**Welcome to BOLPA First Grade Bold Bears**

*Dear Parents,*

Welcome to Breath of Life Preparatory Academy’s First Grade program! We are so delighted that you chose us to meet your scholar’s educational needs. This school year will be filled with fun and exciting adventures for both you and your scholar. Please feel free to ask questions and volunteer in our school community. I look forward to having a fantastic school year.

Thank You,

 *Ms. Aundreia Brown and Ms. Portia Robinson*



**BOLPA First Grade Bold Bears: Meet the Teacher**

**About Our Instructors**

**Aundreia Brown**

Hello Scholars and Families,

My name is Aundreia Brown and I am delighted to serve as your scholars teacher this year. I am 34 years old and a native of Memphis, TN. I attended Craigmont High school where I graduated with an honors diploma in 2005. I then matriculated to Fisk University where I attained a Bachelors in English with Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Lade honors in 2009. I attribute my success in both high school and college to the foundation I got at Breath of Life Christian Academy. I was afforded the opportunity to attend BOLCA for my middle school years (7th and 8th grade). The teachers and staff natured me and gave me an academic footing second to none and equipped me with the assurance of who I was in Christ. As a former scholar, I can firmly say that the experience you receive from this program is life changing. Due to the knowledge garnered from my BOLCA experience, I was able to successful compete with students from all over the nation. I attribute the basis of my overall experience to me becoming the passionate educator I am today. I have been a part of the BOLPA family for ten years serving as a Pre -K through First grade teacher. I am not only active in the classroom, but also in all facets of BOLPA serving as facilitator to other educators in the area of Literacy and Social Emotional Development, program coordinator and lesion for many BOLPA events. I love to read, write, and sing but my greatest passion is teaching. My joy is seeing young scholars build a solid foundation in academia and in Christ that will help them to soar far beyond the classroom walls. I am so excited to teach, nature, and love your scholar this year. I pray this years’ experience for you and your scholar will exceed your expectation.

**BOLPA First Grade Bold Bears: Mascot Letter**

This year our classroom name is the Bold Bears. I chose the bear because bears are extremely intelligent, and strong animals. Likewise, my scholars are very intelligent and will use this season to strengthen areas in academia, and in Christ so they can go out from our institution of learning well equipped. Bears have an excellent sense of sight, and hearing, it is my desire that my scholars this year are alert and listen well. Bears have excellent memories. I want the children to immolate the bears in this way, because their memories are blessed according to the word. Bears represent to others strength, power, and love. I believe this is what needs to be shown to the BOLPA student body from my scholars being the most seasoned and mature. I want them to demonstrate strength, power and love to all they come in contact with.

I attached the adjective bold to our mascot because I believe this is a season for my scholars to learn to be bold in all they say and do. Our guiding scripture is Joshua 1:9, Be bold, be strong, for the Lord thy God is with thee. It is my desire for them to walk and stand in all God has for them this year. I believe they will leave the program academically and spiritually strong ready to be a light to the world. I know that your scholar will grow in every way and be all God has called them to be in this season! Welcome to the Bold Bear family!!



 **First Grade Bold Bears:**

 **Classroom Rules & Expectations**



**The rules/class expectations:**

* The Scholar will listen and follow directions quickly.
* The Scholar will raise their hand to talk.
* The Scholar will always be respectful to all teachers, all staff, and peers.
* The Scholar will work quietly when working independently.
* The Scholar will walk in the school building (**Not Run**).
* The Scholar will not leave their seat without permission.
* The Scholar will keep the classroom and personal areas neat.
* The Scholar will be prepared for class each day.
* The Scholar will be on time.
* The Scholar will respect the property of school and others.
* The Scholar will be still and quiet during prayer and participate in devotion.
* The Scholar will put forth their best effort on all assignments and complete them in a timely manner.

