

## First Day and First Week at Rochester for New and Returning Children in grades 1 - 5

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Our first day and week plan is a little different from previous years. We will continue to provide parents with updates this week on our website and with email (providing we have your current email).

### **First Day: Tuesday, 8 September (9:00 to 9:35)**

All returning students in grades 1 – 5 return to their classroom from last year. There may be a different adult in your child’s former classroom but students go to the same physical space as last year. Children are here for approximately thirty minutes and will be dismissed for the day at approximately 9:35

All NEW students to Rochester in grades 1 – 5 report to the library at 9:00. The library is located upstairs and is accessible by the stairway located near the office at the main entry.

### **Second, Third and Fourth Day: Wednesday, 9 September (9:00 – 2:58) through Friday, 11 September**

All returning students report to their old classroom again at 9:00 for attendance on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students will be dismissed from their old classroom each day as well. This old classroom will be their “Attendance Group” for this week only.

During the school day, however, children will be assigned to multi-age family groups throughout the school and will participate in a variety of Rochester value and culture based activities (see Family Group details below).

New students will meet in the library again on Wednesday morning. However, we will assign them to an “Attendance Group” and a “Family Group” for the remainder of the week. New students will return to the library for pick up on Wednesday only; new students can then show their

parent their new “Attendance Group” classroom where they will start and end Thursday and Friday.

### **Family Groups and other Stuff**

Our staff started planning and preparing your child’s first week last spring. Your child is assigned to one of eighteen multi aged “Family Group” teams this year. Each family group team is comprised of children from grades 1 to 5 (kindergarten children will join these teams later this year) and is led by one of our fabulous Rochester Staff. These Family Groups will meet throughout the year to engage in special activities.

For the first week of school, your child will participate in a variety of activities with their Family Group team throughout each day. After attendance on Wednesday, your child will learn their new family group location and will meet for the first time that morning. (Kindergartens are not part of this arrangement). Grade 5 Rochester students will help the grade 1’s find their way.

Children will return to their old classrooms for lunch each day of the first week as well and will return to their Family Group for more activities after lunch. Students will return to their old classrooms once again towards the end of the day for debriefing and dismissal (this makes it easier for parents to locate their child).

### **Regular Classroom Assignments for the 2015-2016 School Year**

By the end of Friday we should have regular classroom assignments finalized and posted for parents to see. More details about this to come next week.