

August 2020

Dear Parents of 2nd graders,

I am excited to introduce myself as your child's second grade teacher. This will be my sixth year at Pacific Elementary. I have been a teacher for eighteen 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 Advanced. We will start learning the Daily Five and implementing a Daily Five Schedule and then we will add the Benchmark lessons. Live language arts lessons will be offered at 9:00 daily on zoom.

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. Math lessons will be taught via zoom three times per week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 10:30. We will focus on problem solving during those times.

During the first week of school, we will be creating our digital community, learning our routines and schedules which will help ensure and enable us to have a connected classroom. Parents can choose to use the teacher directed curriculum or create your own curriculum and submit quality biweekly work samples in math, language arts, science, social studies, and art skills. Parents and the teacher can discuss the best curriculum plan for their child. We will be using google classroom and assignments and schedules will be posted there.

We will have work packets but they will not start until the second week of school. They will include a weekly note/ schedule from me and be given out on a Tuesday and will contain the work for the following week. Many items will be scanned and posted in the google classroom but leveled books will be provided and will need to be dropped off and exchanged. Please plan on coming to school weekly if you are doing the teacher directed curriculum. There will also be a plastic bin outside of the school office for dropping off work samples. Work samples can also be digitally scanned and uploaded to your child's google folder.

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 Wed., August 26th, 2020 at 6 p.m. I will email the zoom link after school starts.

Some important reminders are that you will need to fill out the online google form daily for attendance credit or the weekly attendance paper log. We also encourage everyone to explore our online family handbook at www.pacificesd.org/family-handbook.html. Also I need to mention things are fluid and subject to change.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tschirky