



Dear Rainbow (1st-2nd grade) Families,

We hope that you all have been enjoying a peaceful and relaxing summer! We are looking forward to seeing everyone and starting an exciting year in Rainbow. This year we will have our **Classroom Welcome Night on Monday, August 18, from 6-7 p.m.** This is a great way for students to become comfortable in their new classrooms, get to know us, and see their classmates.

We would like to begin by telling you a bit about ourselves!

I am your 1st grade contact teacher, Samantha Hudson. I am coming to NGFS from Guilford County Schools where I most recently taught third grade at Rankin Elementary School. I live in Greensboro with my husband Matthew and spend most of my time reading, writing, baking, playing games, walking, or crafting. There are just a few weeks left of the summer, and I am so excited to start the new school year and get to know our Rainbow students and families along with everyone at NGFS!

My name is Mandy Adamczak and I will be your 2nd grade contact teacher! I am excited to have all my friends back this year while also welcoming new faces to Rainbow. I joined NGFS mid-year (February 2025) from Guilford County Schools. I have served in various roles in education for over 10 years prior to coming to NGFS. I am from Greensboro, and my husband and I have three wonderful sons (ages 16, 18, 21) and two dogs. I am a proud alumna and superfan of NC State University (B.S.) and UNC-Greensboro (M.Ed). I spend most of my weekends with my family or cheering on the Wolfpack, but I will escape to the beach anytime I get. My summer was great, and I cannot wait to see our Rainbow students and families in a couple of weeks!

In addition to the Rainbow teaching team, we work closely with our Reading Specialists, Leslie and Christine, as well as our Math Specialist, Susan. We are fortunate to also have Marci, our Learning Specialist, and Jen S, our Counselor to provide resources and support for our students.

Contact Groups

Rainbow is made up of two classrooms, and the class is divided into 1st and 2nd grade teacher contact groups. *See the Welcome Letter email, sent on August 4, for the list of contact groups.* When students arrive each morning, they will place their things in their designated classroom cubby. Cubbies are divided between the two classrooms by grade/contact teacher. This will allow students to access their belongings as needed with fewer disruptions to learning.

If you have information or questions you would like to share to help ensure a successful start to the school year for your child, please feel free to email your child's contact teacher. In addition, you will have an opportunity to share the hopes and dreams that you have for your child's school year with their contact teacher at our conferences held on Friday, August 29. Look for a Sign-Up Genius to be emailed near the start of school from your child's contact teacher. Your child's contact teacher will be meeting and communicating with you throughout the year.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

- You will be given a name card to display on your car visor. Please be sure to display the name card in the morning and afternoon; we appreciate your assistance in helping drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and efficiently.
- Drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m. for Extended Care and 7:45 a.m. for the regular school day. **The school day begins at 8 a.m.**
- At arrival, staff will direct you through the carpool line to drop off your child. Students will use the sidewalk to walk to their classroom and will be assisted by staff, as needed.
- If your child arrives late, please bring your child to the office and sign them in. An adult must accompany your child to the office. Your child will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
- **Rainbow dismisses at 3 p.m.** At dismissal, we will open the classroom doors, and you may pick up your child from their room.
- If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up, please make sure the person is on your authorized pick-up list in the [Family Portal](#). Instruct them to have identification with them; staff will check the ID of anyone unknown to them. (Please note that changes in the Family Portal may take up to 48 hours to update.)
- If you must pick your child up before school is over, please go to the office to sign your child out. If early pick-up is for a scheduled appointment, please coordinate with your student's teacher in advance so they will have their belongings packed and ready to go at the designated time. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up early, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick up list in the Family Portal.
- Please email your student's contact teacher if your child will be absent. If an extended absence from school is necessary, communicate with the Division Head at least one week in advance so that arrangements can be made for work. After contacting the Division Head concerning a protracted absence, parents/guardians of students in K-6th grades should contact teachers for assignments.

Extended Care (see [Extended Care page](#) for information)

- Morning care is offered from 7:30-7:45 a.m.
- Afternoon Extended Care runs until 6 p.m.

School Supplies

All classroom materials will be provided. Whole-class ownership of supplies decreases conflicts and increases cooperation and classroom harmony; therefore, we ask that you don't send in "special" items for your own child's use (special pencils, markers, etc.). The desire for individualized items can best be addressed by letting your child choose a special lunch box or book bag.

Backpack

Students will need to bring a backpack to school each day to transport books and folders. Large backpacks with wheels do not fit in the cubbies and can present a storage issue in the classroom. Please help your child stay organized by providing a backpack that can fit in their cubby and will hold several pocket folders for assignments going to and from home.

Optional Items: If families wish, they may contribute the following items: Band-aids, Ziplock bags (gallon, quart, sandwich, or snack sized), hand sanitizer, and/or tissues. These supplies may be brought in on Classroom Welcome Night (Monday, Aug. 18) or during the first week of school.

Personal Possessions at School

We want to create a distraction-free learning environment for everyone and understand that there are various tools that support students in their learning. Fidgets and stuffies will be allowed as needed and must be used appropriately. We ask that children leave all other toys at home.

Snack and Lunch

- Each day your child will need a lunch box containing a healthy snack, lunch, and drinks/water bottle.
- **Each day students should bring a refillable water bottle that is plastic or metal (not glass).**
- There is an option to order hot lunch through My Hot Lunchbox; see [Back to School page](#) for more information and directions for ordering.
- **Please remember to send a snack daily, even when ordering hot lunch.**
- Sodas are not allowed.
- We can not refrigerate or heat items. Please use ice packs for cold items and a thermos for warm items.
- Please help your child practice opening containers. Please do not send food in glass containers.

Allergy Information: Any classroom food allergy restrictions will be announced before school begins via email from our School Nurse, Kathryn Gale.

Shoes and Clothing

- Closed-toed shoes or sturdy sandals (with a backstrap) should be worn daily.
- Remember to wear or bring sneakers on PE days.

- Please bring an extra set of clothing in a labeled Ziplock by the first week of school. Spills and accidents happen and students are most comfortable in their own clothes.

Important Dates

- Monday, Aug. 18 - Classroom Welcome Night for Guilford Campus (preschool-grade 6), 6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 20 - First day of school
- Thursday, Aug. 21 - New Parent Orientation for new Guilford Campus families, 8-9 a.m.
- Friday, Aug. 29 - half-day, Rainbow dismisses at 12 p.m. Hopes and Dreams Conferences in the afternoon
- Monday, Sept. 1 - Labor Day, School closed
- Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Lower School (preschool-6th) Parent Night, 6-7-30 p.m.; begins with a presentation for all in the Student Activity Center at 6 p.m. followed by class-level presentations in the classrooms.

We are really looking forward to seeing old friends and are very excited about getting to know the new folks. It should be another wonderful year in Rainbow!

In peace,

Genny and the Rainbow team

Mandy (she/her) madamczak@ngfs.org

Samantha (she/her) shudson@ngfs.org (*Samantha's email will become active on 8/8/25*)