

Welcome to First Grade!

Hi! My name is Amy Pitsch and I am so happy to be part of the Hopkins Elementary School staff. More importantly, I am thrilled to be your child's first grade teacher. It is going to be a fun year full of lots of learning and new adventures. I can't wait to learn all about you, but first I'm going to tell you a few things about me.

This will be my 15th year teaching first grade and I feel truly lucky to do a job I am passionate about. I am a graduate of Western Michigan University. When I am not teaching, I love spending time with my three children. They keep us very busy. I also enjoy going to the beach, and going camping.

I know my teaching must begin with making your child feel at home in the classroom and helping all the children come together into a learning community. This community will be made up of unique individuals each with his or her own learning style, strengths, interests, hopes, and dreams.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you and your child. We are going to have a FANTASTIC year! Included with this letter is an informational outlook about the new school year and a supply list. If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email. Thanks in advance for all of your support; I'm looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Pitsch

amypits@hpsvikings.org

(269) 793-7261 ext. 4103

Important Information

First Day

* Each child needs a large **backpack** that comes to school every day. Please make sure that all lunch money is in an envelope that has your child's name on it. I will supply "Daily Folders" that will be used to send home important notes, art projects, and newsletters. When sending things to school like lunch money, bus notes, and other important notes, please put them in your child's daily folder.

*We will have a **snack time** each day. Please plan on something for your child to eat that is quick and easy to eat. Some suggestions include: pretzels, fruit snacks, fresh fruit, cheese, or crackers. (Please do not send pop or candy).

School Hours

School begins each day at 7:45 AM, and dismisses at 2:55 PM. If you are picking up your child, please send a note stating this on the first day.

Breakfast

The school serves breakfast every morning. If your child is going to eat breakfast at school, he/she should go to the cafeteria for breakfast before reporting to the classroom. If you let me know your child is supposed to be eating breakfast, I will do my best to be sure he/she gets there.

Lunch

Your child will eat lunch in our cafeteria. Hot lunch, which includes milk, is available every day. You may also send a cold lunch with your child. Hot lunch will be served on the first day of school. **Please send lunch money or a cold lunch.** Milk can be purchased for cold lunch eaters. Lunchboxes/bags should be labeled with your child's name. You may send as much hot lunch money as you want to. The cafeteria prefers that you pay for at least one week at a time, if possible. Please send money in an envelope with your child's name and teacher's name. Be sure to write that it is lunch money so we know to send it to the cafeteria.

Free and reduced lunch forms are available in the office. Know that if your child is eligible for free lunch he/she is also eligible for free/reduced breakfast. You only need one form per family. If you have participated in this program in the past you will need to fill out a **new form** for this school year.

Volunteers & Field Trip

All volunteers must have a **completed background check** on file at the school. The background check will be needed for field trips as well. You may go to hpsvikings.org and under "Family Resources" you will see Volunteer Background Check and fill it out. This will expedite the process of filling a form out and turning it in.

1st Grade Supply List

Your child will need:

- A backpack
- Hardcover pencil box
- (1) wide ruled notebook
- A snack to bring to school each day
- 5 dry-erase markers
- Pencils
- Glue sticks (4)
- A pair of scissors
- A box of crayons
- (2) highlighters
- (1) Two pocket folders
- 1 pair of earbuds or headphones
- 1 pack of pink erasers
- Gym shoes (to be worn inside only)
- Water bottle that will come home daily to be washed

Our classroom "wish list" includes:

- Extra glue sticks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Graham crackers & Pretzels (any extra snacks)
- Lysol Wipes
- Color Pencils
- Playdoh
- Large Bags