

June 2005

Dear Parents of the Class of 2017:

You and your child are about to embark on an exciting transition from kindergarten to first grade! West Carrollton Schools is committed to the success of every child and the satisfaction of every stakeholder. To help you and your child prepare for their new adventure, we have some recommendations you may want to consider over the summer months.

One of the most critical elements of the transition to first grade is adjusting to the longer school day. Teachers recommend beginning to put your child on a “school day” sleep schedule at least two weeks before the first day of school. If your child has become used to napping mid-day or to sleeping late, he will need to make adjustments for the new schedule.

First graders are more independent than kindergarten students. If your child has not already mastered the following skills, practicing over the summer will help her have a smooth first day of school. Key independence skills include:

- tying shoes;
- knowing first and last name, knowing address,
- knowing phone number;
- the ability to manage own supplies/homework, etc.

At the Early Childhood Center, learning through play was emphasized. While both kindergarten and first grade have a strong academic focus, you and your child will likely notice less emphasis on play as a learning method. First graders will have daily blocks of time devoted to core academic subjects and “specials” usually weekly.

Core Subjects

Reading

Writing

Math

Social Studies

Science

Specials

Music

Art

Physical Education

Computer Lab

Discovery Center (not all buildings)

First graders also have homework, usually for approximately 15 minutes each night. In West Carrollton, all first graders receive agenda books. These are a key communication tool between teachers and parents and you are encouraged to review the agenda daily for homework assignments and other notices.

While the beginning of the school year will include some review time, you can help your child be successful by practicing the following skills over the summer:

- READ – every day, to your child and with your child
- Counting to 100
- Writing first and last name correctly with upper and lowercase letters
- Review “popcorn” or high frequency words learned in kindergarten (see enclosed list)

Lunch is another key area where your child will have new experiences. You will receive a PIN number for your child which he should memorize over the summer. This will be used to purchase lunches in the cafeteria. Money can be sent to school to be deposited into your child’s account and need not be sent daily. More information on this system will be sent home from the Food Service Supervisor.

If you are packing your child’s lunch, please remember to label lunchboxes with her first and last name. Also, we recommend packing “user-friendly” lunches with items your child can open himself. Please do not pack any glass containers. We also discourage packing pop or soda.

In the coming weeks, additional “Back to School” information will be available at www.westcarrolltonschools.com. You will be able to find supply lists, bus stops and other key information there. Additionally, many of our buildings offer a special first grade open house or orientation for new families. Please see the list below for key information about your child’s school.

One final reminder involves the safety of our students and staff. As you did at the ECC, you must visit the office whenever you visit the school. State law requires you to sign in and receive a visitor’s pass. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our buildings safe.

We wish you a safe and fun summer break and a successful start to the 2005-2006 school year!

West Carrollton Schools Staff

School	Phone	1st grade Open House
C.F. Holliday	859-5121, ext. 3300	Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Frank Nicholas	859-5121, ext. 2200	Aug. 22, 6 p.m. (all grades)
Harry Russell	859-5121, ext. 5500	Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Harold Schnell	859-5121, ext. 6600	July 18, 6:30 p.m.

Harold Schnell students start July 19
All others start August 23

Popcorn Words

(This is a basic list. Your child may have learned more words. Check with his or her kindergarten teacher for additional information.)

a	is
am	it
and	like
at	little
big	look
but	love
can	mom
cat	my
dad	no
do	not
dog	see
get	the
go	to
have	up
here	we
I	yes
in	you