Dear Families,

Summer is here! I hope you have as many exciting things planned as I do! It seems strange to say it now, but in a few short months we will be preparing to return to Bolivar for another year of school. I'm sure, as usual, the time will just fly by.

Transitioning into a new school year, with a new teacher and classmates, can be challenging and stressful for some students. It helps to talk with your children about things they are looking forward to in the year ahead, and things that might be of concern to them. As the new school year approaches, it also helps your child prepare for the transition back by starting "school year" routines several days before summer is officially over (I know this helps me also).

There are a few things that you should know about some school/classroom procedures and policies that may be different from last year.

1) Cafeteria Procedures - Your child will have an account number that needs to be used for every purchase made in the cafeteria. This will be the same number that your child used in kindergarten. If your child is planning on purchasing lunch from the cafeteria, please make sure to discuss with them the choices available each day.

2) Money - When sending money with your child for lunch, ice cream or any other purpose, please make sure to ALWAYS label it with your child's name and its purpose (for example - Mary K. field trip $). This is VERY important, as many times when envelopes/ bags aren't labeled, the money can be misplaced or used for the incorrect purpose.

3) Bus Passes/Early Dismissal - If you plan for your child to take a different bus home or to be picked up from school, please make every effort to send a note in the morning, detailing what bus your child will ride or who will be picking them up and at what time. This alleviates a lot of stress and anxiety for students.

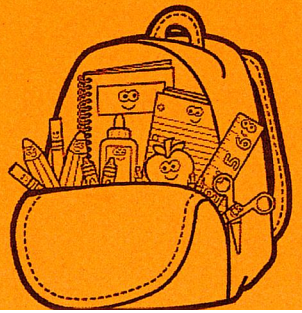
4) Sneakers - Please make sure to send sneakers with your child each day. Your child needs sneakers for P.E., and also needs them to play on the playground. Some children bring an older/extra pair to leave in their cubbies, so that they always have a pair at school in case they forgot to wear or bring them that day.

5) Special Classes/Lunch Schedule - Bolivar operates on a 6 day rotation. The first few days of school you will receive a schedule detailing our special, recess, and lunch times during the day.

I look forward to meeting both you, and your child, and getting to know you both better in the upcoming year. If you have a moment before the school year begins, feel free to email me at eshepard@chittenangoschools.org, to let me know your preferred email address and contact information.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shepard



Dear First Grade Student,

I am so excited that you will be a part of my class next year! There are so many great things to look forward to! You'll be trying new things, making new friends, and conquering new learning!
To be sure that you'll be prepared to start the school year, here's a list of things that we'll need for our work, and classroom, in first grade. You can check them off as you find them, to help you keep track of what you have.
I always encourage my students to recycle and reuse things if possible! Therefore, if you have some of these supplies from last year, or someone has them to pass along for you to use, that's great!! We will be spending time the first day of school getting our belongings organized in the classroom, so PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LABEL ALL OF YOUR BELONGINGS WITH YOUR NAME OR INITIALS!

- ☐ Backpack or book bag (labeled with your first and last name)
- ☐ Pencil box to hold your supplies: the 5x8in molded plastic/metal boxes work best for storage (please label the box and ALL of the supplies in it)
- ☐ Sneakers - these will be needed for both P.E. class and the playground (some students just keep a pair of sneakers and socks in their cubbies all year long)
- ☐ Art smock (an apron or oversized shirt both work well for a smock)
- ☐ 1 pair of corded headphones- please check and make sure that these fit your child's head/ears well, they're able to put them on and use them independently
- ☐ 8-12 #2 Pencils (LABEL PLEASE)
- ☐ Crayons (a 24 pack is a good size-we don't have room to store packs larger than this)
- ☐ 2 (or more) highlighters in different colors (LABEL)
- ☐ 1 subject Spiral notebook (PLEASE LABEL OUTSIDE COVER)
- ☐ One - 2 pocket folder(PLEASE LABEL OUTSIDE COVER)
- ☐ 1 pair of blunt tipped scissors
- ☐ 2 boxes of tissues (can wait send later in year also)
- ☐ 6-8 glue sticks (LABEL PLEASE)
- ☐ 1 box of zip top bags, sandwich, quart or gallon size (optional)



I hope that you're as excited about starting the new year together as I am. I can't wait to meet you and get to know one another. I'll see you in September!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shepard