

Dear Families,

Hello! The first grade team is looking forward to welcoming your child to our classrooms. The next school year will be packed with lots of activities and learning experiences. We use the Imagine It! reading program, which is very intense and requires daily practice. You will need to reinforce what we are doing at school by reading with your child EVERY NIGHT. Please be sure you help keep your child on track because each booklet must be mastered in order to proceed successfully to the next level.

Our math program starts with basic skills and moves on to money, fractions, clocks, geometry and other necessary skills needed in first grade. Once again, please work with your child to be sure they are on track. There is a home-school connection letter that goes home at the beginning of each unit. This will keep you posted of the current topic and give you ideas to do at home to support the learning process.

Your child will receive homework every night. There are very few exceptions. Therefore, if your child comes home and says that there isn't any homework, you may want to connect with another parent in the class to double check. Your child also has a homework planner that we write the homework in every day. If it's not being filled out properly, talk to your child about taking responsibility for writing it down each day. You can also go online to the Smyser website and find your child's homework posted on each teacher's website. You go to www.smyser.org. From there, find the teacher's name under the teacher/faculty/staff area and click on it. You'll see the homework posted on the teacher's website. We'd be happy to show you in person if you are having trouble. Please ask!

We understand that the children are young and may sometimes leave a book or homework sheet at school. This does not mean they can skip homework. Please check the website to see what was assigned and make up a sheet at home that has similar work. For instance, if it's a math homework sheet, write 20 math problems on a piece of paper for your child to solve. If it's reading, please read another story, write down the title, ask your child to draw a picture about the story and write 3 or 4 sentences telling about it. Keep in mind that as the school year progresses, we would expect the homework to match the level of work we are doing in the classroom. If your child forgets the correct homework too many times, we will have to meet to discuss another plan. Our class will decide classroom rules during the first week of school. However, we do use the Chicago Public Schools Code of Conduct regarding discipline practices. These rules include, but are not limited to, being respectful with language and actions, working quietly, completing work, being prepared to work with proper supplies, cooperating with each other and demonstrating teamwork.

We hope this overview has been helpful to you. Communication, commitment, and cooperation are essential in the educational process. So, if there are any questions or concerns you would like to discuss with us, please do not hesitate to call or request a conference. You can also email us through the Smyser website. Again, if you need assistance with the website, please ask. It is a very informative and you should be using it as a reference.

Let's work together to make your child's first grade experience wonderful and exciting! We are eager to work as a "teacher and parent team" to make first grade positive and meaningful for your child.

Sincerely,
The First Grade Team