



August 23, 2018

Dear First Grade Parents,

Assalamu Alaikum!

I would like to welcome you and your child to first grade. My name is **Mrs. Ola Ayyad**. I am excited to be your child's teacher. I have been a teacher for seven plus years in the Chicago area and this is my fourth year at ICCI Academy as a first-grade teacher. Previously, I taught at Chicago Virtual Charter School and MEC for student-teaching. I received my Bachelors degree from Western Governors University in Special Education and Elementary Education. I recently earned my master's of science in Reading and Math in 2017.

First grade is an important year because it sets the foundation for learning for young students. Your child will learn to be a good reader and writer and learn to add and subtract, recognize numbers, place value, and patterns, handle money, read the clock, etc. Your child will also learn a list of words called **sight words** or high-frequency words. These words occur a lot in reading therefore, they are very important to learn. You can keep this list handy (maybe on the fridge) to practice with your child throughout the school year. I will also teach these words in school. The **spelling words will be in the weekly newsletter** on icciacademy.com

Spelling

Every Monday, your child will receive a list of ten spelling words, beginning next week. At home, your child will be required to **write the words**:

1. **in five sentences on Monday**
2. **in five sentences on Tuesday**
3. **in ABC order on Wednesday**
4. **three times on Thursday**
5. **Spelling test on Friday**

I will check spelling notebooks regularly, and it will count towards your child's grade. Spelling notebook and work folder are placed from Monday to Thursday on your child's desk every morning.

Your child must be encouraged to work on his or her own, but the first month of doing so will be difficult for them. When writing, your child may use invented spelling. Invented spelling is when words are written incorrectly because the child is writing what they sound out. We will correct the mistakes, but the important step is to nurture and encourage your child so that they have the confidence to flourish.



Important notes:

1. No shoes with laces will be allowed for boys and girls. I have witnessed kids break their legs and teeth from loose laces. You can purchase **plastic safe lace locks** instead!
2. Your child CAN NOT BE LATE to my class because a lot of work is done early morning. I do most of the extensive work during that time since they learn better during early school hours.
3. Door closes at 8:35 sharp and persistent delay is not acceptable (unless there is a valid reason)
4. Please be in school parking lot no later than 3:20 so you can pick up at 3:30 sharp.
5. First-grade can be easy only if all of us work hard from the beginning of the year with a great focus on your child's reading and writing.
6. Reading Logs will be provided in folder. Please sign logs **DAILY** (most likely Mondays-Thursdays) after your child reads books of their choice.

I believe that a parent-teacher relationship is important. I will send you messages through Remind App. It is a free and convenient way for us to communicate. If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to send notes on your child's homework, click Reply on Remind, or email me at olaayyad@outlook.com, and/or call the school office to set up an appointment.

I am happy to be your child's teacher, and I will be happier if ONLY together we can foster a nurturing and successful environment for your child.

Sincerely,
Ola Ayyad
First Grade Teacher