Summer 2021

Dear First Grade Parents,

First grade is an extraordinary year! This is the year students where your children…

* become more fluent in reading and writing
* understanding and memorizing Math skills such as addition and subtraction facts
* become more confident in their handwriting and
* start gaining their independence as a student.

To help prepare your student for the exciting school year ahead, I am asking that you practice reading and writing over the summer with your child. Research shows that students can regress over the summer months; in order to prevent it, it is helpful when the student practices his/her reading skills by either reading or practicing his/her high frequency words (also known as sight words) every day. There are four great ways to help your child practice reading:

* Read to your child
* Have your child read to you
* Alternate reading (I read then you read)
* Have your child practice the high frequency word flash cards.

No matter what you choose to do, the importance is for your child to read, read, read all summer long for 15-20 minutes a day! If you would like to purchase high frequency flash cards or sight word games, they are available at Staples, Walmart, and Target. You can also make your own flash cards by writing one word on an index card. If you wish to do that, you can find a list of words at [http://www.k12reader.com/worksheet/fry-words-complete-list/view/](about:blank) (focus on the first 100 list).

First grade is also a time where the small finger muscles are beginning to become stronger. In order to help your child build up these muscles, here are a few suggestions for your child to complete at least a couple of times a week: baking (have your child measure, stir, pour, etc.), write with chalk, write in the sand at beach, make beaded jewelry, play with Play-Doh, make puzzles, play with Legos, practice writing with a pencil, play with piggy banks (practice putting money in), finger painting, play board games and cards, and pick fruit off of fruit trees, vines, or bushes. Finally, have your child count items as often as possible, so they will continue practicing their numbers and be ready to continue learning addition and subtraction facts in the fall.

I cannot wait to embark on this journey with you and your child! The items are on the attached list can be found online at [www.sesschools.org](about:blank) if it accidently gets misplaced. Have a wonderful summer!

God Bless!