

John T. Pirie Fine Arts & Academic Center
650 E. 85th Street
Chicago, IL 60619

June 20, 2017

Dear Parents of Incoming First Graders,

Great job Kindergarten students and parents on completing such a successful school year! First grade is just around the corner and to help us get off to a running start, here are a few things that you can do to ensure that your soon-to-be first grader is prepared for this transition: Have your child write and read everyday; the more they practice, the better their skills will develop.

First grade focuses a great deal on phonics: Phonics teaches the student to read by using the sounds of the letters in a word. As you read with your child, model sounding out the words. As well, they should be able to answer the following questions before, after and during reading: *Who* was the story about? *What* happened in the story? *Where* did the story take place? *When* did the story take place? *How* did everything happen (what happened first, second, and last)?

Practice counting up to 120, counting by 5's and 10's would be a great skill to develop, as well as working with beginning addition and subtraction problems. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and we cannot do this alone; with your teamwork, we are sure that we will have a very successful school year. Attached, you will find a copy of the first grade sight words, please review them over the summer. Below you will find a copy of the school supply list. We look forward to a very exciting and productive school year!

School Supply List	
1 backpack (labeled with first and last name)	2 packs of Wide-Ruled Notebook paper
3- folders (plastic- with prongs and pockets) -Please don't label	2- Index Cards, 3x5, Ruled
36 <i>sharpened</i> #2 pencils	2- Boxes of colored pencils
3 Glue sticks	2- 70 sheet Wide Ruled Notebooks
2 boxes of crayons	3 boxes of Kleenex
1 box of markers	1 roll of paper towels
Headphones for computers (Sold at Target & Walmart)	1- 8 oz. bottles of Liquid Hand Sanitizer
1- 8 oz. bottles of Liquid Hand Soap	2- Composition notebooks (if possible Wide Ruled)
2 boxes of Zip Lock Bags (1 gallon and 1 sandwich size)	1 pair of scissors
	3 containers of Clorox Wipes
2 packs of White Copy Paper.	

Best regards,
Ms. Brewton & Ms. Matthews