

School Closed

- Labor Day
- Yom Kippur
- Columbus Day
- Election Day
- Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving
- Superintendent's Conference Day (December)
- Holiday Recess
- Martin Luther King, Jr's Day
- Superintendent's Conference Day (February)
- Winter Recess
- Superintendent's Conference Day (March)
- Spring Recess
- Memorial Day

Our Mission

Establish a classroom culture that enables and expects our students to be successful, enthusiastic learners and responsible, respectful problem-solvers.

FIRST GRADE!

Congratulations! You are the loved ones of a first-grader at JFK Elementary School! You will be amazed at just how much your child will grow this year. The loveliest flowers have the best gardeners planting and caring for the seeds. A tribute to you! During first grade, those seeds will grow and blossom making your child an accomplished reader and writer. You will see changes in your child's thinking as he or she becomes familiar with abstract concepts and symbols. The change will be dramatic - just compare a tiny seed with a full-grown sunflower.



Staying involved in your child's education is the key to a successful year. Engage your child in conversation about his or her day. Know that children will not always offer information about their school day. Please visit my Website (<http://www.drLavelle.net>) often, as it is a communication tool and a resource for calendar

events and learning guides.

You can use my Website as a springboard for discussion. Instead of saying "What did you do at school today?" (The answer often being, "Nothing!"), you might say, "Oh, I see you're learning about... what were some of the objectives you studied?"

HOMEWORK

FOLDER

Another way to stay involved is to check your child's Take Home folder every evening. You will usually find the evening's homework, thematic projects, flyers, notices from the office and notes from me. Your child, most likely, will come to school the next day with a fairly empty folder, just homework or notes addressed to me or the office.

The Homework Folder is a green pocket folder. To help guide you through the paperwork, both sides of the folder have labels. One side is labeled "Keep at Home." The items on this side need not

return to school. The other side is labeled "Return to School." These items may include flyers needing response, homework or notes addressed to me of the office. Occasionally, items get mixed up, so it's important to read all communications.

PASSES

If you or someone else is planning to pick up your child from school or your child has an after school activity, please send a note to school each time your child engages in an activity.

BUSING

I will walk your child to the buses every day. If your child is a regular bus rider, the school must have a note if he or she will not be riding his or her normally scheduled bus. Sometimes, children visit friends after school for a play date and ride in their friend's bus.





Dr. Theresa Lavelle
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First Grade
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LUNCH

Your child will need a healthy snack each day: packed separately from their lunch in a bag or sack with his/her name on it. Lunches often are packed in a lunch box or bag with your child's name labeled on the outside. If your child is buying lunch, please send the money in an envelope with your child's name (first and last), my name ("Dr. Lavelle's Class"), and "Lunch Money" written on the front. Your child will need a permission note from you for purchasing snacks during lunch.

BACKPACKS

Your child will need his or her backpack every day. Please place your child's name, in large letters, on the outside. Toys (including stuffed animals, Pokemon cards, pet rocks, etc.) are not allowed in school or in the classroom. Often, these "toys" detract from the learning process through inattention to the lesson.

RECESS

All children go outdoors for a 30 minute recess each day, excluding inclement weather. During inclement weather, the children will engage in indoor recess. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. An extra pair of mittens and a hat kept in his or her backpack is a good idea when the cooler weather approaches.

MISCELLANEOUS

The temperature in our room varies greatly. Please dress your child in layers.

We celebrate student birthdays during the school day. If your child wishes to share a treat, please send me a note so we can set up an agreeable celebration time. Please limit birthday treats to cupcakes, brownies or cookies (and a small packed drink, if you wish).

When you are visiting our classroom, even if it is on a regular basis, you will need to stop at the attendance window for a Visitor's Security Pass. This procedure is designed to ensure the safety of all children.

Money brought to school for any reason must be in an envelope with your child's name and the purpose for the money written on the outside, for example, fieldtrips or Scholastic Book Orders.

COMMUNICATION

In addition to our report cards and conferences, I am always available to meet or speak with you. If it is not urgent, please jot a note and I will respond as soon as possible. You may call the school as well. In return, I will contact you by email, note or telephone if there is an issue needing response.

ENDING NOTE

Many visitors came to see our classroom the week before school began. I was pleased to meet with you. Your children and their excitement were immeasurable during our first day of school. I think they already understand my jokes! We are going to have a wonderful, safe and educationally filled year!

I encourage you to join JFK's PTA. Many of the programs and presentations the children will experience are funded by the PTA.

JFK Elementary School

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