



Dear Soon to be First Grade Parents,

One of the most challenging transitions is soon to come for your child. Moving from Kindergarten to First grade can make your child feel excited and/or anxious. It will be important to prepare your son or daughter for next year, both emotionally and academically.

Some changes they are anticipating...

- Half day to full day
- Eating lunch and having recess at school every day
- Going to special area classes daily (art, computer, gym, library, music)
- Having their very own desk and pencil box, instead of tables and shared materials
- Higher expectations and working independently

Change they may not realize...

- New teacher, friends, and classroom
- Not being with their friends/the same kids from Kindergarten

Academically the curriculum will become more difficult. The first several weeks of First grade are a review of Kindergarten. Because Kindergarten is not mandatory in Pennsylvania, we do have an occasional student who did not attend a program. We also receive an influx of students coming from full day of private Kindergartens and the teachers need to make sure all students have the basic skills to move forward with the curriculum.

If you find that your child is experiencing difficulties, the most important thing you can do is speak with your child's new teacher. She/he will be able to offer suggestions about how to specifically meet your child's needs.

Tips for a successful transition to First Grade:

Please feel free to review and reteach these skills/concepts over the summer...

- Read every day! Leveled readers are great!
- Your child will have access to their kindergarten RazKid's log-in throughout the summer. www.razkids.com)
- Letters and sounds should be mastered
- Word building
- Sight words
- Read simple sentences
- Practice printing skills (correct letter formation using writing lines - without reversals)
- Number identification and counting 1-100
- Simple addition and subtraction (in Kindergarten we build equations using manipulatives...in First Grade, the students will work on memorizing their basic facts to 20... flash cards are great tools!)
- Money identification and knowing each coin's value
- Time to the hour
- Set aside time every day for quiet sit down time; especially as the beginning of the school year approaches.
- Practice tying shoes
- Memorize address and phone number
- Practice student id# (pin numbers) for the cafeteria

Check out the Wexford Elementary website! You will find a multitude of fun & educational websites your child may enjoy that will incorporate most of the skills listed above.

