



August 2009

Dear First Grade Parents,

I wanted to take a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Julie Bisciotti and your child will be in my first grade classroom this year. I am very excited about school starting and hope that you and your child are experiencing the same enthusiasm!

This will be my 13th year teaching first grade at Briarwood school. I absolutely love this age level and look forward to all of the learning and growth that will take place this year!

A bit about myself...I live in North Greece with my husband, Nick, and our two beautiful children, Victoria and Alex. Victoria is eight years old and is very excited to be starting third grade! Alex is 5 years old and is looking forward to starting kindergarten at the same school as his big sister! I feel fortunate that I was able to be home with my children this summer and had the opportunity to make some wonderful memories with them. Aside from teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the movies, exercising, dancing, reading, and scrapbooking.

I have attached an informational sheet to help you and your child get ready for the upcoming school year. You may want to refer to it from time to time. **Please note: there is not a supply list this school year** (I think a short supply list for two items was sent home with placement letters; please disregard). The district has purchased supplies for your children.

I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at school (336-1610), leave me a voicemail (336-3150, ext, 48772), or email me (Julie_Bisciotti@westironmonroe.edu). I hope you and your family enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Julie Bisciotti

First Grade Information - Julie Bisciotti's Class

1. **Monthly Calendars:**
These calendars are usually sent home as close to the first day of each month, usually in your child's round trip folder. Please go over them with your child so he/she can anticipate some of the various activities that will take place throughout the month.
2. **School Times:**
School day- 9:00 AM – 3:05 PM
Lunch/Recess- 12:00 – 1:00 PM
3. **Specials (schedule may change; this is last year's schedule):**
A, C, E days- PE
B, E days- Music
D days- Library
S days- Art
4. **Excuses:**
Please call the school office each day your child is absent from school, preferably before the start of your child's school day. When he/she returns to school, please send in a *written excuse* stating the dates your child missed school and the reason for the absence. Also, please send in a written note each time your child is tardy.
5. **Snacks:**
Please send in a healthy snack for your individual child to eat each morning for snack break. Some suggestions are fruit, veggies, yogurt, cheese, pudding, pretzels, or granola bars. I try to discourage chips, cookies, or candy. Please be sure that your child can open the snack easily, and if a spoon is needed; please send one.
6. **Milk Money, etc:**
Children may buy milk from school on a daily basis. Please check the information sent home from the office regarding the price (last year it was 45 cents). I do not have change, so please send in the exact amount if at all possible. In addition, pizza and submarine sandwiches are available for purchase throughout the school year, as well as ice cream (which will be new this year). Look for upcoming information regarding this, as well.
7. **Supplies:**
Families do not need to purchase supplies this year.
8. **Home Folders:**
Your child will be given a homework folder. This folder is for bringing home his/her homework and any completed and corrected work. Please try to check and empty this folder *daily and return it* in his/her backpack.
9. **Round Trip Folders:**
This is a folder for parent information and announcements from the classroom, school, or community. They are sent home usually on Wednesdays and should be returned to school on Thursdays for re-use the next week.

10. Library Books

Your child will go to the library each "D" day. In addition, he/she will have opportunities to exchange his/her book throughout the week.

9. Birthday Treats:

Birthdays (regular, summer, or ½ birthdays) may be recognized at school if you and your child wish. A note or phone call *in advance* would be helpful so I may plan time for the class to enjoy the treat and make arrangements for children with special dietary needs, if applicable. **It is preferred that treats be dropped off in the morning, prior to the start of the school day.** I will keep the treats in a safe place until the class can enjoy them. Please save party hats, birthday cakes, goodie bags, toys, etc, for your child's personal party at home. Don't forget, due to health regulations, only store-bought food is allowed. **Also, please do not send cupcakes or cookie cakes, as the frosting tends to stain the rugs at school (and the kids rarely finish these). Instead, please send easy treats such as Little Debbie or Hostess wrapped snacks, small cookies, wrapped Rice Krispies treats, etc.**

10. Clothing:

Clothing should be simple, washable, safe, and easy to manage independently. Your child will most likely go outside daily for recess, so please make sure he/she is prepared with the proper outdoor clothing for certain weather and temperature conditions. Please be aware that in the winter time, recess can be held outside so snow pants, gloves/mittens, hats, etc. will be needed. Please label these items as many children have similar clothing. On PE days, your child should have his/her sneakers.

11. Backpacks:

If possible, have your child's backpack be large enough to hold his/her sneakers, library books, art projects, folders, etc. Although, we have found the kind with wheels may not fit into the school lockers. Be sure your child's backpack will fit into a 9" x 10" locker, and your child's bus pass is securely fastened to the outside of the backpack. I encourage you to check your child's backpack nightly, as they can get quite full!

12. Book Orders:

Book flyers showing various inexpensive books that you can purchase for your child will be sent home monthly during the year. If you are interested in any of the books, simply return the orders in a labeled envelope with a check payable to the individual book clubs (book club names will be on the front of the flyers). Please do not send cash. The "due date" for orders will be marked on the monthly calendars. Once the order is sent in, the books usually arrive within 2 weeks.

13. Volunteers:

If you are interested in volunteering in our classroom this year, please call me at Briarwood School or leave me a voicemail. Volunteer opportunities usually start in October or November and I will have volunteer sign-ups posted during Curriculum Night and Open House.

14. Web site:

As part of my on-going communication with you throughout the school year, I will be maintaining a classroom webpage. This will include past newsletters, information, and possibly student work and pictures. To visit the website, simply go to westirondequoit.org, click on "schools", "Briarwood", and "Mrs. Bisciotti's homepage."