

Welcome to 1st Grade!

Dear Families,

Welcome to one of the most significant years your child will have in their school career! First grade is an amazing time as children embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. This is a year of important transitions, as well as one in which acquisition of new skills is accelerated. First graders develop fundamental work habits, appropriate social behavior, problem solving, decision-making and academic skills. We hope to make your child's first grade a fun and exciting one, and to instill a love of learning that will last throughout your child's years of schooling.

So much happens in first grade and because of this parents and children may have some fears. It is extremely important to keep in mind that we all build on small successes. Each child will progress at their own rate, acquiring skills as they are developmentally ready. Maintaining each child's self-esteem and building a secure foundation for future growth will always remain a priority in our first grade. Here are some ways you can help:

*Celebrate your child's success, no matter how small it may seem. This will keep your child enthusiastic about learning and proud of their work!

*Read to and with your child as much as you can. The more your child is exposed to language, the easier it will be for them to incorporate new skills in reading and writing in the classroom.

Here are a few pointers that will help ensure the first weeks go well.

- I. Please be sure that your child is aware of how they are going home at the end of each school day. Your child should know:
 - o If they're taking the bus and what bus number they take.
 - o If they're walking home or being picked up and where they should wait for you. The students are dismissed at 3:05 from the classroom.

- o If they're going to Minneapolis Kids or after school classes and what days they do this.

**Please be sure to call the office with SAME DAY changes to the end of the day transportation. We may not get an email in time to note change.*

2. Please make sure that your child is aware of whether they are having a home or school lunch each day. Your child needs to know:
 - o If they're taking a school lunch or home lunch. Breakfast and lunch are free for ALL STUDENTS this year. Students will need to memorize their lunch PIN.
 - o Breakfast is available to all students. Students having school breakfast must go to the lunchroom to eat **as they enter the building in the morning.**
3. **SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 1st grade:** We'd really appreciate it if you'd donate \$10-20.00 for classroom supplies rather than buying them. This way we can prevent waste and purchase needed items throughout the school year. Checks (made out to Marcy Open) can be given to classroom teachers during open house, or the first week of school.
THANK YOU.

In happy anticipation,
The First Grade Team:
Andrea, Nicole & Pang