

Mrs. Hasenfuss Welcome Letter '23-'24
August 4, 2023

Dear Room 4 Students and Families,

Hello!- Welcome to first grade! My name is Danielle Hasenfuss and I am delighted that you are a part of our classroom family! I am looking forward to building our classroom community together and creating a positive and safe learning environment for us to grow in. I can't wait to get to know you better and start this 2023-2024 school year!

About Mrs. Hasenfuss- I am so excited to be your teacher this year! This is going to be my tenth year at the Mitchell School. I have taught several different grades, but first grade is my favorite! This will be my seventh year teaching first grade. I have a four year old son named Patrick and a 1 year old son named Evan. You will hear a lot about them and see many pictures of them throughout the year! This summer we stayed local and did many "adventure days" (as my boys call them) to the zoo, the beach, the playground, and many other places. When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, going for long runs, and reading.



Mrs. Hasenfuss, Mr. Hasenfuss, Patrick, and Evan
Summer 2022 in Martha's Vineyard



Patrick (4), Evan (1)
Summer 2023

Getting to Know You- At Mitchell, we value diversity of cultures and family traditions. Our goal is to help children view their similarities and their differences in positive ways and experience Mitchell as a community of diverse learners working together. In order to help us enrich our environment, please fill out this [family survey](#).

In addition, I have created a [Room 4 Dismissal Plan & Family Questionnaire](#) that I ask that you also fill out. Some of the questions are similar to the Mitchell Family Survey above, but I also would like to have this information as it helps me prepare for the beginning of school. It will help me to learn more about your child's academic and personal interests so that I can make

meaningful connections with your child on the first day. It is important that you fill out the questionnaire **before the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th**, as it also includes some housekeeping items like dismissal plans and preferred name or nickname.

Our Year Ahead- I've already begun preparing our classroom for the start of the new school year. I've been setting up our physical spaces to ensure our classroom is safe, warm, and welcoming. This year we'll build on the literacy and mathematical work you've done leading up to 1st grade, all while raising the level of thinking as we do. We'll learn about reading strategies, develop our math skills, and write many stories. In social studies, we will learn about our community and holidays around the world. Finally, in science, we will learn about weather, life cycles, sound and light.

We will also learn a lot about ourselves and how we can connect with each other and respond to the world around us- we'll take note of and celebrate our individuality, we'll discuss our feelings and practice strategies that help us relax, focus, and reset when we encounter obstacles in our daily lives, and we will discover how to use a growth mindset to create challenging goals for ourselves and take charge of our own learning.

Additionally, we'll integrate technology into our classroom in several ways. Each of the 1st grade classrooms at Mitchell School review how to use online tools such as ST Math and Lexia. We will also collaborate with our technology specialist, Mrs. Fein to learn additional tools and complete a variety of projects.

School Supplies- Thank you in advance for purchasing school supplies for your 1st grader. Our grade level supply list can be found [HERE](#) as well.

First day of school supplies:

- ☐ 2-Pocket Folder**plastic recommended so that it will last all year** (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Glue Sticks, small (Quantity: 6)
- ☐ Dry Erase Markers, **Fine Tip** 4 Pack**Black, if possible** (Quantity: 4)
- ☐ Crayola Washable Markers, 8 Pack (Quantity: 2)
- ☐ Crayola Crayons, 16 Pack (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Crayola Colored Pencils, 12 Pack (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Facial Tissues (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ White 3 Ring Binder, Heavy Duty, 1.5" (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, 75 Count (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ 12-Pack Pencils, #2 Yellow/Wood with Erasers, Ticonderoga (Quantity: 1) **Sharpened, if possible**

- ☐ Pencil Box / Case, Plastic, 5" x 8" (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Large Pink Erasers (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Headphones (Quantity: 1)
- ☐ Change of clothes, including t-shirt, shorts, underwear, socks, long sleeve shirt and pants, labeled with child's name and in a bag

To help us get to know each other, please also send the following items on the first day:

- * two 4x6 pictures of YOU.
- * one 4x6 picture of your family.
- * a favorite book to share.
- * a drawing, photo, or small souvenir from one special summer adventure that your child can share with the class.. (This does not have to be travel. It could be a special family day, a hike in the woods or simply a fun day at the lake or beach.)

****Please do not send any additional supplies other than those identified above. All of the disposable supplies your student brings to school will be part of our communal supplies inventory. Having shared supplies helps to foster community and shared responsibility in the classroom. Also, please remove any/all packaging from supplies before sending those in with your student on the first day. ****

Materials Traveling Back and Forth Daily:

These items should be labeled with your child's name

- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Communication Folder (this is the two-pocket folder from the supply list, so the more durable, the better)

Snack- Please provide a simple and healthy snack for your child each day. We will have about ten-fifteen minutes to enjoy our snacks. Also, please be mindful that we may have students with life-threatening food allergies so we ask families to remind your children not to share food at school. If your child is bringing lunch from home, we also ask that you pack your child's snack in a separate bag.

Dismissal- Please fill out the [Room 4 Dismissal Plans & Family Questionnaire](#) (same as linked above) in order for me to know how your child will be going home each day. As a reminder, dismissal changes must be emailed to myself, Heidi Meagher

(Heidi_Meagher@needham.k12.ma.us) and Libby Fitzpatrick (Libby_Fitzpatrick@needham.k12.ma.us) as well as called into the main office at (781) 455-0466. ***I typically check my emails at lunch (11:00am) so any urgent dismissal changes after that time should be directly called into the main office at (781) 455-0466. Please note that all dismissal changes must be called in by 1:00pm.*** For students who are dismissed as a “walker”, we will meet families on the blacktop, outside the back door of our classroom.

Communication- Families, I strongly believe in open communication and working together. Please don't hesitate to contact me to check in. The best contact method is to email at danielle.hasenfuss@needham.k21.ma.us. I am more than willing to set up a time to discuss any concerns, questions, general issues that arise, or just to check in. I look forward to working together to support your students. I have set up a classroom listserv that will be used to email you important information about our classroom.

Your child will have a *Home/School* folder for daily trips home in your child's backpack. *Please check this folder every day.* Each day this folder will contain your child's work and important notices. Although it might not always have something in it, please look for it each day. I encourage you to discuss the work that comes home with your child. Please assist your child by reminding them to return the folder to school the following day. You might want to pick a special spot for your child to put their folder or get into a routine of your child emptying their folder and putting it back into their backpacks. This is a great way to foster independence.

See You Soon!

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and getting to know you as learners and as members of the Room 4 community! My goal is to provide a welcoming, supportive, and accepting environment for all members of our classroom. We're going to have a fantastic year together!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you on August 30th!

Sincerely,
Danielle Hasenfuss
Room 4 Classroom Teacher
[Mrs. Hasenfuss' Website](#)