



August 2024

Dear First Grade Families:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school. My name is Julie Gill and I am excited to be your child's teacher this year! I live in St. Johns with my husband Shane, and 2 of our 4 kids, Harrison and Ainsley. Our 2 oldest sons, Carson and Mason, both got married last summer! Carson lives in East Lansing and Mason lives in South Carolina.

I received my Bachelor's Degree from Cornerstone University, and am working to complete my master's degree. This will be my 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I have worked as an instructional coach to teachers and taught fourth-grade, second-grade, and first-grade students. The academic gains children make in first grade are amazing and I look forward to working with you!

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **August 21st** Riley's Optional Open House - 5-7 PM
- **August 26th** First Day of School
- **August 30th & September 2nd** No School, Labor Day Weekend

#### **SUPPLIES:**

Students will store their supplies in their desks. While certainly not required, below is a list of suggested items your child will need.

- Glue Sticks
- Zip lock baggies (any size)
- Earbuds or headphones (Please unpack them, make sure they fit your child, and bring them in a ziplock bag with their name labeled on the baggie)
- Pencils: wooden/not mechanical (pre-sharpened is awesome! ☺)
- Crayons (standard box ~ no more than 16 in a box)
- Scissors
- Dry-erase markers for whiteboard practice (1 package of skinny black)
- Pencil box/container to hold **ALL** of the items above

*\*We go through a lot of Kleenex, black/thin dry-erase markers and Clorox Wipes so please think about donating some to the classroom. You can bring items in at Open House or on the first day of school.*

My Amazon Classroom Wishlist link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/216HOKHY7P4RV?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/216HOKHY7P4RV?ref_=wl_share)

**BIRTHDAY TREATS/ INVITATIONS:**

Riley Elementary does not allow birthday treats to come to school, per the Student Handbook. Your child will be celebrated when we sing to them and they may choose from a choice activity for the whole class to participate in. *We ask that you do NOT send in birthday invitations to hand out at school. Instead please refer to PTO's school directory to access student addresses.*

**SNACK TIME:**

In first grade, we do individual snacks as opposed to community snacks. Each afternoon, we will take a few minutes to have a snack, so please send something nutritious with your child (i.e. goldfish crackers, fresh fruit, granola bars, vegetables, etc.). We are a peanut-free classroom.

**FRIDAY FOLDERS:**

You can expect to find important notes from the office and our classroom each week in your child's Friday Folder. Please return the folder to school each Monday.

**LUNCH MONEY:**

If you choose to order lunch you can pay online through the SJPS website: <https://www.sjredwings.org/>  
You can also send in an envelope with your child's first & last name/classroom teacher on it.

I believe we are on the same team, so your support is greatly appreciated. Every two weeks I will communicate important dates, classroom content information, etc. through an email titled: "First Grade Updates". The email address you provided in Infinite Campus is what I use to create a parent email group, so please be sure the correct email is listed in IC. Please call me if you have questions or concerns. My classroom phone number is 989.227.5160. You can also contact me by email at [gillj@sjredwings.org](mailto:gillj@sjredwings.org). The best times to contact me are 8:40 am-9:00 am and 4:10 pm to 4:30 pm.

I look forward to meeting you at our Open House!

Sincerely,  
Julie Gill

