

August 2019

Dear Parents of 1st and 2nd graders,

I am excited to introduce myself as your child's first and second grade teacher. This will be my fifth year at Pacific Elementary. I have been a teacher for seventeen years, ten of which have been at Good Shepherd School in Santa Cruz. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies which focused on Art, Botany, and Native American Studies, and my teaching credential from Humboldt State. My special skills involve teaching children's literature, developing students' love for reading, and teaching writing and art.

This year at Pacific we will be working on the Daily Five. The Daily Five involve children practicing their reading and writing skills every day, including listening to reading, reading aloud, working with words, and independently reading and writing. We will also be using the CAFÉ program, which helps readers build comprehension, accuracy when recognizing words, increases fluency and expands vocabularies. We are using English Language Arts and Development materials from Benchmark.

Pacific will continue to use Eureka math (which is Common Core aligned) and Triumph Math as a supplemental program. These programs will give the children real world applications of math skills, while ensuring children learn their math facts. Your children will receive specialty classes including Music, Life Lab, Library, and weekly hands-on science lessons using FOSS science curriculum.

During the first week of school, we will be learning our procedures and routines which will help ensure and enable us to have a peaceful learning environment. I am busy planning an exciting year which will include some local field trips. I also will be looking for volunteers to help us during class time.

We will have homework packets but they will not start until after Labor Day. They will include a weekly note from me and be given out on a Friday and due the next Friday. The packets will have spelling words, writing, and math. Children will be asked to read each evening for ten to twenty minutes. A sight word list will be sent home for memorization.

Each day at recess, the children eat a uniform snack. Children will be assigned to bring the snack on a rotating basis. The snack should be healthy and low in fat and sugar, as required by our school Wellness Policy which you can find on our school website, www.pacificesd.org. Please send in pre-portioned servings; that way we can serve the children quickly.

I look forward to meeting all of the students in my class and their parents. I will be able to give a more detailed description of our routines and procedures, curriculum plans and answer any questions you may have at the Back to School Night on September 11, 2019.

Some important reminders are that the school day starts at 8:40. Please make sure to be on time. We take attendance at 8:40 when Mr. Gross addresses the school. Also, please schedule vacations during the school breaks. Student learning is disrupted when children take a vacation during the school day. You are invited to visit the classroom on Wednesday August 21st from 9-10 during the classroom preview. This is also a great time to turn in any registration paperwork. All registration forms that families

need to complete are on the Pacific website. The first day of school is actually August 22 which is a change so there may be incorrect calendars floating around.

School supplies are provided by the teacher but you may donate to the entire class. It is very important at this age to have uniform supplies. So if you would like to donate please bring enough for the class. We will need crayons, washable markers, erasers, and pencils. We will have approximately 25 students in the class next year. That number could change over the summer depending on people's plans changing.

Please pay ahead for school lunches, BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS. You may use your own online banking to set up auto-pay for lunches, September 1 – April 1 (as well as for preschool tuition, after care, and rec bills). \$72 monthly covers 20 student lunches @ \$3.60 each, and the cost for all other lunches (parents, guests, siblings) is \$5.65. However, if you are new to the school or your financial situation has changed, please apply for free or reduced price lunch. Both families and the school benefit when families qualify. Contact the school office or see the website for more information.

We also encourage everyone to explore our online family handbook at www.pacificesd.org/family-handbook.html.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tschirky