

# Dear First Grade Families,

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



This year we are using Journeys, a comprehensive, K–5 evidence-based, English Language Arts program. In first grade, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary. First grade students will:

- Use phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Get facts and information from different writings
- Write about a topic, supply some facts, and provide some sense of opening and closing
- Take part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions
- Identify the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g., deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball)
- Learn to think about finer distinctions in the meanings of near-synonyms (e.g., marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking)

There are many ways you can help your child at home. Invite your child to talk about what he/she is learning each day in class. Read to your child and encourage them to read each night.

Your child can access Journeys at home using his/her personal login & password. Students can read/listen to the week's anchor text, paired text, and leveled readers.

**Remember, it is important to instill a love of reading in every child.**

**Please read to or with your child daily.**