



First Grade Opening Letter

September 6th, 2023

Dear 1R Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer and feel rejuvenated for this school year! My name is Miss Daniella Repkoe and I am thrilled to be your child's first grade teacher. First grade is an exciting time. We will embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. This is a big transition year. First graders develop fundamental work habits, appropriate social behavior, problem solving, decision making and strong academic skills. I hope to make your child's first grade experience an enjoyable one and to instill a love of learning that will carry on throughout his/her academic years.

This letter welcomes you to 1R and serves as a reference. I ask for your kindness and patience as things can change as we get into the swing of this school year. We will navigate through together. Below you will see some opening guidelines and instructions. I will keep you updated on any changes.

*Wednesday, September 6th : Grades 1-4 Report, 3:00 pm Dismissal

*Thursday, September 7th: Grades 5-8 Report- **No school for Grades 1-4**

*Friday, September 8th: Grades 1-8 Report, 3:00 pm Dismissal

Transportation Home

- Please tape a note inside your child's folder for the first 2 weeks of school stating his/her way of transportation home. If your child takes a bus home, please remember to include the **district** (ex. Wissahickon) **and the bus number**. There are many buses for each district.

School Supplies

- For the list of First Grade school supplies, please go to the Saint Helena School webpage. Click on the Students tab. Then click on the link labeled School Supplies.
- Please place your child's name on **everything**, especially all of the **gym clothing** and **school sweaters**.

A few additional items which are very important for this year include:

- 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 box of Clorox (disinfectant) wipes
- *Please make sure your child's pencils are sharpened before coming to school and can last them 2-3 days. Pencil cases will be sent home once a week, on **Tuesdays** for replenishment.

Fee for School Supplies Already Provided and Art Fee

- This year we will be sending out invoices for Stationery and Art Fees through FACTS. Once these fees are assessed, FACTS will email an invoice(s) to parents. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY OR CHECKS TO THE SCHOOL. Fees will be billed as "incidental expenses" in FACTS. Parents should log onto their Parent Portal, click the "Financial" tab and make an online payment, or they can link the financial account associated with their tuition account in FACTS for automatic payment of "incidental expenses" on the due date noted for each invoice.

School Books

- Books will be sent home over the first few nights. Please cover all workbooks with clear contact paper. Here is a helpful "how-to" video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0spXIZQKPVY>
- Copybooks do not need to be covered, although they do seem to last longer with contact paper. Also, **please label** each book with your **child's first and last name** on the **front cover**.

Backpacks

- Please do not allow your child to bring any toys to school. Please monitor your child's backpack for items that could be a distraction.

H- Folder

- Please check your child's H-Folder every night. This is a form of communication between home and school. Worksheets completed in school will be contained in the H-Folder. The completed pages may be kept at home. Notes you wish to send to school can be placed in this folder as well.

Homework Procedures

- Homework for the week will be posted on our class page on the SHS website. Any loose homework sheets your child needs to complete will be placed in the H-folder by your child. All homework must be completed every night. Your child's homework will provide reinforcement for daily work and will nurture a sense of responsibility in your child. **Please sign your child's homework every night.** Your signature on all homework is an indication to me it has been supervised and done neatly and completely. If you observe

your child having a problem with his/her homework, please inform me with a note. Your child is responsible for turning in their homework each day

T-Folder

- The T-Folder is what I use to send home tests. Please make sure the T-Folders are returned to me the next school day, along with all **tests and quizzes signed**.

Absence

- Please call the school and send me an email if your child is going to be absent. Missed work will be sent home, on the day your child returns, to be completed with you at home.

Snacks

- Children will have snack recess every day. Please pack a snack for your child each day. Pretzels are also sold every day for 10:30 AM recess. A pretzel is \$.50. Children are welcome to buy a pretzel or bring in their own snack.

Lunch

- Lunch will be a new experience for some children. An occasional note in their lunch box can make this easier and be a happy surprise.
- If hot lunch is being served that day, I will collect the money that morning. **All lunch money must be placed in an envelope with your child's name on it.** Loose money is lost very easily.

Birthdays

- Birthdays are happy occasions to be celebrated! Please send me an email telling me when you would like the class to celebrate your child's birthday. Please **do not** send in juice or whole cakes as a snack. Simple treats already in individual pieces (cupcakes, cookies, brownies, donuts, etc.) are most welcome along with napkins if needed.
- If you are having a party for your child at home, you may send invitations into school provided they are for all of the girls or all of the boys or the whole class. If some of the children are not invited, please send the invitations by mail. This applies to Thank You notes, as well.

Dismissal

- Please make sure your child knows how they are getting home each day.
- Unless I receive a note or email stating a change in transportation, children will not be permitted to take alternate forms of transportation other than what you have stated on the bottom portion of this letter. If the change is made later in the day, please send me an email **and** call the office and I will get the message.
- If your child is visiting someone else after school, I will need a note/email from both children's parents. Please include the transportation to be used. This is for your child's protection. Please note- a child may not ride on any other district's bus other than the one in which he/she lives. (ex. **If your child lives in the Methacton School District, he/she may not ride on a Wissahickon bus. These are the districts' rules.**)

School Website

- Please check our school website for calendar changes and events happening at SHS.
Please check our class page for homework or other helpful reminders.

Email:

My email is @drepkoe@sainthelenaschool.org

My grade partner is Katie Nathan. If you ever need to reach out to Mrs. Nathan, her email is @knathan@sainthelenaschool.org

Thank you

- Thank you for taking the time to read the above information. I know if we work together, we can provide a positive school experience for the children. I look forward to a wonderful year together! Let the learning begin!

Sincerely,
Miss. Daniella Repkoe

MY CHILD WILL TAKE THE FOLLOWING FORM OF
TRANSPORTATION HOME EVERYDAY.

NAME: _____

___CAR

___WALKER

___WISSAHICKON #___

___METHACTON #___

___NORRISTOWN #___

___NORTH PENN #___

___COLONIAL #___

___OTHER-_____

___EXCEPTIONS_____

PARENT SIGNATURE