**Parent Information**

About Me: Welcome to first grade! My name is Janice Nivens and this is my fifth year teaching first grade here at Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies. I live in Rock Hill. I coach Girls on the Run here at SPCAS, as well as volleyball and track and Rawlinson Road Middle School.

Academics: My number one priority, besides the safety and well-being of the students, is academics. My goal is to meet each student where they are and accelerate them. I work hard to support each student, and push them to do the best that they can. I take my position very seriously, and will do whatever I can to help each student succeed this year.

Homework/Reading Logs: In first grade, homework includes two parts. We typically send a homework calendar for the month with a ten-minute assignment for each night (Monday-Thursday). The assignment should be completed in the student’s homework folder (which will come home with a label on it). Please write the date at the top of each page to help your child stay organized.

The second part of homework is 20 minutes of reading. This can be a parent reading to the child, partner reading, or the child reading. Each student will bring home a bag of books in which they will have a guided reading book (one that they will need a little help with), 2-3 leveled books (they can read on their own), and a free choice (they will most likely need help reading). Please list the books read on the reading log, which can be found in their homework folder (this will be labeled as well).

\*\*Homework will officially start in September.

Behavior: I am very tough on behavior. The first few weeks of school are very important to set the tone for our classroom for the rest of the year. I expect excellent manners, control, and respect.

Each day, the students will start their day at a “+1” in our room. We have a chart in the room where they students have clips that can move up and down throughout the day. I keep track electronically on “Class Dojo”, so that parents can see the move ups and downs, and can receive reports weekly (more information will be sent home in a separate letter).

When a student does something outstanding, we move clips up (to a +2, +3, etc). For misbehaviors, we move clips down. A “0” is a warning, and at some time or another, students may have a 0 at the end of the day. A -1 has an in-school consequence of silent lunch, and a -2 has an in-school consequence of walking laps during recess. I encourage you to talk with your children about their behavior, and reasons for move ups/downs.

Class Information: Our classroom has a website that we use to post pictures, resources, and class updates. I work on this site each week and do my best to update parents on school and classroom events, what we are doing in class, etc. This website is: [www.firstgradenivens.weebly.com](http://www.firstgradenivens.weebly.com)

Communication: Communication is very important in our classroom. The best way to contact me is to e-mail me. My e-mail address is jnivens@rhmail.org

I check at least three times a day, and make it a goal to send a response within 24 hours.

I ask that if you have any questions, concerns, etc, to please contact me with them. Please do not let anything go un-answered. Sometimes I may ask if we can meet in person to have a conference, as e-mails can prove to be tricky with sharing emotion, etc.

Volunteering: We love volunteers in Room A-102! Whether you are able to come in to volunteer, work from home or if sending in supplies is better for you, we love your dedication! If coming in the room is something you are interested in, I ask that you set up a time with me prior to you coming in. That way, I can have materials pulled and instructions written so that I do not miss a minute of working with the students. Classroom volunteering can begin in September, once we have our classroom rules and routines established. Thank you in advance!

I am looking forward to helping your child grow this year! Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,