

Dear First Grade Friends and Families,

September 8, 2020

Welcome back to another different, but exciting school year! I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. I am looking forward to getting to know my new students!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sharon Ricker and I will be your child's First Grade teacher this school year. This is my ninth year teaching! I am looking forward to exploring many new things with your child! I have previously worked at SCS in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. Your child's success in my classroom is my number one priority.

My philosophy for learning is that each child is unique, and each child learns in a different way. One of my jobs as a teacher is to help your child discover his or her individuality and work alongside them to maximize it. I believe in hands-on experiences and learning creatively. Although this year, this may look differently I am committed to finding safe ways that students can still have these hands-on experiences. My goal is to create a comfortable, student-oriented learning environment where all students can be successful.

During our first week of school, we will be spending time going over classroom procedures and getting to know each other. We will be taking this time to catch up on time missed since remote learning in the spring and building our classroom community. In an effort to reduce the amount of materials going back and forth between home and school (for Covid-19 health & safety purposes), I will not be assigning students homework. Once we start word work I will send home a list of the words for the week. We will be practicing them in class throughout the week and although it is not formal homework, it would be beneficial for your child to practice them at home. There will be times that I will send home paper books that they may keep. It is, however, still important for students to be practicing reading at home.

New this year, due to Covid-19 regulations, we will be eating all snacks and meals in the classroom. As a result, we are required to sign up for breakfast and lunch in advance. For the younger students we will be sending home a form on Monday for the following week. Please send this back by Friday or the last day of the week if it is a short week in order for us to give it to the kitchen.

As many of you know, communication between home and school is very important. The agenda is one way that we can keep this communication open. I will check these daily and ask that you do the same. I will also be making periodic calls to let you know how your child is doing. Another way to communicate with me is through email. I will be communicating through email a lot this year in order to reduce the amount of materials going home. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at school (246-7082) or by email ([sricker@scs.sau7.org](mailto:sricker@scs.sau7.org)).

Thank you,  
Sharon Ricker