



Dear New First Grade Friend,

My name is Mrs. Kalan (rhymes with Alan) and I am so excited to have you in my class this year! I have been busy decorating our classroom and planning a lot of exciting activities. You will be learning many new things this year!

Some of the subjects you will have as a first grader are reading, writing, math, French, science, and social studies. You will read and listen to wonderful stories, and you will even write & publish stories of your own! You will also go to special classes like gym, art, library, and music. 😊

Now that you are a first grader, you will eat lunch in the cafeteria and you will also have recess and a movement break. Even though we will be busy, you will still have plenty of time to make new friends throughout the year. First grade is so much fun!

I hope you are as excited as I am for school this year. I can't wait to meet you and I'm really looking forward to spending this year with you!

Love,

Mrs. Kalan
kalanj@lmsd.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to first grade and to the beginning of what promises to be a wonderful year! We look forward to meeting you and working with your child. First grade is such an exciting year for all of us. This letter is intended to help you and your child feel more comfortable about the beginning of school. Please read the list below and hold onto it for future reference.

1. It is very important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Should you have any questions, concerns, or information that may affect your child in school, please send in a note or call and leave a message for me at the school office or on my voicemail (610-645-1430). We will discuss email communication at Open House. Throughout the year, you can also find information about our classroom on our Blackboard.
2. Please read and respond promptly to notes you receive from school. Your child will be bringing home a binder/folder every night with homework and important papers. Please check this folder nightly and help your child develop a routine for completing assignments.

Additionally, on Thursdays, you will receive a "Thursday Envelope" email with materials from Dr. Martino, the HSA, the School District, etc.

3. Please return your child's "Dismissal Form" (included in this mailing) at the first grade orientation or on the first day of school. Please explain how your child will come to school and how s/he will be going home (bus number, dropped off/picked up by whom, before/after care, etc). Any changes in your child's regular dismissal routine **MUST** be written in a note. Without a note, I must send your child home the normal way.
4. If your child is absent from school, you must send in a short note on the day s/he returns explaining the absence.
5. Please label all clothing, school bags, lunch boxes or bags, supplies, etc. Children get upset when they lose something or confuse their belongings with another child's.
6. Please encourage your child to leave all toys at home. Too often they get lost or broken, and more importantly, they are distracting to the children.
7. We will have a twenty-minute snack every day. Your child is encouraged to bring in a healthy snack (fruit, cheese, pretzels, crackers etc.) that is easy to eat. Also, if you pack your child's lunch, please be sure your child knows what should be eaten for snack and what should be eaten for lunch. It is also important to remember to pack this additional snack, even when your child is buying lunch in the cafeteria.
8. Lunches cost \$3.00. Milk, juice, ice cream and other snacks may also be purchased separately. An account can be set up for your child so that s/he does not have to bring money to school each day. This is definitely the easiest way for your child to buy lunch. You will receive more information about setting up an account on the first day of school.

*For the first week of school, it might be helpful to pack your child's lunch so s/he can become acclimated to the lunchroom procedures without the stress of buying a lunch.

9. You and your new first grader are invited to come meet me and take a look around our classroom at our first grade orientation this summer. Please feel free to bring any of the enclosed forms if you happen to fill them out before then.

We hope this letter answers some of your questions. Please feel free to contact us at any time if we can help make the transition from kindergarten to first grade easier for you and your child. We look forward to a fantastic year!



The First Grade Teachers

Parent/Guardian Survey

In addition to your child's Dismissal Note, it would be very helpful if you could fill this out and bring it with you to orientation or send it into school with your child on the first day of school.

1. Your child's full name: _____

2. If your child uses a nickname or a shortened version of his/her name, please print it below.

3. Full name(s) of parents/guardians (including title: Mr., Ms, Dr., etc.)

4. Where did your child attend Kindergarten? Was it a positive experience?

5. If your first grader has any siblings who currently attend Cynwyd, please list their names below, along with their respective teachers for this year.

sibling's name

sibling's teacher

sibling's name

sibling's teacher

6. Does your child have any health concerns or allergies that I should be aware of?

7. What do you see as your child's strengths?

8. What areas (learning skills, behaviors, social/emotional development, etc.) would you like to see your child improve upon?

9. Do you anticipate your child having any difficulties adjusting to first grade? If so, please elaborate.

10. Finally, is there anything concerning your child's development that you feel is important for me to know as your child's first grade teacher?

Thank you very much for taking the time to contribute your thoughts!



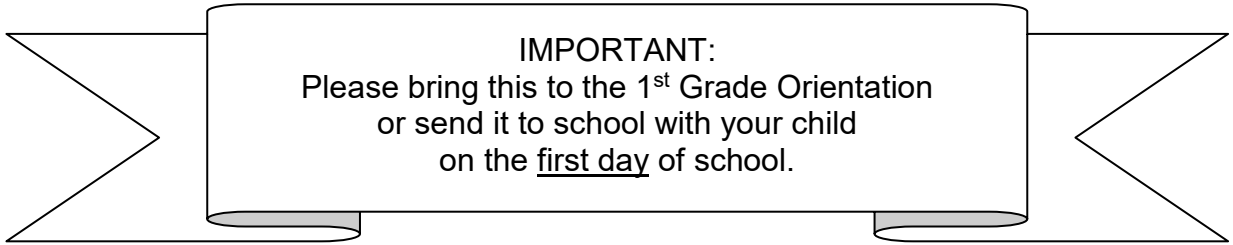
Email Connection

I would like to set up a list serve for anyone who checks their email daily and feels that it would be a good way for me to reach you throughout the year. I will also send group emails to let you know about anything exciting that may be going on in our classroom. If you do not check an email account regularly, please do not feel obligated to fill this out.

Yes, you can reach the _____ family via email at the following address(es):

Email address	Primary User

Dismissal Form



Please fill out the form below with your child's weekly dismissal routine
(i.e. bus, walk, or gym pick up).

Please note that this will be referred to regularly for normal dismissal procedures.
Without a note, your child must be dismissed according to his/her regular weekly routine.

Be sure to include the following information when applicable:

- Bus number
- The name(s) of who will be picking up your child
- With whom and where your child will walk from school
- If your child has a sibling or friend who he/she will be meeting after school in the gym

Your child's name _____

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

*For parents or other adults who are picking up first graders at the end of the day,
you can meet your child in the gym at 3:25 pm.