



August 15, 2018

Dear New First Grader,

Welcome to first grade! My name is Mrs. Ortman and I am going to be your first grade teacher this year. I have had a busy summer with my three girls - Elizabeth, Charlotte, and Claire, and Mr. Ortman. We have loved going to the pool, going on bike and scooter rides, and even going on a couple of vacations. We went to Colorado for a family reunion and it sure was beautiful to be in the mountains over the summer. Plus, Mr. Ortman and I did a bike race from Ames, IA to Iowa City, IA. It was hard but so much fun! I can't wait to find out all about the adventures you had this summer.

Throughout the year you will be learning a lot of new things, including some new things about me. One of the coolest facts about me is that I was born in Paris, France, which means that I speak French too! I think that it is also really important for you to know that I LOVE books. Not only do I like reading them myself, but I 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!

I cannot wait to meet you on Thursday, August 30th for your first half-day of school! We are going to have the best year together. Remember to bring all of your supplies with you, but don't worry about putting them all away. Mrs. Ortman will help you with all of that.

I am looking forward to a year of fun and learning with you!!

With Lots of Love,

Mrs. Ortman

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