

WELCOME FIRST GRADE GUARDIANS & PARENTS!

My name is **Mrs. Ola Ayyad**. I am excited to be your child's homeroom teacher. I have been a teacher for 7 plus years in the Chicago area and close to my 4th year at ICCI Academy. Previously, I taught at Chicago Virtual Charter School and MEC for student-teaching. I received my Bachelor's degree from Western Governors University in Special Education/Elementary Education. I earned my master's degree in Reading and Math in 2017.

I teach students the basics in all subjects and most importantly how to be independent learners. Your **HELP is a must with reading and homework**. I emphasize on having children help with light and easy house chores to improve their executive functioning from setting dinner table to folding their laundry. I also encourage you to train them in activities that require cross-lateral movements like swimming.

I am an easy-going teacher with late homework as long as they do it within a week or so. I **DO NOT** tolerate bad behavior or tardiness to class. Everyone must **come in on time** unless there is an emergency.

First grade is an important year because it sets the foundation for learning. Your child will learn to be a good reader. Your child will also learn two lists called **sight words** and high-frequency words. The words occur 70 percent of the time in any given text therefore, they are essential to reading. You can **keep those 2 lists handy (maybe on the fridge) to practice with your child daily**. I will also teach these words in school. Students have competitions in September and October to learn the majority of those words. Some students end up unhappy because they were not working at home on the lists and I understand each child has his own pace when it comes to learning. But **please be mindful that first two months are key to helping all of my students start reading fluently so help me out at home with sight words**. There will be homework due Thursdays/Fridays - **spelling words are found in the weekly newsletter** on icciacademy.com

Spelling (CUT AND SAVE THIS PLEASE ON FRIDGE)

Every Monday, your child will receive a list of ten spelling words (found on school website), 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 check spelling notebooks end of the week, and it will count towards your child's grade. Spelling

notebook and reading log are collected Thursdays or Fridays.

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 their 5 sentences, 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 and more importantly is to look back at the corrections so they do not repeat the same mistakes.

Important notes:

1. No shoes with laces will be allowed for boys and girls. I have witnessed kids broke their legs and teeth from loose laces. You can purchase plastic safe lace locks instead or Velcro shoes!
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. We expect you in school parking lot at 3:20 so you can pick up at 3:30 sharp!
4. First grade is easy only if all of us **work hard from the beginning** with a great focus on your child's reading and writing.
5. **Reading Logs will be provided, please sign them after your child reads books.**
6. **Save first grade 10-page stories so you can have them listen on YouTube to improve listening skills.**
7. **Save other educational links and websites to use daily- soon to be provided.**

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 write notes on your child's homework (I always read them), 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. The teacher is never enough as it takes a village to raise a child. I will send out reminders if spelling, reading, and math homework is not taken care of!

First grade is hard but we can all make it easy through team effort!

Summary of this letter: Remind App, spelling homework, Reading Log, Sight words, educational websites, pick/drop off on time.

Sincerely,

Ola Ayyad

First Grade Teacher