August 22, 2014

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Mrs. Galusha’s First Grade Classroom! A big year of growth is ahead, I am eagerly anticipating the start of the school year and working with you and your child! Below is general information to help us transition from summer to school.

**Dates to Remember**

* Tuesday, August 26th is Open House from 8:00-10:00am. Come and see the classroom, meet your teacher, and ask questions. Please bring your children and any completed paperwork!
* Wednesday, August 27th is the first day of school! (full day)
* Monday, September 1st is Labor Day – No School
* Thursday, September 25th is Curriculum Night! More information coming soon.

**Arrivals and Dismissals**

Arrivals- School starts at 8:08am. I will meet students at the side door by our classroom (near the community gardens) when the bell rings. Students may also enter through the main door at the front of the building, or come straight from the breakfast program.

Students enter the room, head to the carpet area where they have a job to do, then we start our Morning Meeting. I ask that parents please leave children at the door to start their day independently. This helps students get used to our morning routines and responsibilities. Guests are welcomed during Morning Meeting and will be sending out invitations once school starts. Thank you!

Dismissal- This year, students will be dismissed at 2:50pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and at 1:50pm on Wednesdays. The class will be dismissed right out the side door by the community gardens when the bell rings.

**Learning Materials**

Champlain School has purchased all the materials necessary for first grade, so you will not be asked to send anything from home such as markers, pencil boxes, pencils, crayons, etc. Our classroom has an abundance of excellent learning materials and activities and limited storage space, so supplies, toys, and other items from home are not necessary. Thank you for your help.

Your child has her or his own coat hook and shelf space in the hallway. Please feel free to send a warm layer or change of clothes for the air conditioning and any accidents that might happen during the day. Water bottles are welcomed and encouraged!

**Specials Schedule**

Monday: Music with Ms. Greene and P.E. with Ms. Charbonneau (please send sneakers!)

Tuesday: Music with Ms. Greene

Wednesday: P.E. with Ms. Charbonneau (please send sneakers!) and Computer Lab with Mrs. Galusha

Thursday: Learning Center with Ms. Ames

Friday: Guidance with Mrs. Prouty and Art with Ms. Peck

**Participation and Communication**

I value family partnership and want you to feel informed, welcomed, and involved. There will be many opportunities for you to participate this year. For example, you’ll be invited to Morning Meetings, Readers’ Workshop, work celebrations, performances, field trips, lunch visits, assemblies, conferences, and in just a few weeks, for Curriculum Night! I also love having family members come to share an area of expertise or a piece of your culture with the class.

Every Friday your child will come home with a weekly newsletter to keep you informed about our work throughout the year. Please feel free to email me anytime at jgalusha@bsdvt.org. You can also call the school at (802) 864-8477 or send in a note with your child. Both Fall and Spring conferences will be scheduled this year, and are happy to meet with you as needed during the year should any concerns arise.

We have a class website where you can find curriculum information, access our weekly newsletters, and see pictures of us at work! You can visit us at [www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com](http://www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com). You can also follow us on twitter @galusha1stgrade.

Please check your child’s backpack daily for class work and notes from school.

I am looking forward to a great year in First Grade! Please contact me if you have any questions. Hope to see you at Open House!

Sincerely,

Jeannine E. Galusha

jgalusha@bsdvt.org [www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com](http://www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com) Twitter @galusha1stgrade

Champlain Elementary School (802) 864-8477