Dear First Grade Dragon Families,

We are excited to welcome your child to Elmcrest Elementary School as they embark on an exciting journey into first grade! As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to ensure that your child is equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in their academic endeavors.

Our motto for the 24-25 school year is *“Elmcrest Dragons – we show up: Everyday counts, every dragon matters!”* Consistent attendance lays the foundation for your academic success and future achievements. Every day you spend in school is an investment in your knowledge, skills, and opportunities. Stay committed, stay focused, and watch how each day brings you closer to your goals.

At Elmcrest, we follow the Nevada Content Standards for first grade, focusing on a comprehensive curriculum that lays the foundation for lifelong learning. To aid in your child's preparation for first grade, we encourage you to engage in various activities over the summer that will enhance their academic skills.

Here are some suggestions to help your child get ready for first grade:

1. **Phonics and Reading**: First graders will begin their journey into literacy, exploring the wonders of reading and writing. From decoding words to expressing ideas through sentences, we will be reading independently in no time! At home, practice phonics skills by helping your child blend letter sounds into words. Encourage them to read books together with you and discuss the content to improve comprehension.
2. **Writing**: Elmcrest will heavily focus on improving writing skills next school year. Encourage your child to practice handwriting, spelling, and independent writing skills over the summer. Provide opportunities for them to write about their experiences, thoughts, and ideas.
3. **Math**: Work with your child on adding and subtracting within 20, developing number sense in terms of greater or less than values, and discussing word problems together. Engage them in fun math activities to strengthen their mathematical skills.
4. **Science**: First graders will investigate fascinating science topics such as plants, animals, weather, and seasons. With curious minds and eager hands, we'll observe, experiment, and uncover the secrets of the world around us.
5. **Social Studies**: Let's embark on a journey through time and space! First graders will discover communities, maps, and cultures near and far. From exploring local landmarks to learning about different traditions and customs, there's a whole world of knowledge waiting to be explored!
6. **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**: Alongside academic growth, we'll also focus on your social and emotional well-being. First graders will learn important skills such as empathy, self-awareness, and cooperation, laying the foundation for strong relationships and positive attitudes.

To assist you in this process, we have included a few practice pages in this packet, as well as a writing journal for your child. Additionally, there are digital resources available for practice, but we also recommend printing them to further enhance handwriting skills.

We are committed to ensuring that your child's first-grade experience is a success, and we look forward to partnering with you in their educational journey. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

You will receive a phone call from your child’s first grade teacher the week prior to school starting. Remember, the first day of school is Monday, August 12, 2024!

Thank you for your continued support, and we eagerly anticipate a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Oiler & Mrs. Patton, First Grade Teachers

Jessica Wilson, Principal

Ryan Linton, Dean of Students