**The consequences when expectations are not followed are:**

* The Scholar will receive a verbal warning for their first offense.
* The Scholar’s second offense will result in five-minute time out and the conduct will be denoted as S for the day.
* The Scholar’s third offense will cause them to lose their classroom job for the day and an N will be denoted.
* The Scholar’s fourth offense will result in a referral to the office. A U in conduct will be denoted for the day. (This will be followed with a formal write up for the parent to sign).
* If the Scholar gets three or more N’s or U’s for the month in conduct, they will receive an N or U on the progress report. **(A behavioral plan will be created and parents will be asked to attend a conference regarding behavior.)**
* If the Scholar continues to show the same behavior it will result in an N or U on the report card. If the behavior continues to persist, their file will be turned over to Mrs. Love for suspension or expulsion from the program**. (Please see BOLPA handbook for suspension and expulsions regulations and policy pg.21).**

 **First Grade Bold Bears**

**Classroom Rules & Expectations**

* **If the scholar receives any N or U’s in conduct overall or any office referrals, he/she will not be eligible for any honor awards such a Valedictorian/ Salutatorian/ Most Improved, and Citizenship.**

* Please note that some behavior such as using foul language or being excessively violent to classmates or teachers will result in immediate suspension or expulsion from the program. (**Please see BOLPA handbook pg.21).**
* **Consistently poor behavior can prohibit the scholar from participating in school activities such as field trips, programs and any promotional ceremonies (Awards Day).**

**Rewards:**

The Scholar will receive positive reinforcement from their teachers when meeting classroom expectations. Scholars can earn Bear Bucks! At the end of the week scholars can add their Bear Bucks to buy items from the classroom treasure box. Scholars will work together collectively to fill a marble jar that will earn a treat for the entire class. (This technique teaches our scholars that their behavior positive or negative affects the whole classroom environment and creates a sense of responsibility).



**First Grade Bold Bears: Classroom Schedule**

8:45- 9:00 Arrival/ Restroom

9:00- 9:30 Devotion/ Morning Meeting

9:30-10:00 Morning work /Morning Meeting

10:00-10:30 Phonics / Seatwork

10:30-10:45 Handwriting

10:45-11:00 Restroom Break/ Brain Break

11:00- 11:30 Mathematics

11:30- 12:00 Spelling and Poetry/ Restroom

12:00- 12:30 Lunch

12:30- 12:40 Restroom Break

12:40- 1:20 Reading Groups

1:20- 2:00 Phonics and Math Review

2:00-2:30 Activity Time (Science, Social Studies, Art or Music)

2:30-3:00 Complete seatwork/ Restroom break

3:00-3:30 Recess

3:30 – 4:00 Restroom break / Prepare for Dismissal

4:00 Dismissal

* **Please note that schedule is subject to change due to school events.**

**First Grade Bold Bears: The ABC’s of First Grade**

**Arrival Absences**  Class will begin promptly at 9:00 am. If your child is late, they must have an excuse or they will be marked tardy. Five tardy marks equal one unexcused absent. If your child has to be absent from school please send in a note or a doctor’s note when they return so I can turn it into the office. Vacations will result in an unexcused absence. Please plan vacations during scheduled school breaks. If your scholar has an excused absence a folder with their makeup work will be sent home with them. It will be the scholar’s responsible to return the folder with the assignments completed. Test and quizzes can only be made up if the absence is excused. All make up work will have a due date please turn in make up on time or the penalty will be a deduction of ten points for every day pass the due date. If your scholar has an unexcused absence that exceeds two weeks, he/she will not be allowed to make up assignments.

**BIRTHDAYS BOOK bags Breakfast Blended Classroom**

Birthdays are to be celebrated! Feel free to send a special treat to share with the class as long as it is **store bought**. All birthday snacks will be eaten during lunch time. If your child is having a birthday party and you are inviting **ALL** the children in the class, you may send the invitations with your child and I will distribute them. If you are not inviting everyone, please mail the invitations instead of sending them to school. **(Please note that Birthday rules are subject to change due to COVID restrictions).**

Book bags are required for each student. Please make sure that your child’s book bag is large enough to hold a binder, change of clothes and necessary text books. Backpacks will go home every day. Please urge your scholar to keep their book bag clutter free.

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 -8:30. Should your scholar come after 8:30 he/she will be allowed to eat breakfast and **no outside food is permitted.**

***Blended Classrooms***: This year First Grade will be a blended class with Second grade. Although blended classrooms are often a concern for parents it can be the most beneficial for students. “Children learn at different paces.  Blended classes offer a wider range of curricula across 2 grade levels.  Advanced students can be more easily challenged with higher-level material; struggling students can more easily return to earlier material”. Your scholar will able to work at his or her own pace with materials. Students will also gain a new sense of independence as they will acquire personal responsibility for their own learning with teacher as the facilitator. Lastly, the first and second split grade is the one most common split grade classrooms. First and Second grade skills overlap. Your scholar will get the best of both worlds in a blended classroom!!

