



August 2025

Dear First Grade Families:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school. My name is Beth Lepper and I am excited to be your child's teacher this year! I live in DeWitt with my husband Phil and our two children Emma and Lucas. Emma is in 5th grade and Lucas is in 4th. Phil is a guidance counselor at Haslett High School. I received my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Michigan State University. This will be my 19<sup>th</sup> year of teaching; I was at East Olive Elementary for ten years and Gateway North for a year. This is my eighth year at Riley and I am thrilled to be part of this friendly community. Thank you for sharing your child with me this year. When I landed in first grade years ago, I knew I had found my niche in life. The academic gains children make in first grade are amazing and I look forward to working with you.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **August** Riley's Optional Open House *Wednesday, August 20th 5-7 PM*
- **August 25th** First Day of School
- **August 29th & September 1st** No School, Labor Day Weekend

**SUPPLIES:**

Students will store their supplies in their desks. While certainly not required, below is a list of suggested items your child will need. I will have extra supplies if kids need them.

- o Glue sticks (**No liquid glue, please**)
- o Kleenex (we use A LOT!!)
- o Box of Band-Aids
- o Zip lock baggies (any size)
- o Headphones/earbuds for Chromebook use
- o Pencils: wooden/not mechanical (pre-sharpened is very helpful ☺)
- o Crayons (16 count pack or less)
- o Markers/colored pencils
- o Scissors
- o 2 Dry-erase markers
- o Pencil box/container that will hold **all or most** of your child's supplies

***\*We go through a lot of Kleenex, black/thin dry erase markers and Clorox Wipes so please think about donating some to the classroom. You can bring items in at Open House or on the first day of school. THANK YOU!***

**BIRTHDAY TREATS/ INVITATIONS:**

Riley Elementary does not allow birthday treats to come to school, per the student handbook. Your child will be celebrated when we sing to them and when they choose a choice activity for the whole class to participate in. **We ask that you not send in birthday party invitations to be distributed in school.**

**SNACK TIME:**

In first grade, we do individual snacks as opposed to community snacks. Each afternoon, we will take some time to have a snack so please send something nutritious with your child (goldfish crackers, granola bar, fresh fruit, vegetables, etc.). **We are a peanut/nut free classroom due to allergies.**

**FRIDAY FOLDERS:**

You can expect to find important notes from the office and our classroom each week in your child's Friday Folder. Please return the folder to school each Monday.

**LUNCH MONEY:**

If you choose to order lunch you can pay online through the SJPS website. [SJPS Website](#)

I believe we are on the same team, so your support is greatly appreciated. Every two weeks I will communicate important dates, classroom content information, etc. through an email titled "First Grade Updates." The email address you provide in Infinite Campus is how I create the parent email group, so please be sure the correct email is in IC. Please call me if you have questions or concerns. My classroom phone number is 989-227-5167. You can also contact me by email at [lepperb@sjredwings.org](mailto:lepperb@sjredwings.org). The best times to contact me are from 8:40-9:00 and from 4:10 to 4:30. Evenings are not the best time for communication, as I am with my family.

I am eager to meet you at Open House!

Sincerely,

Beth Lepper

