



Welcome to FIRST GRADE!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Room 103-A! My name is Sarah Lawless and it is my pleasure to welcome your child into our first grade classroom! I am honored that I have the opportunity to be your child's teacher this year. You will be amazed at just how much your child will grow over our time together. Most likely, your child has had the seeds of reading and writing planted, and during first grade, those seeds will grow and blossom, making your child an accomplished reader and writer! You will see changes in your child's thinking, as he/she becomes familiar with abstract concepts and symbols. The changes will be dramatic -- just compare a tiny seed with a full-grown tree! That's the kind of growth you'll see this year in first grade!

On a personal note, I have some exciting news to share with you. My husband and I are expecting the arrival of our third child in January. I want to assure you that the students will be well cared for in my absence. Dr. Martin, Mrs. Hunter and myself will work together to find the perfect replacement for me while I am out. As more details regarding the transition plan become available, I will be sure to share them with you.



All about Mrs. Lawless

This will be my twelfth year teaching First Grade at Hawthorn Elementary South. It is going to be a fun and exciting year filled with many adventures! I grew up in Mundelein and have lived in the area my whole life. I attended St. Cloud State University for my undergraduate degree and I received my master's degree in Reading from Concordia University. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and participating in outdoor activities. I also love to read, travel, bake, and shop! My husband and I are blessed to have two

adorable boys, Owen and Henry and a little girl on the way in January! Owen is five years old and loves to laugh, play outside, make music of any kind, and read books. He is loving, curious, energetic and definitely keeps us on our toes! Henry is two years old and absolutely adores his big brother Owen. He loves to dance and play with all of Owen's toys. We also have a Goldendoodle named Sadie, who is so sweet and loves everyone!

I am looking forward to getting to know both you and your child this year. I believe that it is important to provide a healthy learning environment, where my students feel safe and comfortable. By working together to build a strong community, my classroom is a place where children are supported, valued and have their individual needs fully met. Our classroom motto is, "I can do anything I put my mind to."

My hope is that your child will come to believe this motto during the year. It is my goal to teach my students to be confident in themselves, critical thinkers and independent learners. I will provide an environment where your child feels happy and encouraged so that he or she can learn to the best of their ability.



Get to know FIRST GRADE!

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD BLOOM

The loveliest plants usually have the best gardener -- and that's you! Staying involved in your child's education is the key to a successful year. One way to stay involved is to check your child's take home folder EVERY evening. You'll usually find it PACKED with homework, projects, flyers, notices from the office, as well as notes from me. As daunting as it may be, try to sort through them, and read each one; they often contain important information and reminders. Your child should come to school the next day with a fairly empty folder -- just homework or notes to me!

A FEW PROCEDURES

If your child is buying lunch, please send the money in an envelope with your child's name. Your child will need his/her backpack everyday, and the student's name needs to be written in large letters on the outside! Please do the same on your child's lunchbox if he/she is planning on bringing a lunch to school. I will be explaining all of this in more detail at Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 28th from 6:00-6:45 PM. I hope you will be able to attend to learn more about what your child will be experiencing this year.

Get to know FIRST GRADE!

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

I believe good communication between parent, teacher and student is essential for your child's academic growth. In addition to our three report cards (sent home in December, March, and June) and our conferences (November and February), I am always available to meet or speak with you. Please be aware that I will call when I am proud, concerned or simply have a question for you. You may contact me a variety of ways. You can write me a note, call me at school (847-990-4818) or email me at (lawless@hawthorn73.org) and I will respond as soon as possible.



STUDENT INFORMATION

I am excited to learn more about your child. Please take a few minutes to fill out the attached "Student Information" sheet and return it to me as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Lawless

Student Information Sheet



Parents: I would like to learn more about your child. Please take a few minutes to fill out this sheet and return it to me as soon as possible. Feel free to use the back for more space, if needed! Thank you!

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian _____

What is the best way to get in contact with you?

Phone: _____ Other: _____

Email: _____

**I give you (Mrs. Lawless) permission to give my email address to any parents who inquire throughout the year. (Please circle one) Yes or No

Please tell me 1-3 things your child is interested in:

1.

2.

3.

Does your child enjoy reading (looking at) books at home? _____

Does your child enjoy being read to? _____

Does your child enjoy writing at home? _____

Do any of your child's siblings attend this school? If so, please list their name(s) and room number(s):

List any special health needs or food allergies your child has:

Is there anything else you would like me to know about your child's learning, personality, etc.?
