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Dear EPCS Families,

Welcome to First Grade!! I hope you are having a fun, safe, and relaxing summer! I can't wait to hear all about it as I get to know you and your children at the beginning of the school year.

I am so excited to meet you. This will be my 25th year teaching at Englewood on the Palisades Charter School. I am married and a mother of two wonderful children. My daughter is 19, and my son is 13 years old.

Over the years, I have learned that the greatest gift I can give a child is a safe, loving, and structured environment — one where they feel free to take risks, make mistakes, and grow. Routines and structure are the backbone of our classroom, not because rules are important for their own sake, but because children thrive when they know what to expect and feel secure in their surroundings.

One of my deepest commitments is to have an open, honest communication with you. I firmly believe that when teachers and families work as true partners, children flourish. Please never hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, celebrations, or anything you feel I should know about your child. I promise to do the same. You know your child best, and together we make the strongest possible team.

I hope that your child has made reading and math practice a daily routine during the summer. Please make sure your child brings their summer reading packet and math packet on the first day of school. A copy is available on our school website (englewoodcharter.org) for you to print and complete if needed.

Please label all your child's school supplies and uniform with their name. Please provide your child with lunch and a healthy snack starting on the first day of school. In first grade, we eat a snack in the afternoon, so please make sure that your child eats a good breakfast every day.

If you have any questions before the first day of school, please call the office at 201-569-9765.

Here's to a wonderful year full of learning, laughter, and growth — together.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Alin Gelin, First Grade Teacher

