

Dear Parents,

I welcome you and your child to first grade at Dondero School. I look forward to having you as part of the first grade unit this coming year and to meeting you in August. In addition to welcoming you, I am writing this letter to share some items I feel will help your child make the transition from a busy summer to a busy school year.

Supplies- A backpack is highly recommended, as it ensures that your child's school papers and notices arrive home neatly and safely. The following items will be used daily in your child's classroom and if possible, should be included in the backpack on the first day of school:

- 1 box of Crayola crayons with 24 crayons
- 1 Disappearing Color Glue Stick (Avery makes purple and blue)
- 1 set of Crayola colored pencils
- 1 box facial tissues
- 1 bottle hand soap

These items listed will be shared as community items, so please do not put your child's name on the items he/she brings to school. It will be helpful if these are brought to school during the first couple of weeks of school. If there is a problem obtaining these supplies, please know that your child will have all of these items available to him/her. We first grader teachers have observed that the following items are **not useful** or necessary for first grade students:

Trapper Keepers ink pens pencil cases

In first grade, your child will have homework assignments or make-up work. We have found that having the following available at home makes all homework assignments possible and meaningful:

pencils crayons erasers child sized scissors glue

Before and after homework is completed, your child should keep it in the backpack. Doing this will help your child assume responsibility and develop a routine and remember to return homework to school.

Field Trips - Prior to any trip, a note will be sent home explaining our trip along with listing what will be needed (lunch, play clothes, money). If you wish to be a driver, I must have a copy of your cover page for insurance showing liability coverage of \$100,000 / \$300,000, \$100,000. The Portsmouth School Department requires a form be signed providing permission for the specific field trip and stating information about medical coverage for your child. This is standard procedure.

Celebrations - Three celebrations will be held during the school year. A note will go home before each event to explain what is needed or a phone call will be made by a room parent.

Birthdays - Birthdays will be celebrated for each child this year. Due to allergies, we ask that food treats not be sent in. Rather, children's birthdays will be special without food. In our class, we will honor the birthday child by including the child's birthday on the morning message, singing the Happy Birthday song,

and letting the birthday child wear a special necklace all day. Your child may choose to create and to share a special poster showing photographs of his/her life/family/interests and decorated as he/she wishes. If a birthday falls during the summer months, it will be celebrated on the "half birthday"

Snacks - Children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks (fruit, vegetable sticks, crackers and cheese, pretzels, raisins, etc.) which will be eaten during the morning. Due to food allergies, please avoid sending peanuts and/or peanut butter. Likewise for safety reasons, children are asked not to share snacks. If a child does not have something to eat, I always have something such as pretzels so no child will go without a snack. Candy and soda are discouraged in favor of more nutritious snacks.

Projects - Hands on projects and activities are an important part of all themes your child will be working on this year. When needed, I will ask you to supply specific items or send in a small contribution to help defray costs involved.

Portfolios - Your child and I will create portfolios of your child's year in first grade. Some of the things to be included are samples of math, writing, homework, science study, crafts, and photographs of activities. To help defray personal costs for film, developing and printing, I ask that you contribute five dollars. This contribution, as well as the contribution of items listed above is optional as I do not want to put an undue hardship on you. We at Dondero will not leave a child out of the experiences during the year because of financial difficulty.

I hope you and your child have a safe and enjoyable end to the summer and that this letter will answer some of the questions you might face in preparing for first grade. I am very much looking forward to this year!

See you in August!

(Ms.) Annette Meyerhorn

[return to Dondero School Home Page](#)