



Dear Parents,

As first grade teachers we wanted to give you a little information about what your child will experience next year as a first grader.

One of the biggest transitions for a first grader is spending the whole day here at school. The days feel long to them for the first several weeks. In each of our classrooms we have a morning snack to help them through the long morning.

Another big change for a first grader is eating lunch at school. There should be information about purchasing lunch in the *Portage Gazette* in August just before the children return to school.

Our daily routine will vary from classroom to classroom but you can count on the fact that all children will be heavily involved in reading and writing activities and skills. Your child may be responsible for different forms of language arts homework throughout the week such as reading or spelling. Your child will continue with math instruction from Chicago Math and have frequent homework (called Home Links) assignments. The science and social studies portion of our day has been written to allow us to cover four topics in depth - communities, property words/weather, successful Americans, and plants. All first grade classrooms have an older class that we read with frequently. These "buddies" may also assist us in the computer lab.

During the week we have gym and music for two half-hour periods. Your child will have one hour of art instruction during the week. Library time is once a week for one half-hour. Lunch is 28 minutes and there is a half-hour recess.

Often parents wonder how to help prepare their child for first grade. Here are our top suggestions.

- ☆ **Read** to your child *each* day. Make this a habit NOW.
- ☆ Let your child see you as a reader and writer.
- ☆ Help your child learn that when someone is talking, they should wait before speaking. (This will make them more thoughtful classmates and more successful learners.)

- ☆ Give them a daily task around the house this summer to prepare them for acting in a responsible way.

There are a number of supplies your child may need as they begin first grade. We hope you are able to help with these suggested supplies.

- ☆ **large backpack** (large enough to hold snow pants, books, folder, etc.)
- ☆ **2 boxes of crayons** (24 per box is adequate)
- ☆ **sturdy two pocket folder**
- ☆ **small pair of scissors** (Fiskers work best)
- ☆ **pencil storage box** (cigar box size)
- ☆ **2-inch binder** (3-ring type) Please do not send Trapper Keepers or those with zippers. Thanks!
- ☆ **large box of tissues** to share with classmates
- ☆ **markers**
- ☆ **pkg. of highlighters** (multicolor)
- ☆ **choose one of the following paper products:** large package of napkins, paper plates (large size), or a roll of paper towels
- ☆ **choose one of the following baggies:** zip-lock sandwich bags or snack bags, zip-lock freezer bags - one or two gallon size
- ☆ **wet wipes or sanitizing wipes**
- ☆ **pkg. of wide tip white board markers/old sock for eraser**
- ☆ **head phones** (inexpensive- dollar store is fine)
- ☆ **PLEASE KEEP PENCIL SHARPENERS AT HOME.**

Keep this list in a handy place for summer reference.

We are already beginning to plan a great year for your child. We look forward to meeting your child and working with him/her next year. Please save the first evening of school, Tuesday, September 8, for a parent information meeting.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brouhard, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Zook

