

September 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome to 1st Grade! We are going to have a great year, and I am very excited to begin our new journey of virtual learning. It will be a learning experience for us all! First I would like to share my background- I was born and raised in Augusta, GA, but I have lived in different parts of the state and different parts of the world. I went to college at Mercer University and then taught in Macon, GA for one year. Then I returned to Augusta and taught in Richmond County for three years. As I was young, I wanted to go out and explore so I decided to join the Council for International Schools. This led me to teach in Japan for 2 years and Turkey for 6 years. While living in Turkey, I met my husband, got married, and had a little girl. After working abroad, I wanted to raise my daughter close to home so my husband and I moved back to Augusta. I began teaching 2nd grade in Richmond County, but I was particularly interested in Lake Forest because I worked in IB schools while abroad. I felt very honored to receive an offer from Dr. Driggers when the position became available.

During my time abroad, I worked at International Baccalaureate schools. This gave me the opportunity to learn about the inquiry-based curriculum and how to design units that spark student interest through engaging activities. Teaching is most powerful when students are able to pursue their curiosities and develop their imagination. I plan to use technology this year to design integrated and exciting units for the students to explore.

This school year will be unlike any other in my teaching career. I hope to use this opportunity to connect with students through technology and help them excel during their 1st grade year. This age level is critical for building foundational skills, and I believe we can grow as much through virtual learning as we can in the classroom. We just have to engage the students and get them excited about all the activities we have planned for this school year. The first step is getting the students familiar with their Launch Pads and the many apps that will help during this year. The first few weeks will be focused on becoming familiar with programs. Once we get past that hurdle, the students will take off in their activities and growth.

Communication will be more important this year than ever before. I am learning too as we have many new programs, especially Canvas. Patience will be key in getting everyone familiar with the software. We will begin the school year by using DoJo to communicate and build from there. I will do everything I can to support you and your student as we navigate through this. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or tell me when you are confused and frustrated. I try to respond to questions within 24 hours of receiving them. I promise to be flexible with expectations as families get settled into this school year and develop routines that work for their household. We will figure this out together!

I look forward to having a great year together and hope that we can support each other all year long. Thank you for letting me teach your children! It is an honor!

Sincerely,

Jane Wilkes

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What does my score mean?

On a first grade report card, students receive a score of 1-4 for each standard that is assessed. You will also see this score on many of their assignments.

Below is a scale that explains the meaning of each number. Please go over this with your child so he/she will understand their scores on school work and report cards. Thank you!

4	If I score a 4 this means I exceed the grade level expectations and can apply what I have learned with deeper meaning. I am going above and beyond the standard/skill and considered a distinguished learner.
3	If I score a 3 this means I understand and can apply what I have learned. I am meeting the standard/skill and considered proficient.
2	If I score a 2 this means I understand most of the standards /skills. I make minor mistakes and still need a little practice with the teacher in small groups and my peers. I am considered an emerging/developing learner.
1	If I score a 1 this means I have little to no understanding of the standards/skill. I should ask more questions. I am a beginning learner with this standard/skill.

