



August 2024

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 4th grade and Lucas is in 3rd. 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 18th year of teaching; I was at East Olive Elementary for ten years and Gateway North for a year. This is my seventh 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 21st** - Riley's Open House 5-7 p.m.
- **August 26th** - First Day of School
- **August 30th & September 2nd**- No School, Labor Day Break

SUPPLIES:

Students will store their individual supplies in their desks. While certainly not required, some parents like to provide supplies for the classroom. Below is a list of suggested items that students will use throughout the year:

- Glue Sticks
- Zip lock baggies (gallon and sandwich sized)
- Headphones (unpackage them, make sure they fit your child and bring them in a ziplock bag with their name labeled on the baggie)
- Pencils: wooden/not mechanical (pre-sharpened ☺)
- Crayons (standard box ~ no more than 16 in a box)
- Scissors
- 2 thin dry-erase markers for whiteboard practice
- Pencil box/container to hold ALL of the items above

**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.*

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 a few minutes 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.

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. 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

