



Dear Rising 1st Grade Families,

Warm summer greetings! I hope this note finds you well and enjoying a lovely summer with friends and family.

I am honored to serve as your child's first grade teacher at the Waldorf School of Garden City! I look forward to partnering with you, and being your child's teacher. I am committed to providing your child with the best possible education. Our time together will be an enriching learning experience filled with wonder and love.

As I immerse myself into the Kingdom of First Grade this summer, I thought it would be helpful for you to have information on a few topics: 1. Items Needed for 1st grade, 2. Lunches and Snacks, 3. School Attire, 4. Classroom Prep Day (August 25th), 5. Family Photo Requested, 6. Arrival, Dismissal and Rose Ceremony, 7. Parent Evening Dates

#1. Supplies:

Please keep in mind that all school supplies should be simple (no media images), sturdy and labeled with your child's name. The first graders will need:

1. 1 small mug with a handle (child sized, not above 10 oz) preferably solid or a simple design
2. indoor shoes which will be left at school (sturdy & secure on foot / appropriate for daily movement, no open toes, no loose slip-ons).
3. 1 plain /solid cardboard shoe box, no larger than cubby size, which is 9 ½ " wide x 7" tall x 11 ½ " deep. Michael's has these for about \$2.00.
4. A change of clothes (underwear, pants, shirt, socks).
5. Painting smock (this can be an apron, or a T-shirt that can just go over the child's clothing).
6. Rain gear - including boots, rain pants and a rain jacket with hood.

Saturday, August 25th, 10:00 AM – 12 PM: Classroom Prep-Day

On **Saturday August, 25th, from 10am until 12pm** - I am inviting you and your child (or children) to school for a "Classroom Prep Day". This will be a great opportunity for the children to get acclimated with their classroom, cubby, and bathrooms. In addition, we can all work together to tidy the room, do some other preparatory activities (like putting names on cubbies and desks), to make sure that the classroom is beautiful and ready for your children. Many hands make light work! When we all pitch in, we feel a sense of ownership for our classroom. A sense of community, care, and contribution will be forged. I suggest that you please bring any of the items mentioned in point #1 above. This will help lighten the load on the first day.



First Day and Rose Ceremony

School begins promptly at 8:10 am on **Tuesday, September 4th**. It is important that your child arrives 10 to 15 minutes early on the first day. This will allow time to ease into the newness of first grade and time for reconnecting with friends before we officially start at 8:10 am. The 1st grade bell will ring at 8:10 am, the door will be closed and the school day will begin. Each child will be seated, and I will tell them what to expect at the Rose Ceremony. Please make sure to review the [Parent Handbook](#), and have your child dressed for this first day in assembly clothing. The seniors will be coming to class to do a little craft and rehearse for the Rose Ceremony in the classroom. I warmly invite you to attend the Opening Assembly and Rose Ceremony. This is a reverent occasion where our seniors give each child a rose while warmly welcoming them into the grade school. I will be telling the first graders our first fairy tale during the Rose Ceremony. The school auditorium doors will open at 10:00 am, and you may be seated then. **Note that our first day dismissal is at 12 noon.**

Arrival and Dismissal:

Throughout the year, school begins at 8:10 am. It is distracting for the class and unsettling for the child to enter the room later than 8:10 am. In addition, during those first twenty minutes of the day (7:50 – 8:10), your child has a wonderful opportunity to engage with his or her classmates, play a short game, possibly do a class chore, and get mentally prepared to start the school day. I trust and appreciate that you will do your best to arrive on time. Also, throughout the year, from Mondays through Thursdays, children will be dismissed at 3:20 pm. On Fridays, children will be dismissed at 12 noon.

Lunches and snacks

Lunches should be healthy, containing protein, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and should be free of junk food, candy, and sweets. Keep in mind that your child will need hearty and healthy foods in order to maintain energy for the longer school day. Please limit sweet juices as filtered water is always available. A warm snack in a thermos is always a good option. If you choose, the school provides soup, homemade bread, and milk to supplement your child's lunch. This can be purchased at lunch time from the soup cart. Please [click here](#) or contact the Business Office before school begins about adding money to your child's lunch account.

School Attire

The children should come to school in clothes and shoes which are comfortable and which will allow them to move freely during circle exercises and outdoor play. Comfortable shoes are essential so that your child can safely move and benefit from our movement exercises. There is a detailed description of the dress code in the [Parent Handbook](#), but essentially clothing with media pictures or large writing is not permitted. This is essential so that we can create an environment in our classroom which will be ideal for learning without distractions. If leggings



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are worn, please make sure that a skirt or long loose shirt is worn (as long as mid-thigh). Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Evening Dates:

During the school year we will have several parent evenings. Your participation is crucial to your child's success and to the formation of a class community. These meetings give you the opportunity to browse your child's work, get a feel for the social and academic life in the classroom, and talk with me and other parents. Important educational topics such as curriculum, media, subject classes, nature-deficit cures, school policies, and more will be discussed. Thank you for making an effort to attend. These are our meeting dates (all from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM):

- Thursday, September 13th
- Thursday, November 15th
- Thursday, March 28th

Thank you for your kindness and support. I am sure we are going to have a wonderful first grade year together as partners in your child's education, working together with love, humor and reverence. I am eagerly looking forward to all of our new beginnings together, especially our home visits!

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Thomas

Rising 1st Grade Teacher

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