



September 2, 2014

Dear Family,

Welcome back! I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to welcome your child to my class. My name is Kirsten Tahara, and I will be your child's first grade teacher for the 2014-2015 school year. I am looking forward to the work and growth we will all accomplish together this year.

Three of my focuses for this school year are: 1) improving your child's literacy skills by working in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking; 2) helping your child establish a strong foundation in the area of mathematics; and 3) creating a challenging and positive learning environment that will make and keep your child excited about coming to school everyday. I have high expectations and believe that all students can learn. My main goal is to have all of my students leave class in June prepared for success in the second grade.

A critical factor in ensuring student success this year is making sure that your child completes his/her daily assignments accurately, neatly, and promptly. Every Monday through Thursday, I will be sending home *daily* assignments in a homework folder. **The homework assignment for each day is to be completed and returned in the same folder on the following morning.** For example, Monday's assignments are due first thing in the morning on Tuesday. If the assignment is not completed or turned in, your child will have to make up the work during his/her recess(es) and/or during Homework Hall on Fridays. Homework assignments will ultimately affect your child's overall grade. More importantly, however, it will affect your child's ability to be successful in meeting the first grade standards. I encourage you to spend at least thirty minutes per night with your child working on the written homework assignment. An additional twenty to thirty minutes should be spent on reading to and/or with your child, so that altogether nightly homework takes approximately one hour. You can gauge this and spend more or less time with your child, depending on his/her individual needs.

It is very important to me that there is open communication and consistency between the parent and teacher as well as the home and school. I will support you in any way that I can and hope that I can count on your support in return. We need to work together for positive student achievement and a successful school year. *Please check your child's folder daily for homework as well as parent newsletters updating you on community, school, and classroom events.*

Again, welcome! Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have. My classroom door is always open, and messages can be left for me with our office manager, to which I will respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kirsten Tahara
(916) 433-5444