**Conferences Communication Conduct**

Conferences can be scheduled by contacting the school office, by sending me an email, or written note**. Conferences cannot be held during instructional time**. I will request a conference if I deem necessary, or if immediate concern with your scholar should arise; otherwise conferences will be held during the progress report periods. I will communicate with you through the following: week at glance, remind app, progress reports, report card comment boxes, scheduled parent conferences, open house, phones calls, and emails. Parents can communicate with me by using the following: sending a note in your eagle’s binder, scheduled parent teacher conferences; by calling the school direct line (**please do not call during instructional time)** and e-mail.

Conduct will be located at the front of each scholar’s binder. Please look over the conduct as well as any note written and please initial the conduct box daily. The conduct rubric is as follows, E= Excellent, S=Satisfactory, N=Needs Improvement, and U=Unsatisfactory.

**Daily Progress Devotion**

In order to give you more information on your scholars ’s daily progress, please check your scholars’ binder. Each day your scholar will be encouraged to strive for an “E”. This means they have followed the rules. If your child needs to work on a skill a note will be written from me in the note area. Please check his/her binder each night so you are aware their progress and conduct at school.

Devotion is a very important time between your scholar and the Lord. It is the most important part of the day. Please encourage them to participate and be respectful during devotion time. **If you are tardy please do not come into the room once devotion has started, please wait until devotion is over to enter.**

**Email**I check my email at the end each day. This is the best method for contacting me. Please feel free to email me abrown@bol.academy . Please put a heading in the subject area and give me a 24-hr. time to response to you. Please feel free to also use the Remind app to reach out to me as well.

**First Grade Bold Bears: The ABC’s of First Grade**

**Field Trips First Grade** Field trips will be planned throughout the school year. Please keep in mind that many field trips require an admission and transportation fee. **This fee is non-refundable**. If you have a concern with a fee, please discuss it with the Head Mistress. It is your responsibility to pay the fee before the deadline. **Please know that poor conduct can result in your scholar losing his or her field trip privileges.** We would like every scholar to be able to share the same experiences and opportunities.

 First Grade is a very exciting time for parents and students! The early elementary years lays the foundational ground work for success in your child’s educational matriculation. Research shows children whose parents are interested in their child’s schooling, learn with them and provide extra learning opportunities beyond school are the most successful. Be sure your child is well rested, well fed, and emotionally ready for each school day. Make sure supplies are laid out the night before, and try to make the preparation time in the morning as pleasant as possible.

**Grading and Goals**

The scholars will be given grades in the following areas that are covered in the curriculum: Bible, Math, Science/Health Wellness, Social studies/History, Art, Reading, Handwriting, Phonics, and Spelling. They will be given numerical grades that will be averaged. The averages will decide what letter grade the scholar will receive on both the progress and report cards. Scholars throughout each nine weeks will have at least two quizzes and two tests in the core subjects (Reading, Handwriting, Phonics, and Math). Please encourage your scholar to do his or her best at all times so that their grades will reflect their hard work. Graded papers will be sent home every Tuesday in your scholar’s yellow folder. **Please sign and return the entire packet**. If the Scholar fails to return his or her graded papers, no additional graded papers will be sent home. **Grading Rubric is outlined in the BOLPA Student Handbook (pg.25)**.

**The standard goals for first grade scholars are:**

* **To read with correct accuracy, fluency, comprehension, and good expression.**
* **To identify and write numbers up to1 to 1000.**
* **To have a solid grasp on money, time, shape, and measurement skills.**
* **To show mastery of advanced addition and subtraction.**
* **To introduce and expose scholars’ basic multiplication and division.**

* **To have a concrete foundation of basic American History and Science skills.**
* **To have a solid understanding of basic phonics and language skills.**
* **To achieve mastery of spelling basic words and using more advanced rules in spelling.**
* **To master cursive and manuscript penmanship and to be introduced to creative writing techniques.**
* **To cultivate love of scripture with the learning to comprehend more advanced Bible stories.**

