




Welcome First Grade Families,


I would like to welcome you to our classroom! I am Mrs. Troutman, and I will be your child's 1st Grade teacher this year. I am looking forward to meeting all of my students and parents very soon. I know there will be feelings of nervousness and excitement as we prepare to return to school. In this letter I will provide basic information about what to expect on the first day and hope to alleviate a little of the stress that comes with starting the new school year:

- School begins on **Monday, August 1st**.
- Please plan to arrive a little early if you intend to walk your child to the designated drop-off. There is limited parking in the lot and additional parking out on the street at the front and rear of the school.
- **1st-3rd grade** students will enter through the front gate or main entrance of the school. **Gates will open to students at 8:20 and class begins at 8:30.** Students will be walking straight to their classroom each morning.
- On the first day, I will be at the gate area to greet students and walk them to our classroom (B2). **I will carry a small umbrella so students can easily identify me.**
- Please prepare to say "Goodbye" to your 1st Grader at the gate. It will make the drop-off routine much easier.
- **After-school pick-up** will be at this same gate entrance. **Dismissal is at 2:35.** I will walk the children out and line them up here for pick-up.
- **Please observe our after-school pick-up procedures.** If you intend to pick up by walking to the gate, you will need to park in the lot or on the street first. **PLEASE OBSERVE ALL TRAFFIC SAFETY PROCEDURES.** Use designated crosswalks and please don't jaywalk against traffic in the lot. We want to follow all safety precautions for the children, for ourselves and for others.

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- If you intend to use the **drive-through pick-up procedure**, you must remain in your car and follow staff directives, as they facilitate the flow of traffic. You will pull around to the curb near our gate, and your child will be walked over to your vehicle by school staff. We ask that you NOT leave your car when using the drive-through pick-up. You will be asked to pull forward and keep the flow of traffic moving.
 - In this first week, please plan to arrive early (if possible) when dropping and picking up your child. We ask for lots of patience as we all return to campus. Expect it to be a little hectic and plan accordingly.
 - **Please talk with your child about the plan for pick-up.** Make sure your child knows who will be coming for them. Please coordinate if there is an older sibling who also attends John Muir and will be walking over to meet your 1st Grader at the gate after school. Know that dismissal time for intermediate students (4th-6th) is at 2:41. Little ones get extremely stressed if they don't know the plan!
 - If your 1st Grader is enrolled in the **After School Program**, please let me know ASAP, so we can start this routine.
 - **For late pick-ups (after 2:50)**, students will be walked over to wait for their parent in the main office.

Mrs. Troutman's 1st Graders will need to bring the following items to school on the first day of school:

- **A standard backpack** (No wheels please)
 - **A water bottle with water only; NO JUICE!**
 - **3 large size black EXPO brand whiteboard markers**
 - **A pack of JUMBO Glue-Sticks**
 - **1 standard plastic lidded pencil box.** (They are .99 at Walmart or Target) Please do not send any other kind of container, such as metal clasp box, mesh bag, or tin pencil box.
 - **A light sweatshirt** (It gets really cold in the classroom!)
 - **Chromebook (fully charged) and charger cord**
- (Your child must bring the Chromebook to school every day.)



Please know that all other school supplies will be provided for your child. Do not send any additional supplies beyond what I have listed above.

I realize that this is a whole lot of information, so I thank you for your patience in reading all of this! Communication will be key to our success this year. I will be using the **"Bloomz" app** as one way to communicate with parents. This app can be used on your smartphone or computer. This will enable you to receive quick class updates, sign up for conferences, and send/receive private messages from me. I will be sending home step-by-step directions for you to join this communication platform within the first week of school.

District email is another way for us to communicate. I try to check my messages several times throughout the day. My email address is ltroutman@lodiussd.net. Please send me a test email so I know I have your most current email address.

During the first two weeks of school, the children and I will be spending time getting to know each other and establishing classroom routines and procedures. Again, I am looking forward to getting to know all my new 1st Graders and their families and beginning a positive year of social and academic growth.

Thank you,
Laura Troutman