



Dear First Grade Families,

Warm summer greetings! I hope this note finds you well and enjoying a lovely and relaxing 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: items needed for 1st grade, lunches and snacks, school attire, arrival, dismissal, the Rose Ceremony, and the first parent evening.

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. One 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 1/2" wide x 7" tall x 11 1/2 " 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 a hood.

First Day and Rose Ceremony:

School begins promptly at 8:10 am on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. 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 our 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 Fridays, children will be dismissed at 3:20 pm.

Lunches and snacks:

Lunches should be healthy and 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 offers soup, homemade bread, and milk to supplement your child's lunch. This can be purchased at lunch time from the soup cart. Please follow [the instructions on our website](#) or contact the Business Office to add money to your child's lunch account.

Birthdays:

We will celebrate birthdays on the day of the birthday, and if a birthday falls on the weekend, we will celebrate the Monday after. Please send in a healthy treat with the children or you may drop it off before snack. The children will celebrate with their classmates throughout the day. We will have a list of food allergies created and emailed out shortly after school is in session.

School Attire:

The children should come to school in clothes and shoes that are comfortable and that 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 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 are worn, please make sure that a skirt or long loose shirt is worn (as long as mid-thigh). Thank you for your cooperation in this area; it is greatly appreciated.

Parent Evening:

We will have several parent evenings during the school year. 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, other teachers, and other parents. Important educational topics such as curriculum, subject classes, developmental changes in the children, school festivals and events, and more will be discussed. Thank you for making an effort to attend. Our first parent meeting will be on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00-8:30pm in the first grade classroom.

Work Party:

Please feel free to stop by the classroom with your child on **August 27th between 1:00 and 3:00pm**. I will be working in the classroom and it will be a great opportunity to have your child get familiar with the room, and perhaps even lend a hand in getting it ready for the first day of school.

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! I am currently away in July but will be back during the first week of August, and will send you a private email to schedule a home visit before the school year begins.

Sincerely,

Miss Glikzman

First Grade Teacher

The Waldorf School of Garden City

225 Cambridge Ave.

Garden City, NY 11530

P. 516.742.3434

E. gliksmeni@waldorfgarden.org