



Welcome to First Grade!

Congratulations on completing Kindergarten at Paper Mill Elementary School! You worked hard and you did it!

We hope you have a fun summer with lots of time to relax, play, and read good books.

The First Grade teachers will be busy planning for next year, but we'll have some fun, too! We all plan to spend time with our families and friends at the beach. We'll also be reading lots of good books!

Parents: How can you help your child get ready for first grade?

Most importantly, your child should spend time reading and being read to. Ask your child questions about what they've heard to promote comprehension skills. Check out the Summer Reading Program at the Westfield Athenaeum. Students can earn prizes while reading great books!

Here are some other suggestions for summer learning:

- Play with other children. Practice listening, taking turns, and playing by the rules.
- Write and illustrate your own stories.
- Play board games and card games to practice math skills.
- Practice writing your first and last name using correct upper and lower case letters. Use sidewalk chalk, shaving cream, or markers!
- Practice adding and subtracting using objects around the house.
- If you are looking for some educational technology over the summer, here are some good ones: Starfall.com, Boddlelearning.com, Abcya.com

School Supplies:

Stores will soon be putting up their back to school displays. If you want to take advantage of summer sales, here are some suggestions. In first grade, we use a community supply system. Please do NOT write your child's name on these supplies

- markers
- glue sticks
- tissues and clorox wipes
- Black dry erase markers
- Hand sanitizer
- Ziploc bags- gallon bags and sandwich size
- sturdy headphones- no earbuds please. These are used for assessment and daily practice. Good quality headphones will last the entire year. This is one item that SHOULD be marked with your child's name.

*Students do not need pens, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, liquid glue, folders, or notebooks.

The school will be in touch later in the summer with information about class assignments. Best wishes for a relaxing, enjoyable summer!

Mrs. Colbert, Miss Horner, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mrs. Byrnes