

June 4, 2020

Dear First Grade Families,

Here we are on the second to last day of school. What an incredible journey this has been. In a typical school year, this day would be a frenzy of getting materials ready to go home, cleaning up, packing up, and celebrating friendships and academic growth. Tomorrow would typically have students enjoying a movie in the gym, a picnic lunch with classmates, and an end-of-the-year carnival. My heart was heavy this morning for our first graders and students all across the world who have experienced school in such a different way this year.

After reflecting for a time, I came back to how much we have to celebrate and feel good about. The time YOU had to enjoy watching your children grow in the way we see them grow in our classrooms is a priceless gift. I hope you loved every minute of it. Also, if I had a penny for all the times a student or parent shared how much they appreciated the slower pace and TIME with family, I could take the entire school out for ice cream. Finally, I'm sending out a cheer because everyone stayed healthy and safe, which was our ultimate goal.

I don't have enough words to thank you for the wonderful year you gave me with your children, both in the classroom and during At-Home Learning. It's an honor to be entrusted with your children every day, and I loved learning with them all year. The hard work, excitement over learning, and KINDNESS I saw each and every day will remain with me long after tomorrow.

Whatever school might look like in the fall, know that I'll be thinking of you all as you move onto a new journey of learning. Whenever we're back in our building all together at Manz, I hope you stop by Room 250 to say hello and share a smile.

Congratulations to our first graders on a job well done! We've created short digital memory books of the things you shared with us from home. I wish I could have used every picture, note, and video you sent, as there were so many fun ideas and memories that made me smile and even laugh out loud. You'll find the link in the Skyward version of this letter. Have a safe, healthy, and wonderful summer!

Your First Grade Teacher,
Mrs. Bauer