

Please read this important information and keep it for future reference...

Welcome to First Grade!

We are delighted that your child will join our class for 1st grade! We have an integrated classroom. That means that we have students with special needs as well as general education students working and learning together. We will follow the regular kindergarten curriculum and all students will be expected to meet the standards set by New York state and the City School District. We are an International Baccalaureate candidate school. The mission of International Baccalaureate is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. In addition, we have two full time teachers in the classroom to ensure that all students get the support and encouragement that they need to reach their full potential and have a great kindergarten experience!

Our Classroom Behavior Plan

We expect all students to follow classroom and school wide behavioral expectations in order to foster a wonderful learning community. Every day, our students strive to do their best. Their behavior will be assessed according to how well they followed school rules and behaved appropriately. They will, along with our guidance, assess themselves on a 4 point rubric. Fantastic behavior that exceeds our expectations will allow them to land on 4 at the end of the day – a great accomplishment! Meeting the expectations will land them on 3, also a good accomplishment. If they need some reminders during the day of how to behave, or have broken a school rule, they may be on 2. They will need to make a plan to improve their behavior for the next day. Finally, if they are on 1, there has been a significant problem with behavior. In addition, we have a school-wide behavior program where scholars can earn PAW tickets for being respectful, responsible and safe. These tickets can be traded for rewards.

Take Home Folders

Soon, all students will receive a take home folder. We use this to send notes, information, and homework. There will be a monthly calendar inside the folder. We will use it daily to record your scholar's behavior for the day. If there is a 4 or 3, good work for the day! If 2 or 1 is written in, there will usually be a note accompanying it to let you know what the problem was. Please discuss your child's behavior with him or her and help him or her plan for an improvement for the following day. Please initial the date daily so we will know that you have seen it and your child will know that parents and teachers are all working together as an educational team! You can use the folder to write us a note as well, but please be advised that we may not see the note until close to the end of the day. Carrying the folder to and from school everyday is an important lesson for our young students. They are learning responsibility – a vital skill! Please remind them to bring their folders every day in their backpacks.

Homework

Scholars will get weekly packets on Monday to be returned on Friday. Homework is meant to be a review of skills learned in school. It should not be too difficult or stressful. Because our students are so young, they may need your help to complete the work. If your child has a particular problem with homework, just write us a note to let us know. This is another important way we can work together! Your child will also receive a reading log to fill in. Please read with your child every night. It is the best way to help them become independent readers!! Then record the number of minutes you read on the log. Students will win prizes for handing in completed reading logs. Reading time should be a fun time. Let your child pick stories that he or she enjoys and just read them out loud. You can model great reading behavior by pointing to words and

discussing the plot and the pictures. It is OK to read the same book over and over again – this is a great way for students to start recognizing familiar words.

Exploratories

We attend exploratories daily. They are special classes meant to enhance your child's education. They are not scheduled on specific days of the week. They are on A,B,C,or D days. This is to ensure that students don't miss classes that are scheduled only on Mondays or Fridays. You can find out what day (A,B,C,D) it is by looking at the RCSD calendar. We will also write the cycle days on the behavior calendar. Our schedule is as follows:

- A Day –Art or Spanish (every scholar will do both by end of year)
- B Day – Physical Education (PE)
- C Day – Music
- D Day- Physical Education (PE)

1st graders don't have to change for Physical Education class, but please make sure they wear sneakers on B and D days! We will be visiting the library regularly as well.

Meals and Snacks

Scholars eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria along with the rest of the elementary classes. Lunch is daily from 12:10-12:40. They may bring their own lunch if they wish. We love to celebrate birthdays! You may send in a store bought treat for the class on your child's birthday – cupcakes are always popular and easy to distribute. You are welcome to join us for the "party". Please contact us to schedule a time that works for everyone. Finally, we often have small treats during the day (such as gummy bears or Skittles). Please let us know if there is any food that your child is allergic to or should not eat.

Dismissal

We start dismissal every day at 1:40. Bus riders will always be placed on their bus unless you call or send a note. All other students must be picked up – no 1st grader is released to walk alone! They must be picked up; you can come in a little before we go out to the busses if that is easier for you! Please let us know if your child will be leaving with an older sibling; we need your permission to let them do this! Be sure to send back the form that states who will be allowed to pick up your child (such as grandparents or day care providers). Please be prompt at pick up time.

Contact Us

We encourage open communication! Feel free to write a note in your child's take home folder whenever you have a question or concern. You can also call us at 463-4100. We may not answer the phone because we are busy with scholars, but leave a message. If it is an emergency, please call the office and tell someone. You can also email us at nancy.gossin@rcsdk12.org or katherine.chinappi@rcsdk12.org and we will return your email as soon as possible. Be sure to include your child's name in the message! We look forward to a terrific school year!

Mrs. Nancy Gossin and Mrs. Katie Chinappi