JACK FRANSCIONI ELEMENTARY · ROOM 3

Back to School Night

Mr. Firme's kindergarten — what we did not get to at orientation, and how you can help at home.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026



TONIGHT · 25 MINUTES

Tonight's set list

01 The reading log and sight words

02 Behavior and discipline

03 Reading — the year's biggest job

04 Writing, math, and big feelings

05 Dates, birthdays, and helping out

06 Your child gives you the tour

Arrival, dismissal, lunch, labeling and safety were covered at orientation — they're all on the handout by the door, so we won't spend tonight on them.

THE YEAR AHEAD

TWENTY GOALS · THE WHOLE YEAR

My big list of kindergarten goals

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

- All 26 capital letters
- All 26 lowercase letters
- Every letter sound
- First, middle and last sounds
- Short and long vowel sounds
- Clap and count syllables

READING AND WRITING

- Recognize and make rhymes
- Read 30 sight words
- Read CVC words — jam, van
- Write my first and last name
- Write a sentence with a capital, spaces and punctuation

NUMBERS

- Count to 100 by 1s and 10s
- Count any group of objects 1–20
- Write numbers 0–20
- Tell which group has more and which has less

MATH THINKING

- Add and subtract within 10
- Add on to make 10
- Add and subtract within 5, fluently
- Name 2D shapes
- Name 3D shapes

The full checklist goes home tonight — star them off together as the year goes. Report cards, three times a year, measure these exact goals.

TRACK 01 · HOMEWORK

New this year: one page instead of a packet

We've had homework packets in past years, and honestly, many families did not have time to finish them. So this year it is one page: a reading log with a sight word checkbox.

THE READING LOG

- Read together every night and write it on the log.
- Check the sight word box on the nights you practice them.
- Turned in Friday mornings.

THE SIGHT WORD LIST

- Over 100 words this year — class time alone isn't enough for most kids.
- A few minutes a night, out loud, is all it takes.
- The list comes home with the log. Keep it somewhere you'll see it.

WANT MORE? If your child is ready for extra practice, talk to me and I'll send it home. And check the folder and backpack daily — notices for adults live there.

TRACK 02 · BEHAVIOR

Every student starts fresh each day, and we always begin at the bottom rung.

Almost every moment is settled with a quiet reminder. We only climb the ladder when a behavior repeats or continues after the earlier steps — and the goal at every rung is a strong choice, not obedience.

Our classroom consequence ladder

01 GENTLE REMINDER

Verbal redirection

A quick, private nudge back on track. Almost every day starts and ends right here.

02 STUDENT DECIDES

Empowering choice

Two good options, both leading back to success. “At your table, or the quiet desk — you choose.”

03 CONNECTED TO THE ACTION

Logical consequence

Left the blocks out? One extra minute to finish putting them away.

04 SHORT RESET

Reflection break

Three to five calm minutes at the reflection spot, then a plan to rejoin — same day.

05 DOCUMENTED

Family notification

A ClassDojo note explains what happened and what we're working on.

06 POSSIBLE REFERRAL

Administrator notified

For repeated or safety behavior. I call you before or as this happens.

If we ever reach step 5 or 6, you will always hear from me directly first — never from a notification you weren't expecting.

TRACK 02 · BEHAVIOR

What a logical consequence looks like

Related, respectful, reasonable — they help children learn from a mistake, not just avoid one.

Abuse it, lose it	Temporary loss of the item, equipment or activity that was misused.
Incomplete work	Finished at recess or for homework — quality work still gets turned in.
Wasting class time	Time is made up at recess. A timer shows exactly how much is owed.
Talking during instruction	Separation from the group, and a time-out in the classroom.
Messing around in line	Back of the line, and another try the expected way.
Unsafe or unkind actions	Immediate time-out, a reflection sheet, and a call home the same day.

KEEP YOUR CLASSDOJO NOTIFICATIONS ON

I document **both kinds** of behavior in ClassDojo — the good and the hard. Sometimes it's a random behavior check where I note what I see; other times it's something worth writing down. Notifications are the best way to keep your finger on the pulse of your child's day — ask me any time you want more detail. Please reteach the expectation at home rather than re-punish; the full reference is on your handout.

TRACK 03 · READING

Your child needs to sound out short words on their own by the middle of first grade.

Everything we do this year is building toward that, and twenty minutes a night at home moves it faster than anything I can do alone.

TRACK 03 · READING

The four parts of learning to read

01	**Print concepts**	How books and text work — front to back, left to right, title and words.
02	**Phonological awareness**	Hearing and playing with the sounds inside words. No text at all.
03	**Phonics and words**	Which letter makes which sound, plus the sight words we practice weekly.
04	**Fluency**	Reading accurately, at a comfortable pace, and like it means something.

