Welcome First Grader and Family,

I would like to welcome you to my class. My name is Mrs. Armstrong and I will be your teacher for the school year. My name was Ms. Bednarz, but I got married during the summer break and now I'm Mrs. Armstrong. I am excited to meet you and get to know all of you as we begin the school year. This school year may come with many challenges, but with a positive attitude and flexibility we can make it great! I am hoping to give enough information to make the transition to First Grade not so stressful.

The new CDC / District guidelines for schools says that students, teachers and visitors will wear masks inside buildings, but can remove them if they feel comfortable when outside. Please practice mask wearing skills before school starts. As much as possible students will be eating lunch outside. Some of last year's First Graders found it helpful to bring a towel to sit on in the grass.

This year I will be using email to communicate with families. My email address jbednarz@lodiusd.net (until the district is able to change my name) to reach me. Please send me a test email.

Please help set your First Grader up for success. They will need a pencil box (standard size, about \$1 at Walmart or Target, no supplies) and a backpack(no wheels). First Graders will bring their chromebooks back and charger between school and home daily. The classroom can be chilly in the morning. A sweatshirt kept in the backpack in case it's too cold. PLEASE DO NOT SEND EXTRA SUPPLIES OR ITEMS TO SCHOOL.

Breakfast is being served at 8:05 before school. Students will enter the cafeteria door located near the office door outside the gates. At 8:20 the students eating breakfast will be walked to the classroom. Students may bring lunch from home or the cafeteria will be providing lunch.

1st-3rd grade students will come in through the gate near the Kindergarten playground. The gate will open at 8:20 and First Graders walk straight to our class. Please be prepared to say goodbye to your First Grader at the gate as parents will not be able to go inside the gate. I will be outside the 1st day to greet and guide students to our classroom A6. School starts at 8:30. Dismissal time is 2:35, I will walk students to the same gate to meet their pickup person. The area outside the gate is a drive through area. Teachers will help students into your car (open the car door, close the car door). If you use the car pick up area you will need to stay in the car. If your child has an older sibling in

in grades 4th-6th(they get out of school 6 minutes later), or will be going to After School Care please email your First Graders plan for pick up. The back gate is opened for drop off and pick up also. If you are walking or parking on the street and walking in PLEASE USE THE CROSSWALKS, we need to be good role models and be safe.

I would like to try something new this year. I would like to have First Grades wear slippers or classroom shoes in the classroom. Slippers must have a hard sole incase we have a fire drill and need to quickly leave the classroom. A croc like shoe would work also. My reasoning is it will help keep our classroom floor cleaner and to add some comfort during our learning day.

I would like to invite parents to **Back to School Night, on August 12th** (more information to come later) I will share our daily schedule, procedures, routines, and an overview of the programs we will be using in First Grade.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of my new First Graders and begin an exciting year of social and academic growth. I can not wait to meet everyone on August 2nd! Please don't forget to take your First Grader's 1st day of school picture and email a copy to me.

Thank you, Mrs. Armstong