

August 29, 2017



Dear First Grade Families,

Welcome to the beginning of a new and exciting school year! I am eager to teach your child and look forward to working together. Over the next few weeks, the students will be focusing on learning the routines and expectations of our classroom. In this letter, I will communicate some important information that will help you and your child prepare for the new school year.

In your child's folder today, you will find several forms (contact information, transportation, request for permission, etc.) that are helpful for me to have in the beginning of the year. Please fill out all of the forms in your child's folder and return them to school as soon as possible. I appreciate your help with this!

We will have snack in the classroom at 9:30am this year. Please remember to pack a daily nutritious snack for your child. It is helpful if the snack is packed in a *separate bag* from home lunch, as snacks are kept above student hooks for easy access. We only have 10 minutes for snack so please be mindful of this and pack 1-2 small items. You may also send in a water bottle to be left in the classroom. We have a table where students are able to leave their water bottles so they can get a quick drink when they need it. Typically, students will bring in a water bottle on Monday and it will go back home on Friday to be washed. However, if you would like it to go home every day that is fine too.

A communications folder will be sent home in your child's backpack at the end of each day and will contain notes, work and other information. In addition to email, you can use this folder to communicate with me. If there is going to be a change in regular dismissal for the day, please put a note in your child's communication folder in the morning. If it is a last minute change, you will need to call the office. Lastly, please ensure that your child dresses according to the weather. We will be outside for recess everyday unless it is raining or extremely cold.

This year our specialist schedule is a little different from the past. On Mondays and Fridays we will have rotating specialist classes. In other words, we will be on a rotating schedule between Art, Music and P.E. We will also have an *extra* rotating specialist on Tuesdays. I understand this may make it difficult to dress your child appropriately for P.E. You can always send a pair of sneakers in your child's back pack on rotating specialist days. I am hopeful that as the year progresses we get into the practice of knowing which specialist is coming up in advance. Please see the schedule below:

Monday – Rotating Specialist (P.E., Art or Music)

Tuesday – P.E. (& Extra Rotating Specialist in the morning)

Wednesday – Art

Thursday – Music

Friday – Rotating Specialist (P.E., Art or Music)

Thank you for all of your contributions to our classroom. It is greatly appreciated! If you still wish to donate supplies, please let me know and I would be happy to send a list of things we still need.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. My email address is mganley@gloucesterschools.com.

Thank you :)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ganley