

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome, sorry if you have been waiting apprehensively for this note. The class list has been shifting, as well as contact information. Today I am putting out this note to my most currently updated list. I am also sending out a Google Doc Calendar for families to sign up for a home visit; some of you have responded to phone calls and have been scheduled for a visit already. If the days don't work, I can make an additional date for this Saturday. It is our hope to learn more about the needs of your family, and we will work to incorporate these into scheduling and materials. It is our hope to visit all families and drop off "Starter Packs" as well as some extra supplies to get the year started off.

As your children and students embark on their first year of formal school, the paradigm has changed. This year we will work to provide both stability and flexibility. We want to be accommodating to the range of ways families are accessing education under the shadow of Covid. My assistant, Jamaris Latoni, and I are trying to set up the year with lessons learned from finishing off the prior school year. Some areas of consistency we will follow:

1. We will use just one electronic platform, Google Classroom, for posting and collecting assignments, as well as running our online meetings. We will have a Communication Folder within that platform. Our first parent meeting, a Virtual Back To School Afternoon, will be on Zoom, this Wednesday, August 12, tomorrow, at 1:00 pm. At this meeting Jamaris will be giving explicit instructions and answering questions regarding Google Classroom. I will review the folders and explain how we will be starting the school year. If you can not make this meeting we can create another opportunity. We aim to be flexible, and work in and around the variety of constraints that the current pandemic places on us.

Some Requirements:

Reporting attendance will be a formal daily event. There will be a daily district attendance form attached to the Google Classroom folder entitled, "Are you there? Attendance Joy". Additionally, we will have a Weekly Log that you submit every Friday which documents the choices for instruction you are making outside of our online classes.

Some Requirements:

Weekly submission of work samples every Friday to Google Classroom
Weekly whole class assignments will be posted by Sunday evenings for

the following week. Work within the different packets and eventual workbooks will continue at different paces, and we will be able to differentiate materials to support student learning on this front. New hard copy academic packets will be sent out as needed, probably on a monthly basis. I spent twenty years as a Special Education teacher and have a range of activities and ideas to support your students to engage, and thereby access their education. We will do our best to streamline with fewer hiccups as the year moves forward. Becoming more familiar with student and family needs will allow us to do our best work to offer best supports to students and families.

2. Students are starting the school year with different skills and exposure to the upcoming kindergarten curriculum. We will start the first week and maybe two, with whole group instruction, and then break into smaller groups, so that we can more effectively deliver academic instruction. Some families within our class have already created little pods. We will work to make groups that support these arrangements and facilitate as much as possible. Current tentative schedule for the week of August 12-21.

*Home Visits August 11 -14/15 (note pending in google Docs with a schedule; more phone calls to schedule appointments coming this afternoon).

Scheduling of small groups will hopefully be better determined after the second week. Intention is to break the Tuesday - Friday math and language arts groups into potentially 3-4 small groups at 20+ minutes each.

Week 1

Wednesday, August 12: Zoom Virtual Back to School Afternoon, 1pm; will receive an additional email with just this meeting information.

Thursday, August 13: Zoom Back to School Afternoon, 1pm; will receive an additional email with just this meeting information.

Friday, August 14: Whole class practice with accessing computer and online instruction

Week 2

Monday, August 17: Monday Morning Meet-up,
9:00-10:00: Begin Line Unit, Story

Share, Song and Stretch

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Marvelous Math

11:30-12:00 Independent Extension/Office hours

Tuesday, August 18:

9:00-10:00: Line Unit, Story Share,

Song and Stretch

10:00-10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 Marvelous Math
11:30-12:00 Independent Extension/Office hours

Wednesday, August 19:

9:00-10:00: Line Unit, Story Share,

Song and Stretch

10:00-10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 Marvelous Math
11:30-12:00 Independent Extension/Office hours

Thursday, August 20:

9:00-10:00: Line Unit, Story Share,

Song and Stretch

10:00-10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 Marvelous Math
11:30-12:00 Independent Extension/Office hours

Friday, August 21:

9:00-10:00: Line Unit, Story Share,

Song and Stretch

10:00-10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 Marvelous Math
11:30-12:00 Independent Extension /

Office hours

3. During Home Visits, (8/11 - 8/14 or 8/15) introductory materials will be provided for families in both Math, Language Arts, and Miscellaneous Resources. More materials will be forthcoming. There are lots of materials to create manipulatives for practicing letter and number facts. Additionally, materials from a course I took this summer will expand on resources, literature and ideas to pursue.

4. We will start the school year with an integrated unit on the eight different line shapes which are used to write all letters and numbers. We will expand on identifying these line shapes in our environment through Scavenger Hunts, and art activities.

5. Parent conferences and communications are always welcome. Please feel comfortable connecting with me via email (for now) eventually through Google Classroom communication folder.

Thank you for all you are and all you are doing to make this year a bright spot in the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bird jbird@pacificesd.org and Jamaris Latoni jlatoni@pacificesd.org

