

## First Grade Newsletter — August Edition

Welcome to a New School Year!

What a great week we've had! I've barely had a chance to catch my breath, but that's a great thing! If you have not sent in a family photo or headphones with your child, please do so at your earliest convenience.

😊 I am so excited to welcome our first-grade students and families to an exciting year of learning, discovery, and fun! August will be full of new routines, friendly faces, and foundational skills that will guide us through the months ahead.

### Reading & Writing


In reading, we will review letters and sounds, with a focus on:

Tt-Bb-Ff, Nn-Mm, Ii-Uu, Cc-Oo

We'll practice letter-keyword-sound routines, as well as handwriting and letter formation. In writing, we'll launch our writing block by discussing prewriting strategies and gathering ideas. We'll also begin using a comprehension strategy called Stop-Think-Paraphrase to strengthen our understanding.

### Math

This month, we will explore how things go together, patterns, and “What Doesn’t Belong?” activities to build number sense and reasoning. **We will also do pre-assessments this year before we begin our chapters to gauge where the students are currently with their math skills and use that to guide our instruction.**

 Math homework will be assigned nightly to help reinforce concepts learned in class. We ask that you please complete this as it informs you what we are learning, allows you to monitor your child's progress, and establishes good HW habits as they move forward on their academic journey at Saint Matthew.

### Religion

We'll begin the year learning about God, our Father, and how we pray. Students will explore their faith through prayer and stories.

### Social Studies & Science

In social studies, we're learning about timelines and how our personal histories and the histories of others unfold. In science, we will explore living vs. nonliving things through hands-on observation and discussion.

### Take-Home Folder & Communication

Our Red Folder is your child's take-home folder. Please check it daily! Inside you'll find:

- A math practice page assigned each night
- Graded work for you to review
- Notes and reminders

You'll receive a weekly classroom update and a monthly newsletter—both sent Fridays to your email.

### Important Dates

- Parent Information Night: August 21 @ 6:00 PM (begins in the Church)
- Picture Day: August 27
- No School: September 1 (Labor Day)
- No School: September 18–19 (Teacher Professional Development)
- Fall Break: October 13–17
- Mass Dates: Rathz: Feb 25/ Clark: March 1
- Field Trips:
  - Sept. 11 – Tuttle Orchards
  - Oct. 7 – Conner Prairie
  - Nov. 17 – Indiana State Fairgrounds
  - Spring- TBA- Children's Museum

### Dismissal Reminder

Please remind your child each morning if they are going to Extended Care—this helps our carpool run smoothly.

### Mystery Reader

Please refer to the email I sent the other day with Mystery Reader sign-up—your child will love seeing you in the classroom!

### Contact Us Anytime!

Mrs. Megan Rathz – [mrathz@saintmatt.org](mailto:mrathz@saintmatt.org)

Mr. Greg Clark – [gclark@saintmatt.org](mailto:gclark@saintmatt.org)

Let's make it a wonderful start to first grade!

Mrs. Megan Rathz