



Dear Parents,

Summer, 2026

Welcome to Grade 1 at Seneca Academy! We are excited to begin another year at Seneca Academy and look forward to having your child in class. We know this will be a year of learning, growth, friendship-building, and discovery. We cannot wait to get started!

Your child's teacher looks forward to meeting you at the optional Before-School Conference on **Monday, August 31**. During this time together, we will begin the process of cultivating a parent-teacher partnership. Your child's teacher will share information regarding your child's first day, carpool drop-off, and the upcoming school year that are important to know before our Back-to-School Night in September. In addition, this will be an important opportunity for parents to ask questions and share information about your child with your child's teacher (interests, goals, concerns, insights, etc.). Sign-ups for this optional conference will be sent out in August. Please note that the school calendar is available on the website.

Your child's first day of school is on **Tuesday, September 1**, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., with carpool drop-off starting at 8:15 a.m. During this meet-and-greet opportunity for students, we will have a variety of activities throughout the morning to acclimate your child to a new classroom community. Please send in a morning snack (such as a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, granola bar, or cheese stick) and lunch each day, as well as a reusable water bottle that may be refilled while at school. Please do not send sodas or candy for snack or lunch.

The first full day of school will be **Wednesday, September 2**, with carpool starting at 8:15 a.m. Dismissal is between 3:00 and 3:10 p.m.

Used uniforms will be available for sale on campus this summer on **Tuesday, July 21**, and **Saturday, July 25**. There will also be a summer social for all elementary students and their families on **Friday, August 28**, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. SAPA will be sending out more information about these events soon, so keep an eye out for in your inbox!

The first-grade supply list is available at www.senecaacademy.org/back-to-school. You may drop off these supplies in a bag with your child's name on it during the summer social, bring them to the before-school conference on August 31 if you choose to have one, or simply bring them with you to the first day of school.

For summer reading, we encourage you to read with your child as often as possible! A curated selection of suggested books for first graders is available on the following pages.

We are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Summer Reading List for Rising First Graders



A combination of easy independent books and rich read-alouds is one of the best ways to help children grow as readers over the summer. This list includes a mix of **independent reads** that many children can enjoy on their own and **read-aloud books** that offer richer vocabulary, deeper themes, and beautiful language to enjoy with an adult. Also, [MCPL's](#) summer reading program, *Unearth a Story*, starts June 13 and offers fun incentives and prizes.

☀ Independent Reading (Easy Readers & Early Chapter Books)

- *We Dig Fossils*
- *Ty's Travels*
- *Ling and Ting, Not Exactly the Same*
- *Ali the Great and the Market Mishap*
- *Camila: The Talent Show Star*
- *Don't Throw It To Mo!*
- *Gigi and Ojiji*
- *Katie Fry, Private Eye*
- *Libby Loves Science*
- Some classics: *Elephant and Piggie*, *Frog and Toad*, *Henry and Mudge*, *Nate the Great*, *Amelia Bedelia*, *Biscuit*, *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Little Bear*, *Owl at Home*, *Poppleton*

☀ Beginning Chapter Books

- *Tales from Deckawoo Drive* (a spinoff of the *Mercy Watson* series)
- *Amira's Picture Day*
- *Katie Woo*
- *Unicorn Rescue Society*
- *The Princess in Black*
- *The Secret Explorers*
- *King and Kayla*
- *Judy Moody*
- *Dragon Masters*
- *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea*
- *Zoey and Sassafras*
- *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*
- *The Magic Tree House*
- *Owl Diaries*
- *Unicorn and Yeti*

☀ Family Read-Alouds (Rich Language & Great Stories)

- Anything by Roald Dahl or E.B. White
- *The Tale of Despereaux*
- *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*
- *Ramona the Pest*
- *The Wild Robot*

Looking for nonfiction? Try [here](#)!

Need more ideas? Check out [this](#) comprehensive list.