Dear first and second grade families,

Welcome, or welcome back! Our names are Sarah Kairis and Tori Jovanovski, and we are excited to be your child's teachers this year. This is Tori's third year at Ann Arbor Open, and Sarah's second year. We can't wait to catch up with returning families and to get to know new ones in just a week!

Your child will be an important member of our class this year. While every student still has a home room instructor, we will build on and expand last year's math collaboration to include nearly all subjects. Our instruction will consist of a series of thematic units, with supporting field trips and activities throughout the year. As teachers, we are excited about the potential this approach has to help every student be successful at school.

In the first few weeks, we will spend time getting to know each other, deciding how we want our classrooms to look and feel, and practicing learning and playing with old and new friends. Since all students will spend time in both Sarah's and Tori's classrooms, this process will be an important one. We look forward to working with you to help your child navigate this transition and have a great year at school!

A few dates for your calendar:

- Tuesday, September 4 is our first day! First bell is the same this year, at 8:14 a.m. There will be coffee available in the Media Center on that day.
- Thursday, September 6, 6:00-7:30, will be our school-wide back-to-school picnic. We hope to see you there!
- Thursday, September 13, 6:00-8:30 is Curriculum Night. Students in Sarah's and Tori's home rooms will meet together on that evening in Sarah's room (room 253).

Below we have listed our school email addresses. Working with your child is very important to us, and you should not hesitate to get in touch. However, during school hours it is best to direct any urgent matters to the office.

We are looking forward to another great year!

Tori Jovanovski and Sarah Kairis
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