

Mrs. Dugan's First Grade Class

Welcome Letter for the 2026-2027 School Year



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to first grade at Stoy Elementary! While I hope you are enjoying the rest of summer, I can't wait to see your smiling faces in September. I want you to know from the moment you step into your classroom, we are a team and can bravely accomplish anything together! Participating in Morning Meeting, small groups, and rotating hands-on, creative STEM centers is how you will begin each day. This enables us to set a positive tone for the day and invites you to partake in classroom community building activities. While I will discuss this more at Back to School Night, I will use Seesaw, a digital portfolio, to showcase student work and highlight what we are learning during the day.

For the families who have not met me yet, I would love to share a little bit about myself. I earned my BA from Muhlenberg College, then my Masters in Elementary Education from The College of New Jersey and have been teaching for the last 14 years. Before becoming a teacher, I worked for three years at Lincoln Financial in their Human Resources department. Some of the most rewarding experiences I've had as an educator were teaching in South Africa and presenting twice at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) in Denver and Philadelphia with my amazing Stoy colleagues. When I'm not in the classroom, I love to take walks, play with my kids (Claire and Reece), read, hike, travel, and kayak. I'm also excited to hear what you are passionate about. For the first day of school, please bring in an item reflecting a fun summer experience. You will get a chance to share your show-and-tell item to the whole class.

Please have your child come prepared on the first day with all supplies and the summer artifact. Since the first day is a half-day, please include a healthy snack. I look forward to meeting you and developing a strong, collaborative partnership. I hope to see you at Back to School Night where we can talk more, and I can answer any questions you may have. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email. Thank you so much for your support as I prepare the classroom to ensure a positive start to the school year.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Dugan

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