



August 15, 2017

Dear New First Grader,

Welcome to first grade! Our names are Mrs. Ortmann and Mrs. Clarke and we are going to be your first grade teachers this year! Mrs. Ortmann will be on maternity leave at the start of the school year taking care of her family and her youngest daughter that was just born in May. As a result, Mrs. Clarke will be your teacher at the start of the school year until early October. She is looking forward to meeting you all very soon. Mrs. Clarke had fun rowing with her team on the Chicago River and spending time with her three boys and husband. Mrs. Ortmann kept busy at the pool, on a couple of vacations, and spending as much time with her girls (Elizabeth, Charlotte, and Claire) as she could.

Throughout the year you will be learning a lot of new things, including some new things about both of us. One cool fact about Mrs. Clarke is that she taught second grade at Central last year. One interesting fact about Mrs. Ortmann is that she was born in Paris, France, which means that she speaks French too! We think that it is also really important for you to know that we LOVE books. Not only do we like reading them ourselves, but we also like being read to, listening to other people read, and teaching kids to become better readers. We will be reading books about worms, books that make us laugh out loud, animal fact books, wordless books, poetry books, feel-good books, and many more.

Reading books also helps us learn new things. In first grade, we will always be learning new things. Some of the things we will learn about are animals, famous heroes, weather, numbers, and patterns. Do you already know some facts about these things? We will also get to do some wacky science experiments, play new math games, and write our own stories!

Mrs. Clarke looks forward to meeting you on Tuesday, September 5th for your first day of school! Remember to bring all of your supplies with you, but don't worry about putting them all away. Mrs. Clarke will help you with all of that.

We are both looking forward to a year of fun and learning with you!!

With Lots of Love,

SCHOOL PHONE 847.251.3252 EXT. 6140

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