

Welcome Back To School

2009– 2010

August 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year at Saint John Fisher. I am so excited to be your son or daughter's first grade teacher this year. There are so many new things that we will explore and learn throughout the year!

The first thing that I would like to do is introduce myself. My name is Barbara Talowski and this will be my fifth year teaching here at Saint John Fisher. As some of you already know, I got engaged this past Christmas Eve. Not only will I be teaching your child this year, I will also be planning my wedding that will take place July 10, 2010.

To try and make your child and every child in the class feel comfortable and safe, the first few weeks of school will be a time where the students will get acquainted with each other and me. The students will get to know me, while I get to know about them. Every child is different and unique in its own way, which will make our class unlike any other first grade class.

There are so many fun and interesting things to learn and explore in First Grade. I hope to work together with you to make this a great year for your child. I look forward in meeting each of you. I would like to thank you in advance for all your help in this school year. You are a big part in this class just like your child is. So thank you for everything that you have done so far and what you will do this year!

The next couple of pages are some things that you might want to know about our classroom and how it runs day to day. Please read, fill in, sign, and return the necessary sheets by the date noted.

Sincerely,
Miss Barbara Talowski

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Questionnaire:

In this packet of information there are some information sheets about your child for you to fill out. This information will help me get to know your child. Please share any information that I should be aware of such as: food allergies, bee stings, asthma, or any vision or hearing problems. Please fill out the First Grade Questionnaire and return it to me by Friday, Sept. 4th.

Absence:

- According to the school handbook, homework will not be sent home a daily basis. If your child is absent for an extended period of time the school work will be sent on the 3rd day. Your child will receive a folder marked "ABSENT FOLDER" which will contain all their work. They will have several days to make up their work. Please send any missed work back to school in that folder.
- If your child is running a fever or has any H1N1 flu symptoms, please keep your child at home. A child must be symptom/fever free for a full 24 hours before returning to school. The office
- The office will call you to pick up your child if they have a temperature of 100 or higher.
- **VERY IMPORTANT! A note MUST accompany your child the day they return to school as to why they were absent.**

Arrival/Dismissal:

- This year the First Graders will be lining up at the glass church foyer doors on Fairfield. These are the same doors that we entered last year BUT instead of lining up on the parking lot will line up right outside our doors.
- (It is the school policy that parents have to say goodbye to their children outside of the school building. This truly is for the safety of the children. Adults are not to enter the building without going through the office and signing in. Our patrol people do not know all of the parents and to be honest neither do the teachers.) The students should not enter the building until I come out to pick them up, which will be every morning.
- At the end of the school day, I will walk the students out and dismiss them outside the same doors. I will **ONLY** dismiss the students when they see their parent/or person who will be picking them up.

Folders:

The children will be using two folders each day.

- Their "SCHOOL" folder stays in their desk with papers we use every day.
- Their "HOME" folder will travel back and forth to school everyday. Any mail or notes we have for each other should be sent in that folder. You will also find any homework papers, graded papers and any correspondence from the school office in there. There might be some days when the "HOME" folder will be empty!
- If you send anything to school that needs to go to the office, please label it with your child's name, room number and what the envelope contains. Example: Child's name, Room 112, Tuition

Lunch and Snack Time:

- This year our lunchtime is from 11:25 – 11:45.
- We will have a short 5 minute snack time in the morning. Please provide your child with a small, healthy snack that is easy to eat and not messy! Some examples are dry cereal, granola or cereal bar, pretzels, or graham crackers – nothing with a spoon. Your child should not bring a drink for snack time. Candy and chips should be saved for lunchtime.

STAR OF THE WEEK:

- We will have a “Star of the Week” student every week. The students are very excited when it’s their turn. A new “STAR” will be chosen every Friday. I will be the first “STAR” just so they can see what to do when it’s their turn. I will send a separate note about this when it is your child’s turn.

Birthdays:

- Birthdays are a very special for children. Your child will get to wear a birthday crown for the day and receive some other surprises. You are welcome to send a birthday treat on your child’s birthday. Please refrain from sending cupcakes or sheet cakes. They can become very messy. Individually wrapped treats work best. Brownies, cookies, candy, or fruit roll ups are some suggestions. As of this printing, I do not know of any food allergies. We have 19 students in our class.

Labeling:

- Please be sure to LABEL **ALL** of your child’s personal items especially, SWEATERS, GYM PANTS, SWEATSHIRTS, BACKPACKS, LUNCHBOXES, and all other school supplies. Please replace and supplies when they are gone. I will send a note home when something is running out.

Book Orders:

- I will be sending home Scholastic Book Club order forms on a monthly basis. Some months there maybe more than catalog. Scholastic offers wonderful choices of books and they are usually cheaper than most book stores. It’s completely optional should you choose to order any books. If you decide to order, please fill out the order form and return with payment of CHECK only made out to **SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB** in an envelope with your child’s name on it.
- At times I will be sending home Highlights Magazine order forms. This is also completely optional. The magazines come to your home periodically. If you choose to order the magazine, fill the form out completely and send to school the next day. No payment is needed. If you choose not to order the magazine I ask you to check no and simply sign the form and return it to school the next day. The class can earn free things from Highlights by simply mailing in all the signed forms! Even if no one in the whole class orders a magazine we will still receive free educational tools. I thank you in advance for your help with this 😊

Special Classes:

- Our special classes are as follows:

Monday: Mass

Tuesday: Computers

Wednesday: Gym

Thursday: Music

Friday: Art/Library (the group is divided in half, they will alternate going to art one week and library the next.)

Questions:

Please feel free to send me a note, email, or call the school if you ever have any questions or concerns. I am also available at the end of the day on the playground at dismissal time, except Wednesdays.