



Valley View First Grade 2019-2020

Dear Parents,

What an exciting adventure we are about to embark on in First Grade! Here is some information that should be of interest to you and your child and help to make his/her transition a smooth one.

Longer Day- 8:00 to 2:12 p.m.

As your child transitions from a half day to full day school experience, you may notice he/she is a little more tired than usual; this is normal. It may take some time to adjust (2 or 3 weeks). You can help your child be prepared for this full day by ensuring that he/she is getting enough rest. This is particularly hard when we first start back since it is light so late. It is tempting to engage in evening summer activities, but please do your best to see that your child gets to bed when he/she should.

****Please note that students should not be on campus before 7:45 am. There is no supervision before then. The first bell is at 7:55 a.m. School starts at 8:00 a.m.**

On the first day of school, students may line up outside of the classroom before school.

For the rest of the year, should your children arrive between the time of 7:45-7:55, they should take their belongings to their line at the blacktop and begin their morning walk. Students are not allowed near the classrooms prior to the start of school. When the first bell rings at 7:55, they will line up and wait for their teachers to walk them to the classrooms.

Walk-through gates are closed at 8:00. Students arriving after 8:00 should enter through the front office door and receive a late pass from the school secretary before heading to class.

Snack

We do have snack at morning recess (9:34-9:52). Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack. **Please, no candy, chips, or cookies.** We drink water with our snacks, so please no drinks. Students who are buying lunch should also bring a snack.

Lunch Time

Our lunchtime is 11:00-11:40. The children play for the first 20 minutes. The last 20 minutes is time for students to eat. ***Please label your child's lunch box.*** This makes finding lunch boxes at the end of the day easy for the students and the teacher.

Bathroom

In first grade, we don't have bathrooms in the classroom, but they are close by. We will be taking school tours and regular bathroom breaks to allow for this transition. Children are allowed to use the bathrooms at any time during the day, but please help us by encouraging them to use them at recess time. (We will go over this at school also.)

Clothing

Although we are in school during the summer, it is sometimes cool when the children leave in the morning and they often wear sweaters or sweatshirts. ***Please be sure all removable sweaters and coats are clearly labeled with your child's name.*** This really helps us when handing out forgotten items quickly at the end of our busy days.

Dismissal

For the first four days of school, first grade teachers will be walking our students out at the end of the day. Please meet us **near the valet area** for pick-up. Starting on Tuesday, August 13, we will no longer walk students out for dismissal. Before this day comes, please make sure you have arranged a meeting area with your child. For the children's safety, please do not pick them up in front of the classrooms. It is difficult for our young students to walk out as parents and siblings are coming in. Prior to the first day of school, your teacher will email you to ask if your child will be picked up, is riding the bus, or is going to Extended Day.

1st Grade Supply List

In lieu of providing a detailed supply list, we are asking for a **donation of \$25.00 per student** that we hope you are able to contribute to our classroom. We will do the shopping to ensure we have the needed items and make life a little easier. We will be providing the children with paper, paint, crayons, journals, scissors, art supplies, etc. All supplies in our Montessori classrooms are shared, as we are learning about organizing our materials and working as a community.

If you would like to donate extra supplies throughout the year, we can always use more of the following:

- Avery or Elmer's glue sticks
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Clorox or other brand of disinfectant wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

We are requesting **NO BACKPACKS** due to space issues, unless your child goes to an after school care program. All work is sent home on Fridays, except for a daily reading book in an envelope, so a backpack is not needed.

We hope this letter has helped to answer some of your questions. If there is anything else we can help with, don't hesitate to contact us at school. We are looking forward to another fantastic year.

The First Grade Team
Wendy Harris, Lisa Rumery, and Meredith Williams

