

Dear First Grade Parents,

My name is Mr. Ward, and I am so excited to have your child in my class this coming school year! I have many fun things planned for us and many new skills for us to learn together. I believe that first grade should be a fun and encouraging environment, where the students feel comfortable trying new things and are not afraid to make mistakes. I always start the school year off by telling the class that if they knew everything, they wouldn't need to be in first grade at all!

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year. As part of our summer work, I am going to ask everyone to gather a few items that are important to them to bring on the first day of school - things that will let everyone know more about you and things that you enjoy. If you go anywhere fun over the summer, you could bring a keepsake and tell us about it, or maybe bring a favorite toy or snack that you love.

It is very important that over the summer your child reads for 15 minutes a day to keep up the progress they have made this year in Kindergarten. The more they read, the sharper their skills will stay, resulting in an easier transition to first grade. Below is a list of some suggested titles for your child to read over the summer. Please do not limit them to these titles; they are merely suggestions. If you have a favorite book you love to read together please read it! It is also a good idea to read some books that will introduce new words to your child. This will make sure that they continue to increase their vocabulary and get the most out of reading.

Along with the reading list, I have also attached a summer reading scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt has some reading challenges for your child to complete over the summer. Each time they complete a challenge, they can check it off and fill out the reading log. Please have your child bring in their scavenger hunt on the first day of school. It is important to remember that even if your child has completed the scavenger hunt, they should still try and read for 15 minutes every day. I challenge everyone to complete the whole scavenger hunt!

I have also included resources for math practice.

I hope you all have a great summer. I am truly looking forward to seeing you all in September, and I hope you and your child are as excited as I am for a great year in first grade!

Sincerely,
Mr. Ward
cward@aosj.us

Suggested Summer Reading:

- Abraham, Frank Keating & Mike Wimmer
- Ada Twist, Scientist, Andrea Beaty & David Roberts
- Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet, Nick Bruel
- Cookie Fiasco, Mo Willems
- Dr. Kitty series, Jane Clarke
- Notebook of Doom series, Troy Cummings*
- Fly Guy Presents: Castles, Tedd Arnold*
- Get a Hit, Mo!, David Adler
- I am Martin Luther King Jr., Brad Meltzer
- Judy Moody and the Bucket List, Megan McDonald
- Lego Nonfiction: Big Book of Animals, Scholastic
- Magic Tree House: Stage Fright on a Summer Night, Mary Pope Osborne
- Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea, Ben Clanton
- Owl Diaries: Woodland Wedding, Rebecca Elliott*
- Pink is for Blobfish, Jess Keating & David DeGrand
- Princess in Black Takes a Vacation, Shannon Hale, Dean Hale & LeUyen Pham
- Rainbow Magic: Joy the Summer Vacation Fairy, Daisy Meadows
- Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover, Cece Bell
- The Bad Guys series, Aaron Blabey
- Thunder Boy Jr., Sherman Alexie
- Ugly Cat and Pablo, Isable Quintero
- Victor Shmud Total Expert: Let's Do a Thing!, Jim Benton
- Who Would Win: Ultimate Bug Rumble, Jerry Palotta

<https://www.readbrihtly.com/ages-stages/pre-k/>

[Summer Reading List 2021: Books for Kids Ages 6 ... - Read Brightly](#)

<https://www.getepic.com/sign-in>

Math Resources:

The websites below have grade appropriate practice for students at all levels and interests, to sharpen and maintain their mathematical knowledge.

<https://www.mathplayground.com/>

<https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/>

<https://www.ixl.com/>

<https://www.funbrain.com/math-zone>

<https://www.mathgametime.com/>

<https://www.coolmathgames.com/>

Reading Challenge

Reading Challenge Completed	Date	On My Own	With an Adult	Title	Author
About a real-life person					
Part of a series					
With someone younger than you					
About a place you'd like to visit					
That has a cover you love					
Set in New York City					
That will teach you a new skill					
Written by your favorite author					
That is about being brave					
The main character is around your age					
Recommended by a friend					

Reading Challenge Completed	Date	On My Own	With an Adult	Title	Author
Fiction					
Non Fiction					
That your parents read as a child					
Has been made into a movie					
While sitting outside					
That was written more than 20 years ago					
About your favorite animal					
A book you have never read					
Your favorite book to read					