**Welcome Crew 124!**

**Dear parents,**

**Thank you very much for a wonderful first couple of days of school. It has been a very busy and full last couple of weeks meeting all of the crew and finally getting into the school building. I appreciate the patience you have shown as I learn to navigate a new school and a new crew. Thank you very much to everyone for helping to organize all of the supplies on “Meet the teacher night”; the help allowed me to get more sleep than I expected before the first day of school! ☺ And thank you so much for the wonderful gift on the first day of school!**

**This letter will provide some general information about our crew.**

**Arrival**

**There will be adult supervision on the playground starting at 7:45. Students may play until the bell rings or with family supervision, they may line up outside their classroom door.**

**At 8:00 students will enter through the exterior classroom door. If we have bad weather, students will line up inside by their grade level sign indoors (enter through the main entrance please).**

**When students enter the classroom, they may put their materials away and get their breakfast.**

**If you arrive after 8:10, you must enter through the main office door and check in. We will not open our doors after 8:10. This is a school-wide policy that is very important for the safety of our school community.**

**Morning Books and Breakfast**

**We would love to have you join us each morning for just a few minutes to read with children.**

**8:00 Students come in:**

* + **hang up backpacks,**
  + **switch daily books,**
  + **turn in their daily folder,**
  + **set up for breakfast**
  + **then students are encouraged to read with adults.**

**8:15 Students will say goodbye to their families and begin to eat breakfast. We ask that parents to say goodbye at 8:15. It is important for our students to begin to build independence☺**

**Snack**

**We have a long school day and will have snacks available for students. We would love healthy snack donations that can be shared with the class. Children are also welcome to pack their own snack for the day.**

**Allergies**

**We do not have food allergies in our crew, but we still need to be allergy aware (especially in the lunch room or when we are having a joint K/1 celebration). Please be mindful of peanuts.**

**Water Bottles**

**Please send a reusable water bottle to school so that everyone can stay hydrated without having to go to the water fountain during learning time.**

**Homework**

**The Kindergarten & First grade team has decided not to have traditional homework this year. Our students work very hard during our extended day, so we don’t want to send them home with homework. Even though we won’t send homework with students, here are some highly encouraged activities to practice at home:**

1. **Read every night. Students will bring home two books every night, *One for you and one for me!* One book appropriate for them to “read” to you and one for you to read to them.**
2. **Visit the library and museums.**
3. **Be active and play games outside.**
4. **Keep a journal to practice writing.**
5. **Play board games.**
6. **Practice counting money at the store.**
7. **Prepare dinner together (measuring).**
8. **Have fun as a family!**

**If you have questions, feel free to ask!**

**Restorative Justice**

**At Centennial, we practice restorative justice. This philosophy teaches children how to be responsible to themselves and to a community. We do proactive lessons during crew to teach students how to treat one another so that everyone feels safe and can thrive. We use restorative strategies to help students work through challenges. Some of these strategies are:**

1. **Restorative circles and conversations (talking through problems as a class or small group)**
2. **Solving problems with other students at the peace table**
3. **Fix-it forms - Students will be asked to describe what happened, who was hurt, what part were they responsible for, and how can they repair the harm. This is not punitive but a way for students to reflect and to hold themselves accountable and repair the harm that was done.**
4. **Buddy classrooms-sometimes students need space and a break from their classroom. We have “buddy classrooms” where students can go if they need to take a break outside their usual classroom.**
5. **Crew-We will focus on building a positive classroom environment during Crew meetings through different greetings, books, and games.**
6. **Community Circle- As an entire school crew, we come together once a month to celebrate how we are doing as an entire community!**

**Dismissal**

**We dismiss out our exterior classroom doors at 3:45. Students have to stay with us until we see an adult. Please try to be on time. If you are running late, we will walk students to the front office to wait for their family.**

**Volunteering:**

**Last year was a record-setting year for volunteer hours! We appreciate your help☺ There are many opportunities and ways to volunteer. You must complete the volunteer training and background check to volunteer in the classroom. Some upcoming training dates are Tuesday, September 13, at 8:00 and 3:00. (I will send home more dates as I get them) We request that we have a few weeks to build our crew courtesies and set up our routines before volunteers begin in the classroom.**

**Volunteering Dates**

**You will hear from your teacher when they are ready to start with volunteers. We request time for students to become more independent before families volunteer.**

**Home Visits**

**I have had the pleasure of getting to visit many of your homes already, but it is my hope to visit all our crew’s families this year. The purpose of the visits is to learn about your hopes and dreams for your child and to build a community here at Centennial. You will hear from me about setting up a time☺ I can’t wait!**

**Field Work**

**There will also be opportunities to chaperone during a field work experience. This is a great way to participate in our expedition case studies! Please make sure you have completed the background check so you may go with us. If you do volunteer for field work, please arrange for daycare for any younger siblings.**

**Birthdays**

**Each month the K, K/1st, & 1st crews will celebrate students’ who were born in that month together. We will celebrate on the last Friday of each month at 3:15.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Students Born In** | **Celebration Date** |
| **September & October** | **September 30th** |
| **November** | **October 28th** |
| **December** | **November 25th** |
| **January** | **December 16th** |
| **February** | **January 27th** |
| **March** | **February 24th** |
| **April** | **March 31st** |
| **May** | **April 28th** |
| **June, July, & August** | **May 26th** |

**Each child that has a birthday that month can bring a healthy snack to share with the class. Parents are welcome to attend! We will send out a monthly list of who has a birthday that month so parents can coordinate the birthday snacks.**

**Communication**

**We will be setting up a K/1 website with a link to a crew website. I will be publishing a weekly newsletter to the website every Friday. If you would rather receive a hard copy please let me know. (Until I have time to set up the website, I will send the newsletters hard copy.)**

**Enrichments**

**We have enrichments (formerly called specials) every afternoon from 1:00 to 2:20. Each day the students will have 2 different enrichments depending on the “letter” of the day (A day, B day, etc.) Our schedule is as follows:**

**A Day: Science then music B Day: PE then Spanish**

**C Day: Music then art D Day: Spanish then technology**

**E Day: Art then science F Day: Technology then PE**

**On PE days please remember to bring sneakers.**

**September**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8  A | 9  B | 10 |
| 11 | 12  C | 13  D | 14  E | 15  F | 16  A | 17 |
| 18 | 19  B | 20  C | 21  D | 22  E | 23  F | 24 |
| 25 | 26  A | 27  B | 28  C | 29  D | 30  E | 1 |

**Back to school night**

**On September 22 (Thursday) we will have a back to school night. More information about the timing will come soon.**

**Picture Day**

**We will have school pictures on Friday the 16th of September (this Friday) at 11:00. Picture forms are going home today. Please bring them back by Friday if you would like pictures. These pictures are only individual, I believe; class pictures will take place later in the year.**

**If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to talk to me. My email is Christopher\_weisschristoff@dpsk12.org.**

**Thank You!**

**Chris Christoff**