**Homework**

Your scholar can expect a medium amount of homework Monday through Thursday. Look for the assignments in the daily binder (in the return to school section). Please take time to check your scholar’s assignments each night and don’t forget to return

them to school the next day. **It is the scholar’s responsibility to place their homework in the homework bin and to pack up homework in their folder daily.** Please label your scholar’s homework with name and date. **Homework not labeled will result in a lowering of the grade by five points.** Make sure homework is done correctly and neatly to the scholar’s best abilities. **Homework is graded!** Should your scholar turn his/her homework in late it will result in a lower grade (ten points will be deducted every day after the due date). **Homework not labeled will result in a lowering of the grade by five points.** Late Homework will result in a lower grade (minus ten points after the due date).

 **Independence** At the beginning of the year your scholar will probably need some assistance completing the assignments and preparing for school activities. As the year progresses, you will find that they will grow more independent. **Please allow the scholar to do his or her homework or projects**. **Facilitate with work but do not do it for them.** Please encourage this and let them know how proud you are of them.

**Jobs** We will have a chore chart in class and each scholar will be assigned a job every week. Jobs alternate weekly. This will help the scholars to be responsible as well as give them a sense of class ownership. **This is not my class; it is our class!**

**Keys to First Grade Success**

 1. Effective communication between school and home

 2. A positive attitude (It is contagious!)

 3. Good Attendance

 4. Practicing skills at home (homework)

**Love**

Your scholar will receive lots of love and care in this classroom. We will also reinforce God’s love by learning to love and respect others in our classroom.

**Morning Procedures Money Morning Work**

When your scholar arrives each morning, they are to unpack. This includes getting hand sanitizer, putting up their book bag, coats etc., putting away binders and placing their homework in the basket before being seated to begin Morning Work.

I will not accept any money. Please do not put money in the binder or give it to your scholar. Please put all money in the drop box located on the preschool hall.

Morning Work will begin every morning at 8:45. This will serve as a time in the morning to review skills previously learned.

**Newsletters**  Our weekly classroom newsletter is called a Week at a Glance. The Week at a Glance will list all the curriculum standards and goals for each week as well weekly events for the classroom and the school. The Week at a Glance will be available every **Monday** on the school’s website.

**Outside** Weather permitting; we will play outside each day to develop social skills and release some of that “kid” energy. Please make sure your scholar is dressed appropriately for outside activities.

 **Parent Involvement** We invite and encourage you to be a part of our classroom. If you have a special interest, occupation or hobby you would like to share with us, please let me know so that I can schedule it. **(Rules and Restrictions may occur due to COVID)**

**Questions**Jot down any questions you may have and placed it in your scholar’s binder. I will send you a written response or email within a 24-hour period.

**Rules Reading groups**

 Please remind your scholar to follow our classroom rules every day. Rules and consequences need to be consistent at school and at home.

**Reading groups will start second week of school.** Please practice the reading books sent home nightly. Make sure you child is reading with the following: accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. They will have oral reading test to measure their ability. **Lastly, make sure to bring back your reading book to school daily.** **If the scholar fails to bring his or her reading book it will result in a deduction of five points to their weekly reading grade.**

**Special Area Standardize test Spelling City and Special Services**

Your child will participate in special enrichment activities weekly. These activities include; Spanish, Music, Library, Computer, and Stem classes.

Standardize Test- Your scholar will take the Stanford Achievement Test in the spring. It is very important that you review skills daily with your scholar. The week of the test please make sure your eagle gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast each morning.

Spelling City is a website that is used to enhance our spelling curriculum at BOPLA. Please expect weekly assignments in Spelling City as well as we will take our weekly spelling test via this app. **Your scholar will be given an induvial login and password for the app. This log in and password will also be located in your scholar’s binder.** Please make sure you check weekly with the Week at a Glance for assignment in Spelling.

Special Services: BOLPA does not offer special services to scholars with special needs directly. Special services resources and referrals if deemed necessary by the teacher, parent, and administration can be offered to aid the scholar. Parents can also request an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) in written documentation to the teacher and administration for outside references and services.

