Incoming Kindergarten Reading List for the 2026-27 school year

Required:

KINDergarten: Where Kindness Matters Every Day (A KINDergarten Book) Hardcover – Picture Book, June 21, 2022

by Vera Ahiyya (Author), Joey Chou (Illustrator)

"It's the first day of Kindergarten and Leo isn't at all ready. Leo is a quiet kid and would prefer to stay home. Over the summer, his new teacher, Ms. Perry sent a letter asking her students to think about how to show kindness in school. She explained that they would be making a kindness pledge, and each student should bring one way to show kindness on the first day."

Suggested:

The Invisible String Backpack (The Invisible String, 6) Hardcover – Picture Book, July 11, 2023

by Patrice Karst (Author), Joanne Lew-Vriethoff (Illustrator)

"It's Mila's first day of school, but mixed with excitement is worry. What if she can't find her classroom? What if no one likes her? What if she's too nervous to speak up? With a little advice from her brother, she learns that she has everything she needs right in her Invisible Backpack: an Invisible Microphone to help her find her voice, an Invisible Flashlight for when she's feeling lost, an Invisible Net to catch her if she falls, and much more. Her pack is bottomless! The Invisible String is the very first thing that she puts in her pack—and each time she uses it, it gets bigger and better."

Breathe Like a Bear: First Day of School Worries: A Story with a Calming Mantra and Mindful Prompts (Mindfulness Moments for Kids) Hardcover – Picture Book, June 27, 2023

by Kira Willey (Author), Anni Betts (Illustrator)

“Bear can't wait to go to her first day of school. But she and a few of her friends are also feeling a little anxious. Luckily, Owl has the perfect words for them all to say to calm the jitters and help them recognize the similarities we share under the trappings of our uniqueness.

Introducing a mantra for first-day—and any-day—worries, *Breathe Like a Bear: First-Day-of-School Worries* uses an easy-to-follow breathing exercise, mindful prompts, and a soothing mantra that will help kids navigate their anxiety long after the final page. This prescriptive and teachable picture book is an invaluable tool for every child's early social-emotional education.”