

# *J. Ackerman Coles School*

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Dear Student:

Welcome to Coles! For many of you, it is a welcome back and for some of you who are new, it is your first welcome from me.

We are ready for a great year of learning. I was so impressed with what you learned last year. I want to thank each student who wrote to me in June to share what you learned.

I know you are looking forward to reading new books, learning new things in science, math, social studies, and even more. Your teacher will share some specific goals for your class and grade. I know you will want to set some of your own goals, too.

Please remember that attitude counts at Coles School. We all need to be kind, respectful, and treat others the way we want to be treated. It is important to be friendly, help others and let others join in when you are playing. Always follow the Coles School rules.

I look forward to talking with you throughout the year. I love to hear about what you are learning and I know how exciting it is to share. Please talk to your parents every day. Parents love to hear about your day, especially when you can tell them what you've learned.

This year the teachers are going to try some new teaching techniques. You may find that sometimes they ask you not to raise your hand. This is called "no hands calling". It is a way for teachers to call on many students, not just those with their hands up. It lets more students talk so we can learn from the ideas everyone has to share.

Teachers may ask different questions than before. They will expect your best thinking. Your teacher may use a traffic light as a way for you to show you understand (green), understand some parts, but need some help (yellow), or don't understand yet (red light).

All the teachers and I have also been studying how to mark papers so it helps you more. Comments your teachers write help you learn better than any other grading method. Your teacher will try some new ways of marking papers this year, so that we can help you learn more. Some papers will be just for practice and may not get a grade. Your teacher will also teach you how to notice what you are learning, and how you are progressing in your work.

I am looking forward to talking to you throughout the year. Coles School is a very important place and this is a very important time for you. I want you to be able to learn as much as possible, feel confident and successful, and know that we are here to help you if you have a question or need help with something that seems hard.

My best wishes for a great year!

Warmly,

*Dr. Evans*  
Principal