

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Greetings from Wiley South! I am excited to have your child in my class this year! Our classroom will be positive, caring, structured, fun, and stimulating. My job as a teacher is to design an environment that optimizes every child's potential and encourages all children to become lifelong learners. I will work hard in partnership with you to meet your child's social, emotional, and academic needs, within the context of the incredible learning community that is Wiley International Studies Magnet Elementary.

I know there will be lots of information coming home during the first week of school, and it can be hard to find time to read it all thoroughly. Therefore, I will send home information about a different topic or two each day this week. Please check your child's folder every day!



Communication

I will use several resources to keep you informed of what is going on at school, and there are multiple ways you can contact me.

- 1) Every class at Wiley uses a "Monday Folder," in which information from the school and PTA are shared. Due to the age of our first graders, we will also use this folder DAILY. I will send key information to you in it. Please use it to send your notes to me, including notes about absences, and to return any documents that you have to sign.

PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLDER DAILY AND HELP YOUR CHILD REMEMBER TO RETURN IT EACH MORNING!

- 2) Email is usually the easiest way for me to be reached, and I will send newsletters and other important information out this way. My email address is **cblum@wcpss.net**.
- 3) The Wiley phone number is 919-856-7723. You may also text me on my cell phone; my number is 919-760-3969, but please know that I stay pretty focused on working with the kids during the day, so I don't always check my phone until after dismissal. If it's something urgent that I need to know before 3:45, like a change in transportation, please call the office. They will get the message to me.
- 4) I put lots of information on my webpage, **www.cblum.weebly.com**. There you can find our Letterland lists, curriculum information, links to sites our kids use in class, and more.
- 5) I will use Twitter to share pictures of special activities and occasions like Field Trips.

In addition to those avenues for communicating with everyone, I will communicate with you specifically about your child via phone, email, progress reports, and in-person conferences.



FOOD

PURCHASING LUNCH: Lunch this year costs \$2.55/day (\$12.75/week) and breakfast is \$1.25 (\$6.25/week). You can send in a check or cash that will be deposited into your child's account, or you can pay online. I encourage you to pay by the week or month if you can, so that your child will not have to keep up with money every day. **When you do send cash, please put it in an envelope or plastic bag with your child's name on it.** For menus and online payment, go to <http://www.wcpss.net> and click on "School Meals" in the middle of the page. You can also get information about free and reduced lunch eligibility there.

BRINGING LUNCH: If you send lunch from home, please remember to include spoons, forks, napkins, etc, and please try to use containers that children can open on their own.

SNACKS: **We will not have snacks in the classroom this year.** We have lunch right in the middle of the day, at 12:10, so it doesn't seem necessary. We also have a student with a food allergy, so eliminating snack time will reduce the risk to that child. However, students may keep a water bottle in class (water only, please; anything else, if spilled, attracts bugs!)



About Me

I always feel a little embarrassed to write about myself, but I am a parent too, so I do understand the desire to know a little about the qualifications of the person who will be spending 7 hours a day with my child. In that spirit, here are my credentials:

EDUCATION - I earned a degree in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989 and later a Master's in Teaching from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. I also have K-12 Reading and National Board certifications.

EXPERIENCE: This will be my 23rd year of teaching. Most of my experience has been in K-2, although I have also taught kids as old as sixth grade. I have, at times, worked as a reading intervention teacher and a reading coach. I do love teaching literacy and feel like it is my strength, but I'm happy to teach math and science as well. I enjoy all subjects!

I hope this information has been helpful. Tomorrow I will send information on other topics.

Hello again!

As promised, I am sharing additional information about how our classroom works. On the back, you will see our daily schedule. Please note our lunch time. I ask you to give us about 2 weeks to work on procedures before you come for lunch. After that, you are most welcome to join us. We will reserve a place at the end of our table for parents joining children for lunch.

Curriculum

First Grade will distribute a synopsis of our literacy and math standards at Open House on September 13. We will also communicate to you what we are teaching in each subject area throughout the year via a biweekly newsletter. We can address any specific questions about curriculum via email or in person at Open House or our parent-teacher conference. In the meantime, you can find information on my website: www.cblum.weebly.com.



Behavior

I will work to build a classroom community in which children feel physically and emotionally safe. As a class, we will develop rules, responsibilities, and consequences together. All rules will align with The Wiley Way - Respect Others, Respect Property, Respect Yourself. We will do many activities during the first weeks of school to develop our ability to work together. We will focus on sharing, communicating, and listening. The foundations of our approach to discipline at Wiley come from two programs - Responsive Classroom and Conscious Discipline. If you want to know more about those two programs, please go to my webpage (www.cblum.weebly.com) and click on the header "Resources for Parents - Behavior and Discipline."

