



The ABC's of
First Grade

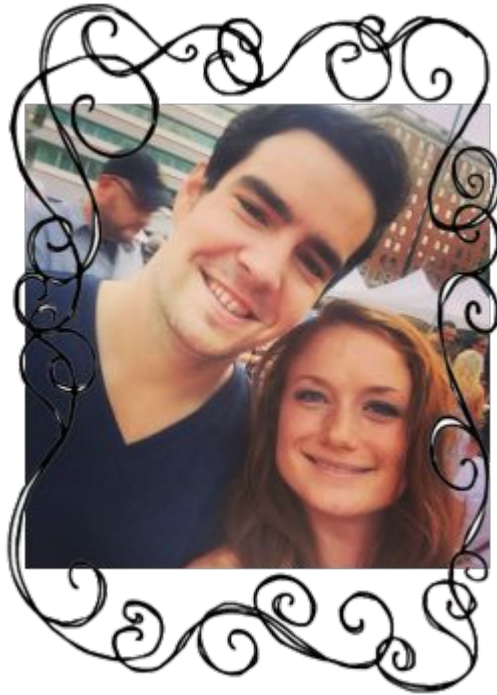
September, 2016

First Grade Teachers

Mrs. Warden, Mrs. Hopson,
Mrs. Robbins, Mrs. Faulkner



About Ms. Faulkner



Drake University
5 years teaching all at Westridge Elementary
Husband (Sonni) and Dog (Maverick)

About Mrs. Hopson



UNI, Drake graduate
19th year of teaching
3 boys: Brad, 25
Mitch, 20
Nick, 14



About Mrs. Robbins

Graduate of UNI

Westridge for 14 years.

Masters in Teacher Leadership

Three children:

Kennedy, 10

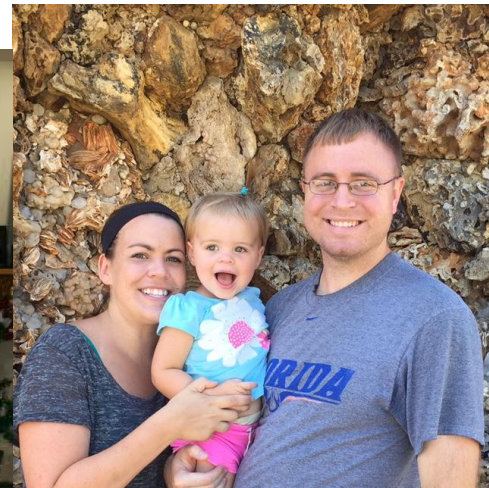
Jacoby, 7

Brynnley, 4



About Mrs. Warden

- *ISU Graduate
- *6th Year Teaching
- *One daughter,
Arriana



Housekeeping 😊

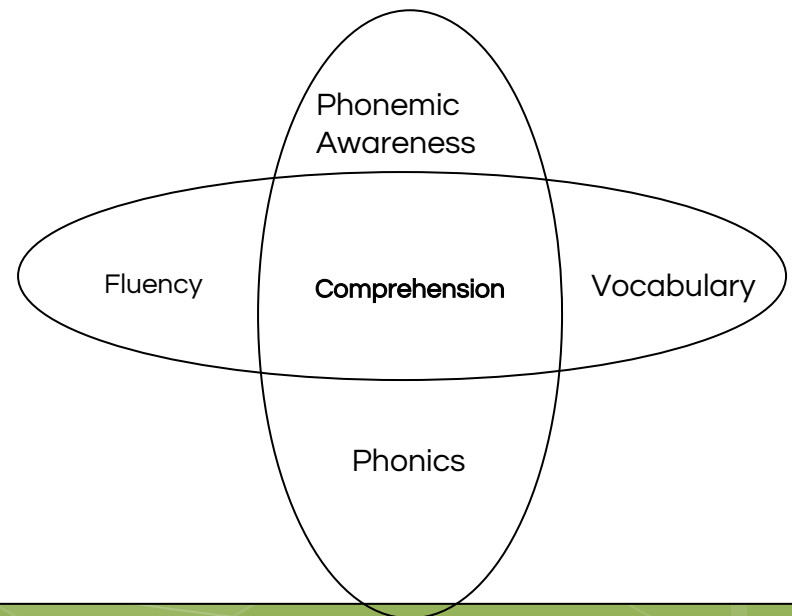
- Opportunities for other ways to help out
 - wish list (classroom items that we need)
 - volunteer form
 - processing/playdoh help
- Snack/birthday treats-peanut/tree nut free

A is for Academics

- Literacy Block—In the morning
- Literacy Rotations—Builds stamina, practice skills
 - Benchmark Literacy – (workshop framework, phonics, guided reading, comprehension lesson scaffold through three week cycle, reader's theatre)
- Writer's Workshop—Using what we know about reading to help us develop as writers. Being a Writer program

A is for Academics

- Literacy
 - Guided work—Work that is done at the child's level.
 - Independent work—work that allows them to practice skills as independent readers and writers.
 - Rigorous Benchmarks
 - New state requirement -ELI



A is for Academics

- Math
 - Everyday Mathematics—check out www.everydaymathonline.com
 - Work can be differentiated.
 - Homework will come home as a packet with a due date for the unit.
 - Purpose is to review and build habits. It should take 5 minutes or less per page

A is for Academics

- Science and Social Studies
 - Thematic units of study include:
Animal Adaptations, United States Symbols,
Keeping Fit and Healthy, Changes (Historical),
Africa, Choices (Responsibility), Light and
Sound, Observing Sun, Moon and Stars (PLTW)

A is for Academics

Homework

- Math: known as a home link. Complete and return by the due date written on the top.
- Reading Folders: will contain a book to read and provide feedback on. Please return so we can change books a few times per week.
 - *Once your child has reached level L the format will change.
- Word Cards: These word are essential for students to become proficient readers. Once a student has mastered reading the words they will begin spelling them. Please don't throw them away. 😊

A is for Academics

Just Right Books

- Just right books allow your child to grow as a reader. Research says that students should be reading text at an instructional level.
- Instructional level is defined as reading 90-95% of the words correctly.
- If a student is at frustration level (below 90%) they will struggle to make meaning because the focus will be on decoding the words.
- Picture books can be challenging 😊

B is for Behavior

- Love and Logic
 - www.loveandlogic.com
 - Logical and calm consequences when dealing with a situation.
 - Each child is different. 😊
 - How can we help them flourish as they develop more independence?
- Westridge is a PBIS and Leader in Me School
 - www.theleaderinme.org
 - www.pbis.org

B is for Behavior

- We hope to foster a sense of independence in first grade.
- Can they tie their shoes?
- Can they zip their coat?
- This is a great time and a safe place to practice independence and for allowing some 'mistakes'. *"You forgot your homelinks after I reminded you to put it in your bag. Wow, I wonder how you will handle that with your teacher?" PS-With a bit of advanced notice, I can play along better. ☺*
- Can they walk to the classroom by themselves?
Please sign in at the office if you need to come down to the room.

B is for Behavior

- Westridge Expectations:
 - Be Respectful.
 - Be Responsible.
 - Be Safe.

Westridge building goal to provide common expectations and focus on positive reinforcement.

C is for Communication

- Website will contain classroom news and information.
- Website will contain classroom permission slips.
- Website will contain class calendar/schedules.
- Website will contain pictures/videos.
- Please check website once a week. (You can change the settings to update you each time the site is changed if you choose.)

C is for Communication

- Email turn around is about 24 hours
- Emergency? Call the office. 633-5400
(Change of pick up, etc.)
- Texts from Remind.com
- Call us anytime!