

Hey there, my new friend!

I am SO excited to begin our year's adventure together! I have been busy at home and at school, learning new ways to make learning fun. I have also been enjoying time with my three kids and two dogs—playing, working, and making the most of our family time.

Our very favorite place in the world is a special pond in the woods of Northern Maine. We spend time at our family spot on Shin Pond, where we return to a simple life—hiking, boating, reading, and enjoying time with our extended family. I hope you have been having some wonderful adventures too. I can't wait to hear all about them when we meet!

Our adventures in the Readiness Room will be endless! We will become readers, writers, authors, mathematicians, scientists, performers, friends, and most importantly—a family. I am so excited to meet you, I could burst!

I know that the beginning of the year can bring lots of unknowns and may feel a little scary. Take some deep belly breaths, and let me help with some of those worries. I would love to get to know you before the start of the school year.

Part One: A Letter from Home

The first part of getting to know you starts with a special task for your parent or guardian.

Parents and Guardians:

Nobody knows your child better than you do. I would absolutely love for you to write me a letter introducing your child. Please email it to me at Samantha.gorton@sau19.org.

You might include:

A brief biography

Strengths and challenges

Special abilities or concerns

Past school experiences

What your child loves to do

Your child's feelings about school

What your child hopes to learn this year

What you hope your child will learn this year

I would also love to hear about favorite toys, activities, and anything your child finds challenging. Please include anything you would like me to keep in mind as I work with your child.

Part Two: Classroom Visit

The second part of getting to know you is a special visit day!

On Thursday, August 27, I would love for you and your parents to come see our classroom and spend some time with me. You may even meet some of your new classmates!

 I will be available from 1:00–2:00 PM.

Getting Ready for School

You might be wondering how to get ready for this exciting new school year. Here's the secret:

All you need is:

A backpack (big enough for papers and special treasures!)

An extra set of clothes

A lunch box

I will have everything else ready for you in our classroom—how cool is that?

On our first day together, I will give you a special plastic folder. It will be your responsibility to bring it back and forth each day—our first step in learning responsibility!

I hope you are ready to soar through our year—learning, playing, and making friends.

Readiness is where our adventure begins!

With love,

Ms. Sam

P.S. I can't wait to see you on Monday, August 31 for our first day of school! If your parents have any questions, they can reach me at Samantha.Gorton@sau19.org.