If your child is struggling with these skills after the first month of school, I will contact you to set up a conference and problem solve together. Generally, though, you can assume your child's behavior is meeting expectations unless you hear otherwise. And of course, conduct and study habits will be reflected on progress reports.

Arrival & Dismissal



Arrival is between 8:45 and 9:15. If your child arrives after 9:15, you will need to park and go into the office so that your child can get a tardy slip. For dismissal, car riders will line up inside the K-1 pod at 3:40 and wait for their names to be called. Bus riders will assemble in the cafeteria at 3:40 and will be dismissed as buses arrive. Please try to have a consistent means of leaving school each day, in order to minimize confusion. ***If there is a change in the usual means of going home, you must let me know! I cannot dismiss a child based on his/her word.*** If there is a change, please send me a note in the daily folder that morning or call the office (919-856-7723).

As always, I hope this information is helpful to you.

Hello families! Here is your Wednesday information flash..



HOMEWORK

At Wiley, we do not give traditional homework like worksheets. The research is clear that specific homework in elementary school does not correlate to higher achievement. However, research also shows us that children who read more are better readers. The most important thing you can do to help your child succeed is to read every night. Reading together is also an excellent opportunity to bond and have fun together. **Please make it a priority to read at least 15 minutes per day/night and have good discussions about what was read.** You can read, you can have your child read, you can take turns, you can read it in English, you can read it in another language...just read, talk about it, and make it fun!

In first grade, we also send home a list of words from our Letterland unit each week. Letterland is not about memorizing how to spell words from a list; rather, it is about learning spelling patterns (if I know the word “cat”, I should apply my understanding of the little chunk “at” to be able to read words like “splat”.) We send the lists home so that you will know what spelling pattern your child is learning and so that you can help your child learn that, if needed.

Additionally, we will give you ideas in the newsletter for practicing math concepts in a fun way., and occasionally we assign a project that you can choose to do with your child. Look for the “Homework” section in the biweekly newsletter.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please either email me directly, call the office, or send a note in the daily folder when the child returns to school. If I do not hear from you, I will have to mark the absence as unexcused.

Medications

If your child needs medication during the school day, please let the office know. They will provide you with the proper documents. Please understand that teachers cannot administer any medicines or ointments, even nonprescription things like sunscreen or lip balm. Trained office personnel may be able to administer meds with the proper documentation.

Today is the last of the information bulletins I will send home. If you still have questions about how something works, please feel free to email me! cbalum@wpcss.net

Star Student

Each week we will randomly select a child to be our Star Student. This is an opportunity for your child to share things with the rest of the class. I will send home a bag with more information when your child is chosen. Instructions will clear about what to do.

FIELD TRIPS



First Grade is planning at least 4 field trips this year. As soon as we confirm dates, we will send home a packet of information. The packet will contain dates for each trip, costs, information about parent volunteers, and lunch procedures.



Volunteers

I appreciate all of the help I can get from parents! If you can work directly with students during the school day on a regular basis or can take the occasional day off to chaperone a field trip, please register as a volunteer. This must be done in order for you to chaperone or help in classrooms, and it must be done on a computer at Wiley. Please stop by the media center and register at your earliest convenience. (Even if you were approved last year, you have to get approved again for this year.) Thank you for considering!

Mrs. Blum & Mrs. Montague

Daily Schedule

2018-2019

- 8:45-9:15 Morning Arrival
- 9:15 Instruction Begins - Please be on time!
- 9:15-9:30 Morning Meeting
- 9:30-10:40 Math
- 10:40-12:00 Languages and Electives (except on Mondays; on Mondays, we have specials 10:40-11:20, then we do hands-on science or social studies activities 11:20-12:00.)
- 12:10-12:40 Lunch (Please feel free to join us after the first 2 weeks!)
- 12:40-1:10 Recess
- 1:10-3:30 Language Arts (Letterland, Reading, Writing)
- 3:30-3:45 Pack Up, Reflect on Day
- 3:45 Dismissal (Please note that students who are leaving by bus will be in the cafeteria and students leaving by carpool will be in the hallway. If you come to the classroom at the end of the day to pick up your child, we won't be there. Also, if you are picking up your child, you **MUST PICK UP BY 4:00**. We do not have staff available for supervision after 4:00.)