

October 6, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today, your first grader brought home a book from our school library for the first time this school year. One of the most exciting parts of first grade is learning to read. It is a wonderful experience for a young child. Your child will want to show off this new skill when he or she comes home.

When your child brings home a book from the library, or reads a book that you may have at home, sit with your child and be his or her audience. Help your child with proper names, uncommon words, or words that may be difficult to sound out.

Discuss the story as you are reading or when you are finished. "What part of the story was your favorite?" "Who was your favorite character?" "Did you like the way the story ended?" "Can you think of another ending you would have liked better?" There are so many questions you can ask your child that will help him or her recall the story and use his or her imagination. Questioning your child at the end of a story will help him or her grasp a better understanding of the story.

In first grade, we expect children to begin taking more responsibility for caring for their library books and in making their own book selections. Your child's library day is **Tuesday**. Although children at this age want to be more independent, they will still need your reminders about returning library books on time. Post library day on your refrigerator and encourage your child to try to remember when to return his or her book.

I look forward to an exciting year with your "eager-to-read" first graders.

Thank you for your support,

Ms. Dewane  
Teacher Librarian  
Highline Academy Southeast