TRACK 03 · AT HOME

Reading at home: sounds before letters

PRINT CONCEPTS

- Read aloud and let them turn the pages.
- Show them the title, the cover, where the words start.
- Point out words in the world — signs, cereal boxes, the drive to school.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

- Sing songs, say rhymes, clap the parts of words.
- Break a word apart anywhere: “A cat! What sounds are in cat?”
- Play matching games with words that rhyme or start the same.

TRACK 03 · AT HOME

Reading at home: letters, words, fluency

PHONICS AND WORDS

- Read every single day, and point at the words as you go.
- Spell the week's words in shaving cream, rice, chalk or paint.
- Tape letters and labels on things around the house.

FLUENCY

- After you read to them, have them read to you.
- Send the little books from class to grandma, or record a video.
- Ask them to retell the story in their own words.

If you only have ten minutes: read one book, and let them read one page of it back to you.

TRACK 04 · AT HOME

Writing, math, and big feelings

WRITING

- Give them one spot with paper and pencils.
- Draw a picture, then label what's in it.
- Say a sentence out loud and count the words.
- Put it on the refrigerator.

MATH

- Count what's already there — steps, socks, crackers.
- Bake together and let them measure.
- Name the shapes of things; fold napkins into new ones.
- “Take the number 3. Add 2. What do you get?”

BIG FEELINGS

- Ask how they feel, even when you can tell.
- In books, ask how the character feels.
- Breathe with them when the feeling is big.
- No feeling is bad — some ways of handling one are.

TRACK 05 · HOUSEKEEPING

Dates and details to keep

Conferences — November	Mandatory. Report cards are handed to you in person.
Conferences — March	Mandatory. Ask for another one any time in between.
Reports — three times	Progress toward the kindergarten goals, not a letter grade.
Birthdays	Message me a week ahead. Keep it simple — treats go out in the last ten minutes.
Toys	They stay home. Anything that arrives waits in a backpack until 2:25.

TRACK 05 · HELPING OUT

Ways to help Room 3

SNACKS

Cheez-Its, pretzels, goldfish, fruit snacks, cereal.

SUPPLIES

Crayons and pencils, which we go through fast.

PRIZES

Stickers and party favors for the prize box.

CLASS WISHLIST

Scan to see exactly what Room 3 needs.

COME TO ME FIRST

If something is wrong, message me privately before it goes to the office. Almost everything gets fixed right there.

SAME MESSAGE, BOTH PLACES

When home and school say the same thing, five-year-olds settle in fast. Also: show up to school events when you can.

SAFETY

WE PRACTICE ALL FIVE

The Big Five — our emergency responses

Shelter in place	Something in the outside air. Windows and vents close; we stay inside.
Drop, cover, and hold on	Earthquake. Under the tables, away from anything that can fall.
Secure campus	A concern nearby. Doors lock, everyone stays in, and class keeps going.
Lockdown / barricade	An immediate threat on campus. No one moves until law enforcement says so.
Evacuation	Safer outside than in. We walk together to a set safe location.

We practice these the way we practice fire drills — calmly, and in kid-sized words. If you ever get a message naming one of the five, it tells you exactly what is happening. Please follow the district message and don't come to the classroom door.

STAYING IN TOUCH

How to reach me

ClassDojo

Our day to day: messages, updates, and behavior notes both good and hard. Keep notifications on. I answer within a school day.

ParentSquare

School and district news. Different app, different job.

831-678-6340

The office, during school hours. Call for same-day changes to how your child gets home.

Every child has a hard day at some point. You will hear from me early, and I will ask for your help.

TRACK 06 · ROOM TOUR

Now your child gives the tour

01

Take a hunt sheet on your way out of your seat.

02

Your child leads. You follow and check the boxes.

03

Find me by the door with anything you still want to ask.

Can you find these things?

- My cubby — where your backpack lives.
- The carpet — your spot.
- The whiteboard — the morning song.
- The calendar wall — today's date.
- The library — a book you would pick.
- The iPads — where they charge.
- The supply table — where crayons go.
- The toy bin — where toys wait until 2:25.
- The trash cans — where scraps go.
- The restroom — the way there.
- Mr. Firme's desk — where finished work goes.
- The guitar — ask Mr. Firme for one song.

THANK YOU FOR COMING

Ready to Rock, Ready to Roll!

Read with them every day, check ClassDojo, and message me any time. Let's make this a good year together.

