

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to First Grade! This year promises to be filled with new educational experiences that will foster curiosity and an excitement for learning. I am eager to work with you and your first grader as we begin what could be the most important year in early childhood. I have prepared many interesting projects and activities, which will encourage your child to read, write, and solve problems across the curriculum.

I firmly believe that teacher communication is key to success. I encourage you to email me ([kmurray@livingston.org](mailto:kmurray@livingston.org)) or send in a note with your child if you have any questions or concerns. I will also keep you updated with what is going on in the classroom using Class Dojo. This is a private site that is only accessible to the parents of students in our class. I will post pictures and/or notes showing what we are learning. I ask that parents do not download or share these photos with anyone. On the information sheet, I have added an option for you to let me know if you allow your child's picture to be put on Class Dojo. Please click [here](#) to sign up and login to our Class Dojo site. I have found this to be an invaluable resource for parents that allows them to be a part of their child's day!

In order to ensure your child's safety after school, I ask that the adult accompanying your child home please wait at the Kindergarten door (Door # 9). If your child is going home with someone other than the person you indicated on the school form, please send me an email (and copy the main office) informing me of who will be taking your child home that day. Your child will not be permitted to go with any other adult without a written note.

Please be sure your first grader has a snack and either brings or buys a lunch every day. On the following pages, you will find the first grade supply list as well as some useful information and an important questionnaire to fill out about your child. The only supplies needed for the first day of school (if you did not purchase supplies through the PTA) are crayons, a pair of scissors, and pencil box that are labeled with your child's name. Please do not send in any other supplies on the first day of school as it can be overwhelming for the children. If you purchased supplies from the PTA, they will be delivered to our classroom. Please send in all other supplies on September 6th. Enjoy the last few days of summer. I look forward to meeting you soon!

All the best,  
Mrs. Kristen Murray

*\*\*MEET MRS. MURRAY\*\* This will be my eleventh year teaching at Hillside Elementary School and my eighth year in first grade. I have experience teaching grades from kindergarten through fifth, but first grade is my favorite!*

*My goal as a teacher is to instill a love of learning. I hope to help students grow to be self-motivated learners, build a sense of community, and learn to make new friends and explore new interests.*

*Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my husband and my two children, Brody and Brooklynn. I also enjoy reading, exercising, and baking! I look forward to getting to know your child and family!*



Hello, I am your First Grade teacher, Mrs Murray!



Welcome to 1st grade! My name is Mrs. Murray and I am so excited to be your teacher! 1st Grade is going to be an **amazing** year full of new friends, adventures, and discoveries. We are going to **LEARN** and **grow** in so many ways throughout our year **TOGETHER**. I've been very busy getting our classroom ready and planning all the interesting things you will learn.

Summer is a wonderful time to create **special memories** with your family and friends. During the summer months, I spent time with my husband, and our two children, Brody and Brooklynn. We had fun swimming at the pool, visiting the park, and playing at the beach!

We will have many **exciting** adventures **TOGETHER** in first grade. I am sure that you are wondering what First Grade is going to be like. Our classroom is room number 102, right next to the nurse's office. This year we are going to complete fun social studies projects and exciting science experiments. You will learn more strategies for adding and subtracting and even become a better reader and writer. You will meet new friends and learn to build good character. You're going to LOVE First Grade!

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer! I can't wait to meet you on the first day of school!

Your Teacher,  
**Mrs. Murray**

## [First Grade Information Sheet](#)

You can click on the link above to fill out the form on Google, or feel free to print the sheet and send it to school with your student.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of brothers and sisters (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

***Please comment on the following and send this sheet back to school with your child by **Wednesday, September 7th.*****

What strengths do you see in your child?

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What special goals do you have for your child this year?

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What other thoughts do you have which might be helpful for me to know when working with your child?

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**I ALLOW / DO NOT ALLOW my child's photo to be posted on the private site, Class Dojo.** (Please circle one)  
Please click [here](#) to login/sign up for our ClassDojo site.

