**Important information and dates**

**September 4**  
First Day of School (12:15 Dismissal)  
**September 4-6**  
12:15 Dismissal  
**September 9**  
Before and Aftercare  
Programs Begin

**September 19**

Back to School Night

**Literacy**

**Phonics:** Our phonics curriculum will be guided by the Wilson Fundations Program. Fundations is a strategic and systematic approach to teaching spelling, reading, fluency, vocabulary and confidence in literacy! In the month of September we will be reviewing the medial, short vowel sounds of a,e,i,o,u. We will learn the how to lead sound drills and tap out the sounds in words with out fingers.

**Handwriting:** Handwriting will begin with a review of proper techniques and pencil grip. We want to make sure students have correct posture and placement of fingers when holding a pencil so they are comfortable and confident when writing. We will also discuss how to form letters with the proper strokes. September will be the time to practice letter formation.

**Writing:** First grade will focus on the components of a sentence including a subject and verb. We will also review that sentences begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation.

**Comprehension Skills:** To build comprehension skills, we will begin by having a whole group read twice a week, followed by a grand conversation. We will be working on identifying key elements in a story in order to summarize the events with pictures and words. Throughout first grade students will also be introduced to the Junie B. Jones chapter book series. When time allots at the end of the day we will read a few chapters with the students.

\*Here is a list of books we will this month-

\*David Goes to School

\*No David!

\*Stop, Drop, and Roll!

\* It’s Time for School Stinky Face

\* First Fay Jitters

\*The Sandwich Swap

\*This School Year Will be the Best!

**Math:** In math, we will begin with addition and ways to compose numbers using counters and other manipulatives. Math will be taught primarily using the Envision 2.0 Curriculum. The website can be accessed at home for students to practice math skills.

**Science:** We will be exploring the characteristics of living and non-living things and studying the relationship between plants and animals. Students will keep a science that journal that includes activities and writing pieces that reflect the topics we are studying.

**Social Studies:** In social studies we will begin by studying families. Students will read and stories and share about people and traditions they share in their family. We will also discuss rules and laws within a community.

**Character Education**

To teach students the importance of good character, we will be introducing characters each month! This month we will meet Flora the Frog who will teach us all about how to be a good friend! Students will earn stars for showing acts of friendship and we will incorporate the characters in our Sparkle Ceremonies!

**First Grade Team Contact Information**

**First Grade 1A**

**Mrs. DeStasio**

[destasio@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us](mailto:destasio@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us)

**First Grade 1B**

**Ms. Fairbanks**

[fairbanks@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us](mailto:fairbanks@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us)

**Ms. Hood**

**First Grade Co-Teacher**

[hood@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us](mailto:hood@riverbank.charter.k12.nj.us)