

Dear 1Z Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you are enjoying your summer. My name is Leah Zaharoff and I am thrilled to be your child's first grade teacher this year. This letter is to share a little about the first grade curriculum, as well as a little about me!

About First Grade:

First grade is an exciting year for both students and families as children's academic and social emotional growth take off. In literacy, students will work with *Foundations*, learn new decoding and comprehension strategies, and study character traits, all while exploring a wide variety of literature, including poetry. Students will also write across genres, including opinion, nonfiction, and narrative writing, while honing their spelling and handwriting skills. In math, students will work on their number sense, and practice addition and subtraction with an array of tools and manipulatives. We will study communities as part of the social studies curriculum and in science we will learn about seasonal changes in the environment, light, sound, plants and animals through experiments and explorations. Finally, first graders will become more responsible and self-reliant, learning how to manage their time and materials independently.

About Ms. Zaharoff:

I am originally from Newton, and grew up going to the Newton Public Schools. I went to the University of Wisconsin and studied film and television while attending Badger football games every Saturday. After spending a few years living in Los Angeles and working in Hollywood on TV shows and movie sets, I decided to change career paths to pursue education. Now, six years later, I graduated from Lesley University with my Master of Education in Elementary Education and Specialist Teacher of Reading licences, and am coming from four years working at the Baker School in Brookline. I am beyond excited to be in Wellesley as a first grade teacher and to get to join the Hardy community!

Preparing for School:

Please take some time to browse the 1Z class website where you will find first day reminders and other helpful information to get the school year started. Additionally, please fill out the questionnaire on the website *before the school year begins* as it gives me some very useful information to get acquainted with students and families.

Lastly, the first grade will be hosting a "sneak peek" on **Tuesday, August 27 from 2:00-2:30pm**. This is a great opportunity for you and your first grader to see the classroom and meet me before the first day of school. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions via email: ZaharoffL@wellesleyps.org.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, I can't wait to meet you all in a few weeks!

Best Wishes,
Leah Zaharoff