*You may use the reverse side of the paper for additional space. Thanks!*



# Welcome to Hillside First Grade!



**Listed below is the first grade supply list as well as some useful information that will help us have a great year in first grade!**

Supply List: You may have already purchased the items on this supply list through the PTA. If you have not yet purchased supplies, you will need to get the following items:

- ★ 24 NO2 DIXON TICONDEROGA PRESHARPENED PENCIL
- ★ 1 3X3 HIGHLAND YELLOW STICKY NOTES 1PAD 100 SHTS
- ★ 6 ELMER'S WASHABLE PURPLE GLUE STICK .77OZ
- ★ 3 CRAYOLA CRAYONS 16CT
- ★ 1 CRAYOLA 7" COLORED PRE SHARPENED PENCILS 8CT
- ★ 1 CRAYOLA ULTRA CLEAN WASH THICK MARKERS 8CT
- ★ 2 MAGIC RUB ERASER (PEN/PENCIL) LATEX FREE
- ★ 1 FISKARS 5" BLUNT SCISSORS
- ★ 1 ON THE EAR ADJUSTABLE BAND HEADPHONES HO415
- ★ 1 GREEN PLASTIC POCKET FOLDER
- ★ 1 YELLOW PLASTIC POCKET FOLDER
- ★ 1 BLUE POLY POCKET WITH BRAD FOLDERS
- ★ 1 ORANGE POLY POCKET WITH BRAD FOLDERS
- ★ 1 RED POLY POCKET WITH BRAD FOLDERS
- ★ 1 ASST PLASTIC SCHOOL BOX 8.5X5.75X2.5
- ★ 1 SHARPIE BLACK FINE TIP MARKER 1EA
- ★ 1 EXPO ASST DRY ERASE CHISEL TIP MARKERS 4CT

**\*\*\*Please print your child's first and last initial on the scissors and pencil box. The rest of the supplies will be labeled in class or shared within our classroom community.**

★ Additional Items (not included on PTA supply list):

- All children will also need the following items:
  - 4 x 6 (portrait oriented) photograph of yourself
  - Art Smock (labeled with name)
  - Extra clothes kept in child's backpack throughout the year (labeled with name)
- All boys will also need the following items:
  - 1 roll of paper towels
  - 1 bottle of hand soap with pump
- All girls will also need the following items:
  - 1 box of tissues
  - 1 box of gallon size Ziploc bags (slide closure)

**\*\*\*Please send all supplies in on Tuesday, September 6th EXCEPT for the crayons, scissors, and pencil box. Please send in labeled scissors, crayons, and pencil boxes on the first day of school, Thursday, September 1st (only if you did not purchase supplies through the PTA).**

## Helpful Information

- ★ **Backpacks:** Your child will need a backpack to carry their snack, Take Home Folder, and book baggies. Please be sure it is of adequate size and your child is familiar with zipping and unzipping it.
- ★ **Extra Clothes:** Please provide extra clothes for your child to use in case of emergency. You can keep the clothes in a bag labeled with their name, to be kept in their backpack everyday throughout the year.
- ★ **Sneakers:** Please have your child wear sneakers on gym days (I will send home a copy of the special schedule and it will also be posted on my website).
- ★ **Snacks:** Please send in a healthy morning snack that your child enjoys and can open independently. Please be sure your child's snack bag is labeled with their name.
- ★ **Absences:** Use the Genesis portal to report absences.
- ★ **Smocks:** Please send in an old, large T-shirt for your child to use as a smock. Remember to print your child's name on it and practice putting it on and taking it off independently.
- ★ **Birthdays:** You may send in party invitations only if you are inviting the whole class. Birthdays will not be celebrated in school with food, however, you may send in a small token item such as pencils, erasers, or stickers. You may also choose to donate a book to the classroom library instead or send in a book to be read aloud that day. In addition, if you would like, you can send in a book that the children and I can sign for your child to have as a keepsake from 1st grade!
- ★ **Take Home Folders:** Take Home folders will be sent home on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school and will come home Monday-Friday. Students are instructed to take their papers and put them into their folder at the end of the day. Please check the folders nightly for important notes, student work, and homework and empty the folder before returning it to school each day.

Thank you for your cooperation. It is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns that you might have. I am looking forward to meeting you and having a truly memorable year with your child in first grade!

Your First Grade Teacher,  
Mrs. Murray

