**Updated!  August 13, 2020**

Dear First Grade Families,

Hello and welcome to A Track First Grade at Robert J. McGarvey Elementary.  My name is Sarah Rinelli, and I will be your child’s First Grade Teacher.  We are going to do amazing things this year - welcome to a positive partnership as we navigate 2020 together as a team for your child.

We will be starting our year as a Distance Learning class group, but I am hopeful we will be together face-to-face soon.  Until that happy day comes, Mrs. Rinelli’s class will be meeting daily on Zoom for Distance Learning.

Our A Track journey together begins 2 weeks from today!

 **Thursday MORNING, August 20th from 9:30-12:00 pm**

***(Please note date/time change from previous letter due to extreme heat forecast!)***

* Textbooks, materials, and Chromebook laptops will be distributed to First Graders in the drive-up lane by the school office.  Parents will drive up to get their child’s materials.
* Every student has to have their own computer to access Zoom for daily instruction, both whole group and small group.  Siblings cannot share computers because they will be using them at the same time.  Chromebooks can be checked out from the school (free of charge) for the duration of distance learning.
* Parents need to have their student’s #ID numbers to check out Chromebooks.  The student does not need to be present.

**Thursday, August 20th from 6:00-6:30 pm**

* ***Mrs. Rinelli’s Back to School Night for parents*** will be held on Zoom, followed by Q and A. .  I will go over our daily schedule, learning expectations, and we will “unpack” the materials that you will have picked up the day before.

**Friday, August 21st from 12:30-2:00 pm**

* ***Mrs. Rinelli’s Drop In Zoom Party for Kids*** - children (and families) can come talk to me and each other while practicing using Zoom.  I’m hoping to have everyone practice getting onto Zoom, and help our kids feel more comfortable with the whole Distance Learning process.

**Monday, August 24th at 7:55 am - First Day of School**

* Students will sign in beginning at 7:55, and instruction begins at 8:00.  Attendance will be taken at 8:00, as well.

**Tuesday, August 25th from 6:30-7:00 pm**

* Administrator presentation (by Zoom) from McGarvey Elementary principal Michael Gulden and VP Willbert Villalta

**Supplies and Donations:**

Parents often offer to donate supplies or funds to our classroom, and these donations are gratefully accepted.  However, this year is different!  I am asking our families to provide 2 things for your children to use with their Chromebooks (or similar computers).

* **Headphones** - over the ear-style headphones will help your student stay on task with the lessons.  Sturdy headphones will be easier for your child to use than earbuds and can be purchased from Amazon for around $15.
* A plug-in **computer mouse** (either wired or wireless) will make it much easier for your child to navigate through the lessons and games.  The “touchpad” found on most laptops and tablets proved challenging for my class last year, and we want to make this as stress-free as possible for the kids.  Amazon has plug in “mice” for Chromebooks, etc. beginning at $12.

It would be helpful for your child to have these optional items prior to the start of school.

Parents, please send me a quick email back so that I know that this is a “good” email address for you.  I use email to send out our weekly newsletters and updates.  I will begin calling families that I have not heard from by this weekend.

Class Dojo, Google Classroom, Seesaw, and your student’s EGUSD portal are other technologies that we will use this year.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Mrs. Sarah Rinelli

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