults/Visitor price \$2.00  
Milk \$.040

## Lunch

Student price is \$2.45  
Reduced price is \$0.40  
Adult/Visitor price is \$3.30  
Milk \$0.40



## MATH

Our math program is called Investigations. In this program, your child will learn math and have fun by working with objects and making drawings of math situations, listening to and working with other children and sharing ways to solve problems, writing and solving problems and connecting math to daily life, and learning that there are many different ways to solve each problem.



## MEMORY JOURNALS

Special memories will be saved and put into memory journals throughout the year. At the end of the year, each child will be able to take his/her memory journal home for remembrance.



## MYSTERY READERS

We welcome you to be a Mystery Reader throughout the year. Remember that you are a mystery to your child and the rest of the class, so don't give away the secret that you'll be coming! I will have a book for you to read to the students for about 15 minutes. Our read aloud time is from 1:00-1:15 Monday-Thursday. When you sign in at the office, please have them call so that I can prepare the students for your story! Call and let me know if you want to participate.



## POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

On the whiteboard the students are in teams. If they are caught doing something good they can win a point for their team. They can win points for putting their name on their paper, being really good listeners, helping a friend, holding the door for someone, and pretty much anything I think is point worthy. ☺ The team with the most points at any time during the week gets to line up first and go outside for recess first. The team that is winning at the end of the

week gets an extra bobcat buck on Friday. All points are erased on Friday and every team has a fresh start on Monday. Teams will change as the seating arrangement changes. Being the point manager, I will see that all students have a chance to win and points are given as fairly as possible. I have used this point system the last five years in second grade and it has worked very well. It helps students manage their own behavior and I often times see students encouraging their teammates to show positive behavior too. To be part of a team always feels good! 😊



### **PTA**

Your involvement in our classroom and at our school helps tremendously! Take time during the first few weeks of school to join PTA! The PTA does a wonderful job with Hillfest and many other events throughout the school year. The funds that I receive from the PTA help provide prizes for our Bobcat Store, supplies for special days like Mad Scientist Day and Johnny Appleseed Day, and supplies for many activities during the ABC Countdown at the end of the year. Your support of our school means a lot!



### **SCIENCE**

Some of the science units that will be covered this year are extinction/dinosaurs, habitats, states of matter, magnets, heat/light/sound, solar system/planets, weather/seasons, plants and seeds, and health and nutrition.



### **SIGN LANGUAGE**

We will learn most of the alphabet in sign language and use it communicate in our classroom.



### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Our social studies will consist of five units throughout the year. The units are geography (maps), natural resources, citizenship and rules/laws, Native Americans, and holidays around the world/cultures.



## **STAR STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Every child will have an opportunity to be the Star Student of the Week. Each day of the week brings something special for your child. I will be sending home a special poster and an information sheet the week before the child becomes Star Student. You and your child will have to do a little preparation for the week ahead, but trust me, it is all worth it!



## **SUPPLIES**

If your child runs out of one or more of his/her supplies, I will send home a note to inform you what supplies are running low/out.



## **TARDIES**

If your child is late for school, please sign them in at the office before sending them to the classroom as all the doors but the front will be locked. Also, please let me know if you are aware that your child is going to be running late.



## **TOYS**

Students should not bring toys to school, as they can become lost or damaged. We are not responsible for a child's toy if they choose to bring them. Students should not have toys or other items from home in their desk. If they do not put them in their backpack after a warning, they will get them taken away and given back to them on Friday to take home.



## **VISITORS**

Hillcrest Elementary School has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office to keep everyone safe. I welcome and encourage family involvement. You may come in at any time, just remember to check in at the office.



## **VOLUNTEERS**

I feel that it is very important for a child to know that his/her parents support their education.



I will try to provide many opportunities for parents to volunteer and visit our classroom. Your support can be exhibited in a number of ways. These can include assisting with special projects (paper mache globes, dinosaur pillows, etc.), sending in supplies (napkins, cups, etc.), chaperoning field trips, reading to the class, and preparing materials at home. **I would especially love to have some extra help during center time, which is from 11:15-11:45 daily.** 😊



*Zzzz!*

Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be their best at school and at home!