



Welcome to 1st Grade!



Congratulations! You are the parent of a First Grader! You will be amazed at how much your child will grow this year. I am very excited about the upcoming school year and hope that you and your child are as well. Below I am including some information to help make a smooth transition into school. **Please keep this information as a reference in the future.**

About Mrs. Welu

My name is Kelli Welu. This will be my eighth-year teaching 1st grade. I have previously been a supplemental reading teacher and have taught kindergarten and second grade. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Literacy Education. I also have Master's Degrees from Morningside College and Clarke University. I love every minute of being a teacher!

I live in Peosta with my husband, Ty, and 21-month-old daughter, Kennedy. I spent my summer hanging out (spoiling) with her and had so much fun! I like reading, shopping, and traveling to see family and friends. Also, in my free time, you will find my cheering on the Iowa Hawkeye football team and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team!

I am very excited to begin our school year here at Dyersville Elementary!

Arrival Procedures

Students may be dropped off at the cafeteria doors between 7:45 and 8:00. Our school day begins at 8:05. **Students arriving after 8:15 will be marked tardy.**

Dismissal Procedures

Car riders and walkers are dismissed at 2:55. Car riders with last names beginning with the letters A-N will be dismissed out the main entrance. Students with last names beginning with O-Z will be dismissed at the cafeteria (north) doors. Bus riders will be dismissed at 3:05 and 3:10.

****If your child's way home will be different than normal, please notify the school. Without a note, email, or phone call, your child will follow his or her regular routine.**



Take Home Folders



Each night your child will bring home their “Take Home Folder” inside their book bag. The right side of the folder will be labeled “Bring Right Back” and the left side will be labeled “Left at Home”. Please go through the contents of your child's folder EVERY night. Please put all communication notes, lunch money, etc. in the folder. The folder will be checked at school every morning.

Reading Bag

A few weeks into the school year your child will begin bringing home a reading bag. Inside the bag will be one or more books for reading practice. Each night the bag comes home, please listen to and/or help your child read the book(s) inside. It is okay to have them read the book more than once as this builds fluency. Always return the book and reading bag the following day.



Student Helpers

Each day one child is selected to be my special helper. My helper assists me during calendar, passes out papers, and leads our line along with numerous other duties.



Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are an exciting time for first graders! Please note that according to district policy, edible treats cannot be brought for birthdays. In place of an edible treat, students may choose to share small inexpensive tokens such as stickers, pencils, bouncy balls, or erasers. Children with a summer birthday can celebrate their half birthday or choose another “pretend” birthday at any time. Just let me know!



Book Orders

Book orders will be sent out periodically. If you would like to order, you pay order online or send a check and book orders in an envelope with your child's name on it. Please make your check out to the company.

Recess

All children go outdoors for a 30-minute recess each day, except in inclement weather. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Students may only play on the woodchip playground areas with tennis shoes or shoes with backs. No flip-flops please.



“Specials” Schedule

Specials will run on a five-day rotation schedule. The first day of school will be a “B” day.

A- P.E. and Music

B- No specials

C- P.E. and Music

D- Art

E- No specials

Snack

Studies have shown that when students eat a good breakfast in the morning, they do better in school. Even those who do eat breakfast are eating early and we don't eat lunch until 11:15. That is a long time to go without anything to eat! So, we have a short power snack in the morning. Please send two non-perishable **PEANUT FREE** snacks to school with your child as soon as possible! Keep in mind, there are 18 students in our class. The snacks should be to be low-fat, healthy, foods that can be eaten quickly and without much mess. No cakes, cookies, candy, or brownies please! Here are a few examples of some great snacks.

goldfish, popcorn, low-fat chips, crackers

dry cereal, animal crackers, pretzels, fruit snacks

graham crackers, 100 calorie packs, vanilla wafers

Classroom Expectations

On some of the first days of school, I will teach the following expectations. The students will learn and practice the expectations over the first several weeks. Students will then be expected to follow them throughout the school year.

Classroom Expectations

I will work hard!

I will listen!

I will learn!

I will be kind!

I will be positive!



Parent/Teacher Communication

If you ever have any questions or concerns you may call me at 875-8484 x4027 or may also reach me by email at **kelli.welu@wdbqschools.org**.

Thank you in advance for sharing your wonderful student with me! I am looking forward to getting to know them and watching them grow.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kelli Welu