

August 2011

Dear First Graders and Families,

Welcome to First Grade! I am very happy that I will be your teacher. I am eager to meet you and to learn about you - your interests, your favorite activities, your special abilities, and what you want to learn to do better.

First grade is exciting! There are many fun things to do and to learn. You will see your friends, have math journals, and do homework. Together we will learn more about being authors, illustrators, mathematicians, readers, problem solvers, creators, and compassionate friends. I know you will have lots to teach me and the other children in our class. We will have a great year!

I have been getting the classroom ready and can hardly wait until the first day of school when we all will meet our new friends. This year, we will color and paint beautiful picture stories and write wonderful words to go with our pictures. There are hundreds of books for you to look at and to learn to read. We will have activities that teach us how to use letters and sounds in words. At math time, we will have materials to explore and games to play. Math is all around us and you will be surprised how much fun we will have thinking about numbers! There is lots of interesting information we will study in science this year. We will have an empty observation tank ready for some monarch caterpillars. Monarch caterpillars are white, yellow, and black. They can be found around milkweed plants. If you find one, bring it in for our science shelf so we can watch the magic as it changes to a butterfly.

Parents, could you please help me make the first days go more smoothly? You can help in the following two ways:

1. Let me know whether your child will be eating lunch from school or lunch from home. If bringing lunch from home, will he/she be buying milk? Information about lunch is at: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/meals/index.htm>. You will find links to the menu, price information, and frequently asked questions.
2. Please let me know how your child will be leaving school each day. Knowing ahead of time prevents last minute worries. I make a list as it helps me keep dismissal calm.

Thank you for your help.

Enjoy the last days of summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you at the Popsicle Welcome Party on the 30th.



Warm regards,

*Annette*

Ms. Meyerhorn