**Spelling:**

Words:
1. at 2. cat 3. is 4. big 5. on 6. top 7. pet 8. up 9. fun 10. like

**BONUS:** owls

**Sentences:**
1. The cat is my pet.
2. This is fun!
3. Do you like me?

Above is a list of the spelling words and dictation sentences for this week. **We will have a test on Friday, August 12th over these words and the sentence.** The words and the sentences must be spelled correctly. The sentences must begin with a capital letter, end with the correct end-mark, and also have appropriate spacing between the words. I will call out the words and the sentences and the child will write them from memory. Please study and practice them in any way you choose at home! Try some of the fun study ideas on the "August Speller’s Choice Activities" sheet.

**IMPORTANT:**

Students should bring the following items to & from school daily: Backpack, Agenda, Sight Work Book, Paper Folder, 2 Reading books

We will be completing a variety of Beginning-Year Diagnostic Tests during the first seven days of school so that we can get a "picture" of each child’s academic strengths and/or weaknesses and plan for instruction.

**Weekly Activity Schedule**

Monday: Computer Lab or Music to practice for PTO program
Tuesday: PE with Coach Reese & Coach Johnson
Wednesday: Music
Thursday: Guidance with Mrs. Martin
Friday: PE with Coaches

**Reading:**

During our first seven days of school, we will be completing the “SMART START” units of our Reading Series. Some of our work will include reading and completing activities associated with “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”, “The Tortoise and the Hare”, and “Jack and the Beanstalk”. We will focus on several literary skills including: characterization, details, and visualization. We will also be completing writing activities in our journals here at school. I can’t wait to read your child’s thoughts about these stories and other topics about school or home!

This year we will be focusing on learning all 220 Dolch Sight Words. Your child has been given the Sight Word Book. Please be certain that they bring it with them to school every day! The book has the 220 words divided into Pre-primer, Primer, First Grade, Second Grade, and Third Grade words. Many students come to first grade already knowing most of these words. All students coming to first grade should know the Pre-primer and Primer words. Please review these 2 lists of words. I will **test** the Pre-primer words on Friday, August 12th!

Please note that reading fluency is an important skill that we will work on this year. By mid-year, first grade students should be able to read 23 words correctly per minute. By the end of the year, they should be able to read 47 words correctly per minute. I will be sending home passages to practice fluency that you will complete and return. However, in addition to this, please practice fluency on your own using, library books, comics, student books that are brought home or anything that your child likes to read. This does not need to be a stressful event for your child. Please make it a fun event by letting them race against their self. This can be done by setting a stove timer for 1 minute. Let your child read as many words of a story as they can in that minute. When the timer goes off, stop and count the number of words they read correctly in that minute. Then, let them do the same thing again with the same story to see if they can beat their first score. This can be a very fun way to work on fluency. As I said, I will be sending home practice pages with stories and lists of words for your child to practice this. But, you can also do this on your own. Much practice will be needed by most students in order to reach the goal of 23 wpm by mid-year and 47 wpm by the end of the year. The most fluent First Grade readers usually are reading at least 60 – 80+ WCPM by the end of the year!
**Phonics:**
We will be reviewing initial and final consonants, as well as short vowels.

**P.T.O. Meeting:** August 9th/6:00 PM in the SCES Auditorium
First Grade students will be performing! A form was sent home in the Parent packet that needs to be returned indicating whether or not your child will be able to attend the performance! If you need another form, let me know!

**English:**
We will begin the year studying sentences. A sentence is a group of words that makes a complete thought. All sentences must begin with a capital letter and end with the correct end mark (period, question mark, or exclamation mark). Sentences should also have the correct amount of space between the words. Please help your child practice writing complete sentences at home.

**Math:**
We will begin our year studying addition. Vocabulary words will include: add, plus, equal, addend, sum, part, whole, addition sentence, equation, in all, and total. Please be sure to review all papers brought home.

**Student/Parent To-Do List:**
- The first “Homework Baggy” is being sent home on Friday, August 5th. Be sure to review the “Choice Board” homework format and understand all assignments that are due. The first homework baggy will be due back on or before Monday, August 15th! Students are free to complete homework on whatever day of the week they choose!
- Review and discuss the completed papers that your child brings home each day in their paper folder. All completed daily work & graded papers should be left at home.
- Check and SIGN the agenda EVERY NIGHT!
- Study Sight Words in green folder! If you already know the Pre-Primer & Primer words, move on to the First, Second, and Third Grade lists!
- Complete the “OWL ABOUT ME” Owl Project and return on or before Monday, August 15th! Extra Bonus Credit will be given for completing this project! (Indian Bucks & a 100% in gradebook)
Special Notes:

- I will send a newsletter **every Monday** in the Homework Baggy. Please look for it and ask your child for it. This newsletter is a vital part of our communication to inform parents of what we are studying, what is expected of your child, what is happening here at school, and what needs to happen at home. I will also place a copy of the newsletter and the weekly Homework Choice Board on my webpage.

- Daily practice pages will go home each day. I will also send graded papers home weekly. Please be sure to watch for them and review them with your child.

- **Homework**: Complete work in the Homework Baggy. Some assignments are required and some are optional. In addition, you also need to complete the "To-Do List" above. Occasionally, there will also be special project assignments to complete at home. I will notify you about these as they come up.

- Please be sure to **sign the agenda every night, remove papers from your child’s folder, and make sure they do their homework**.

- Please keep this newsletter each week in a safe place to refer to during the week.

- **If your child brings a snack or lunch, please be sure to place it in some type of bag and label it with your child’s name on it.** Please DO NOT send snacks that are not in some type of snack bag with your child’s name. It is fine to use a paper bag, a large zip-lock, or even a plastic grocery bag if you would like. But, they NEED to be in some type of bag. This will help your child keep up with their snack and not get it confused with someone else’s. Also, please **DO NOT put drinks/water bottles inside the backpacks**! They will leak or sweat and ruin the papers and/or books.

- I realize that it is summer and shorts and short-sleeves are appropriate. However, it sometimes gets cool in the classroom. It is ok for your child to bring a **light jacket or sweater** (Please do not send a big bulky coat during this season as it is not necessary and will get in their way.) to wear in the classroom if they get chilly. **PLEASE be sure to write your child’s name in the sweater or jacket!**

- **Good attendance is vital for a child’s success in school!** Children may enter the classroom as early as 7:50. Students eating breakfast may arrive at school at 7:30. All students should go directly to the cafeteria when they arrive. Students arriving after 8:15 are tardy. Even though students aren’t considered tardy until 8:15, it is best that they arrive in the classroom by 8:00 each morning in order to get settled and ready to begin the day.

- I am very excited about this year and about having your child in my class. I believe if we work together, we will have a fantastic year! If you ever have any questions you may contact me by calling the school office (524-5235) and leave a message. I will return your phone call as soon as possible. You may also e-mail me at myoumans@seminole.k12.ga.us.

- Please visit my website at [http://sites.seminole.k12.ga.us/maryfyoumans/](http://sites.seminole.k12.ga.us/maryfyoumans/). There, you will find copies of the newsletter and other important information.