



Welcome to First Grade!



Hello Families!

My name is Becky Washburn, and I will be your child's 1st grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year! I have included some very important information about the beginning of 1st grade to help you and your child make a smooth transition into the school year. I am excited to get to know you and your child, but for now, let me tell you a bit about myself!

I grew up in Florissant, Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Before moving to Michigan, I taught 2nd grade for the Ferguson – Florissant School District. I am a coach for Rocket Cheerleading and Middle / High School Competitive Cheerleading. This will be my eighth year teaching 1st grade. My husband Lance and I have four children and three of them attend Hopkins Public Schools and one will begin college this fall. In my free time I love taking photos and spending time with my family.

As your child enters first grade, I want you to know that your child will be learning and growing so much this year! I look forward to beginning that adventure with them! 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. Becky Washburn
beckwash@hpsvikings.org
(269) 793-7261 ext. 4108



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.

*Each child needs a **hard cover pencil box** to store their pencils, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, (1) wide ruled notebooks, and whiteboard markers.

***Other helpful items to buy for your child:** glue sticks, pencils, and index cards to practice spelling and vocabulary words at home.

*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).

***Our classroom "wish list" includes:** color pencils, markers, extra glue sticks, and snacks

*If your child is still prone to having an occasional accident (especially in new situations) you may want to send an extra change of clothes with him/her on the first day. That way we can quickly fix the problem and get on with the day.

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.

Classroom Facebook Page

All parents/guardians are invited to be part of our classroom page. **For the safety of my students, I only allow parents/guardians to be part of the group.** I highly encourage you to be part of this group so that you have communication at your fingertips. I love to share pictures as well as keep you updated with any reminders. Our group name will be: Mrs. Washburn's 1st Grade 2024-2025.

1st Grade Supply List

Your child will need:

- A backpack
- Hardcover pencil box
- A snack to bring to school each day
- 4 dry-erase markers
- Pencils
- Glue sticks
- A pair of scissors
- A box of crayons
- (2) highlighters
- (1) Two pocket folder
- 1 pair of earbuds or headphones
- 1 pack of pink erasers
- (2 packs) index cards
- 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 / glue bottles
- Crayons
- Markers
- Graham crackers & Pretzels (any extra snacks)
- Color Pencils
- Kleenex
- Gallon Sized Ziploc bags