

Mrs. Berkhof's Newsletter

The longest
one of the
year!!

August 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. I truly believe that every day in first grade is a great day. I am delighted to share this joy with you and your child in my First Grade class!!!

We will dismiss at 3:00 on our first day of school (state law), and at 1:50 on Thursday, Friday, and Monday with intake conferences immediately following dismissal. On Tuesday, we begin dismissing at 3:00. I will walk with the class and assist with dismissal for the first days of school to teach routines. From then on, the class will be dismissed from the classroom and there will be scheduled teachers moving the dismissal along. Your child should look for his/her ride home while they stand to wait, let a teacher know when s/he sees the ride, and then walk to the vehicle. If your child is going to attend an after-school park district function, we will teach the same routines as to where to go each day.

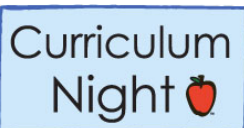
The best way to know what is happening in the classroom is to read my emails! I will email periodically to inform you of classroom happenings, news, and upcoming events (things that need to be sent to school, assemblies, classroom opportunities, etc.). I will archive the emails on our class website as well. If you have not received this letter via email already, or do not wish to receive it to a certain email, please email me at berkhofr@sunsetridge29.org so that I can add or delete your email from my newsletter address book.

Daily agenda items...

- We are fortunate to have 1:1 iPads. Before the children can use any technology, you need to sign the **Acceptable Use Guidelines and Agreement form (AUP)**. Disregard the form coming home in the mailbox if you already returned one.
- One of my MANY go to resources as a parent has become CommonSenseMedia.org. This doesn't relate to our classroom but it is worth sharing. It rates EVERY TV show, book, movie, app and other media choices our children are inundated with. Check it out! It's very helpful to see the age recommendations for the items marketed to our children.
- We have **library** every Monday. Please be sure to remind your child to put his/her library book in the backpack on Sunday evenings.
- Each child must have a pair of **gym** shoes to wear every day. The shoes may be stored at school if he/she regularly wears sandals, flip flops, crocs or non-running shoes. They will not be allowed to participate in gym class without gym shoes.
- Each child needs to bring their own **HEALTHY snack** every day. As allergens can be transferred by touch as well as by ingestion, no snacks should pose a health issue for any child in the school. It is important to note that while the below list seems limited, adherence to this list will reduce the chances of cross contamination of classroom objects (e.g., desks, markers, pencils, books, scissors, etc.), resulting in a safer

environment for all students. Allowed snacks include FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES! Dole brand fruit cups, Dole brand raisins, Sun-Maid raisins, Mott's applesauce products, Welch's fruit snacks, Original Cheerios (in the yellow box), or Skinny Pop popcorn.

- **Lunch** is from 11:52 to 12:10 with recess following until 12:30. All lunch cards will be stored in the classroom.
- First Graders have **art** class once a week. Every child NEEDS to bring an art smock. An oversized large t-shirt works great!
- Please send two bottles of awesome smelling **hand soap** to school with your child. They wash their hands so much better when they can enjoy how good they smell afterwards. Thank you for helping our fight against illnesses!
- If you have not already done so, please sign up for an **intake conference**. I am happy to meet with you before school as well if that time frame would work better. The children benefit much more when there is open communication between home and school. If you have any questions regarding classroom happenings, please do not hesitate to contact me. *Email is the best way to reach me whether to start a conversation or ask me to call you; I check it often. My e-mail address is berkhofr@sunsetridge29.org.* If you need to get a message to your child before the end of the day, it is best to leave a message with Mrs. Draka in in the office 847.881.9500 and she will be sure we get the information in a timely manner.



Curriculum Night is Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 PM.

This is an evening for parents only so please schedule babysitters now. Plan to arrive by 6:20 to take care of PTO business and sign up for a few classroom events.

I am looking forward to a great school year.



Upcoming Events!!!

Thursday, Aug 23 - Monday, Aug 27: First Grade dismisses at 1:50 for Intake Conferences

Tuesday, Aug 28: First Graders begin dismissing at 3:00

Monday, Sept 3: No School - Labor Day

Monday, Sept 10: No School - Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, Sept 13: Curriculum Night - Arrive 6:20

Wednesday, Sept 19: No School - Yom Kippur

Thursday, Oct 25: Early Release Day 11:45 - School Improvement Day

Friday, Oct 26: No School - School Improvement Day

Monday, Nov 20: Parent Conferences - No School

Tuesday, Nov 21 through Friday, Nov 24: No School - Thanksgiving Break