

Dear Families,

Welcome to First Grade! My name is Miranda Stepp and I will be your child's teacher this year. I am excited to get the school year started and on its way!

To start off, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself both personally and professionally. I am from Jackson County and currently live in Baxter. I went to Tennessee Tech University and majored in Elementary Education. This will be 14<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and I have taught 1st, Kindergarten, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade all here at DBS. I have three children that attend DBS. Emma will be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ty will be in 4<sup>th</sup>, and Avery will be in 1<sup>st</sup>. My husband, Coach Stepp, is a middle school teacher here at DBS!

I believe that keeping frequent communication between teachers and parents is vital to a successful school year. My planning time is 9:25-10:10 each day and this will be the best time to reach me if you need to speak by phone. I also check the students red folders each day and a note sent in the folder is also a great way to communicate.

A red folder will be sent back and forth and this is very important for the students to have this with them at school each day. Homework, parent letters, graded work, and other important information will be sent in this folder. Please check this daily! I try and send graded work home every other week. Please take this out of their folder and look over it. It does not have to be returned but I do encourage you to share with your child what they missed and why. Homework will go home Monday-Thursday. It will usually be a math sheet and a reader. You will also want to read the story of the week out of their student book and study sight words. I do send a parent letter each week letting you know what story, sight words, and spelling words are covered.

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year with your child! My goal this year is for students to feel successful and to love learning! DBS is a great school and I am so happy you have placed your child in our care this year!

Mrs. Miranda