

SAMPLE LETTER TO STUDENTS

<Date>

Dear <Student's Name>,

I hope you are having a good summer. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to our <number>th grade class. My name is <teacher's name>, and I have been teaching for <number> years. I am looking forward to another great school year.

In preparation for our first class, I would like you to read the poem, "What's in the Sack" by Shel Silverstein. A copy of the poem is included with this letter. As you read the poem, consider the messages in the poem. I encourage you also to share the poem with your family.

Once you have read the poem, prepare a sack (or paper bag) that contains three or four items that represent you. You will be asked to share the items in your sack with your classmates. Please do not bring any items of value to class just in case they should be lost or damaged.

Here is what I would put in my sack:

1. **A picture of my husband and three daughters.** My family is very important to me. I feel very blessed to have such a loving family.
2. **Yarn.** This year I have been trying to learn to knit. Many of my friends knit beautiful things and I wanted to learn to do the same. I have knitted three scarves already. You will see me wearing one when the weather gets colder.
3. **A book.** I love to read. I enjoy reading many different types of books. I like to read because I can learn new things, I can explore many new places, and most of all, I can learn about how other people think and feel.

I look forward to getting to know you better and seeing what you put in your sack. See you on <date of first day of school>.

Sincerely,

<Name of Teacher>