**Time Tutoring** Time is very important! Please try to be prompt each and every day. Let’s start each day off ready to go. Also, encourage your scholar to use their time wisely in class. Remember that time is the only thing we cannot get back; therefore, it is precious.

 Tutoring will be offered for scholars whose grades reflect a need for additional assistance at the end of the first semester. These sessions will be offered in the month of January and a detailed letter will be sent home with dates and times for sessions.

**Units** The Abeka curriculum units lessons for First Grade are broken down by subjects for each day. Language arts: The alphabets are taught out of order (vowels then constants) and blends review. They will be introduced to special sounds, syllables, root words, prefixes, alphabetical order, and contractions. They will begin reading groups and spelling words in the beginning of the year as well. In Mathematics, they will be introduced to number concepts, perceptual and conceptual, subitizing, addition, subtraction, word problem solving, money, telling time, counting by 2’s. 5’s 10’s forward and backwards, even and odd numbers, reading numbers to 1,000 and greater than and less than. They will also learn number houses, sequence, patterns, and more moderate to advance graphing. Science will explore God’s world around them with topics such as the creation, and life cycles of animals, seasons, climate etc. Social Studies we will learn about the past and explore the present through current events. We will also learn about geography, our community and different cultures around the world. In addition to Abeka, we will use Let’s Find Out Science and Current event magazines. I believe in bringing lessons to life by using more hands-on age appropriate activities. The goal is to spark and maintain a love for learning. Your scholar will learn and grow this year!!

**Visits** Classroom visits are welcomed. However, all visits must be scheduled through the main office. Remember that you must sign- in at the front desk.

**Website Work Stations**

 Visit the Academy’s website at bolpp.org or our face book page. Stay connected! Also, your scholar will improve his or her skills in the I T center which is equipped with learning software fit for your scholar. They will also be able to use the I pad tablets inside the classroom. We love technology here at BOLPA!!

Did you know that children learn through play? The work stations in our classroom help to continue the learning process throughout the day. Each day your child will have the opportunity to explore different stations in our classroom such as; Mathematics, Puzzles/ Manipulative, Library, Art/ Writing, and Science centers. These stations help your scholar develop lifelong skills through discovery.

**eXpectations** Our expectations for children are high!! BOLPA is an excellent school and we are extremely glad that you and your scholar are here. My expectations for my scholars are to follow the rules, always be respectful, be prepared, and put forth their best effort at all times. I expect the parents to work to help the scholar to accomplish these goals daily. With team work we can do great things. Lastly, you can expect me to love your scholar, always foster an environment of learning, to bring out the best in your scholar , and to be your scholar’s learning facilitator in class!

**You** You are your child’s first teacher and an important part of their development. Together we will make great team!

**ZZZ....**

Please make sure that your child has adequate sleep each night so that they are prepared for school every day.



**First Grade Bold Bears: Teacher’s Favorites**

**My favorite places to shop:**

Ms. Brown: Target/ Walmart

**My favorite past time:**

Ms. Brown: Reading and Writing

**My favorite color:**

Ms. Brown: Pink

**My favorite restaurant:**

Ms. Brown: Texas Road House

**My favorite character:**

Ms. Brown: Tinkerbelle/Minnie Mouse

**Greatest Love:**

Ms. Brown: Jesus, my family, and Teaching





**First Grade Bold Bears: Supply List**

2 pk of #2 Pencils

2 container Lysol wipes

1 pk expo markers

4 boxes of Crayola Crayons (8ct)

4 glue sticks

1 pair of scissors

1-1(1/2) inch Binder with front view and pockets

BOLPA Agenda Book

3 Plastic folders with prongs and pockets (yellow, red, and green).

1 pk of Card Stock

2 boxes of Kleenex

3 pk of Unscented wipes

4 reams of copy paper (3 white 1 color)

2 bottles of hand sanitizer

1 standard size backpack

1 travel soap dish for crayons

\*Let’s Find Out Reader =$7\* to be purchased in the office.

**First Grade Outstanding Owls**

**CONDUCT POLICY & CONTRACT**

***I have read along with my parent and I understand the student expectations****.*

Child’s Full Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(print)

***I understand as a Parent, what will be expected of my child and will help them in any way to make sure they meet the expectations afore mentioned.***

***I also understand the classroom consequences and reward systems set in place for their scholar.***

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Returned:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

