

2019-2020 TK/Kindergarten, Pacific Elementary School

Dear TK and Kindergarten Families and Students,

My name is Jennifer Bird, and I am delighted to be your Kindergarten teacher in the upcoming school year. Our aide this year will be Jamaris Latoni, who was an aide in older students' classrooms last year. The year will be filled with many different opportunities for learning, a rich curriculum, varieties of play opportunities, building friendships, strengthening our classroom and school community, sharing interests, experiences, curiosity, as well as practicing routines and procedures that build on school readiness.

Kindergarten marks a transition for many families: the start of the school experience. We will all be learning and growing together throughout the year. I am receptive to insights, interests, learning styles that will best support students and foster a love of learning. Although I am structured in approach, with a variety of materials and procedures, my teaching background is in Special Education, and I am very flexible and experienced with accommodating individual student needs. Pacific Elementary Kindergarten richly embeds Orff Music, Life Lab, FoodLab, Library Time, Reading Buddies with our 5th/6th grade buddy classroom, Mindfulness Meditation, and Language Ambassadors (our class focus will be on Spanish). Enrichment times have not been scheduled yet, and the schedule below is a general guide.

The Kindergarten day is from 8:40-12:30.

General Schedule - **Times and days for some enrichment activities have not been confirmed yet*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40	School-wide assembly	School-wide assembly	School-wide assembly	School-wide assembly	School-wide assembly
	Choice-time, attendance, snack count	Choice-time, attendance, snack count	Choice-time, attendance, snack count	Choice-time, attendance, snack count	Choice-time, attendance, snack count
9:00	Transition to carpet, activity, mini-lesson	Transition to carpet, activity, mini-lesson	Transition to carpet, activity, mini-lesson	Transition to carpet, activity, mini-lesson	Transition to carpet, activity, mini-lesson
9:15 - 10:15	<i>*Musical Meditation with 5th/6th</i> Center Rotations: LA and Math	Center Rotations: LA and Math <i>*Library or Music</i>	Center Rotations: LA and Math	Center Rotations: LA and Math <i>*Library or Music</i>	<i>*Reading Buddies with 5th/6th</i> Center Rotations: LA and Math
10:30-11	Food Lab dining/home snack	Food Lab dining/home snack	Food Lab dining/home snack	Food Lab dining/home snack	Food Lab dining/home snack
11 - 11:30+	Outdoor Recess	Outdoor Recess	Outdoor Recess	Outdoor Recess	Outdoor Recess

11:40 -12:20	Read Aloud, Guided drawings, Art, Science, Center time	Read Aloud, Guided drawings, Art, Science, Center time	Read Aloud, Guided drawings, Art, Science, Center time	Read Aloud, Guided drawings, Art, Science, Center time	Read Aloud, Guided drawings, Art, Science, Center time <i>*Life Lab</i>
12:20-12:30	Clean-up, and dismissal from bench in front of 1st/2nd grade classroom	Clean-up, and dismissal from bench in front of 1st/2nd grade classroom	Clean-up, and dismissal from bench in front of 1st/2nd grade classroom	Clean-up, and dismissal from bench in front of 1st/2nd grade classroom	Clean-up, and dismissal from bench in front of 1st/2nd grade classroom

Supplies to bring: The classroom is currently stocked with writing materials and curriculum. Art supplies and activities are important to me, as well as quality outdoor toys for students, and science and nature-based materials to share. Healthy afternoon snacks would also be lovely additions to our classroom. Also, accidents can happen. ***Please also bring a change of clothes for your student to keep at school.***

Class contact lists: These are pending and will be shared when completed by office staff; let me know if you have privacy concerns before I make information public.

FoodLab and snacks: Each day, we have a mid morning meal between 10:30-11. At the start of every school day, students share whether they will be having home lunch, or school-based vegetarian or meat meal. *If your child has specific dietary restrictions, complete and submit this [MEDICAL STATEMENT TO REQUEST SPECIAL MEALS AND/OR ACCOMMODATIONS](#) form to the school office.* Children should bring a snack from home if they participate in the After School Care program.

- 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.

Volunteer opportunities: Extra support during daily rotations is always appreciated and it enables students to be engaged; adults helping with ball skills, making an obstacle course, and supervising at recess is a plus; plus special events, like making applesauce, and sharing art project management, for example.

Dates and times to remember: The first day of school is **THURSDAY, August 22**. You are welcome to visit the classroom on **Wednesday, August 21st, from 9-10 a.m.** I look forward to seeing all of my students and their parents at this time. (Please email me if you need to set up another time and I will try to accommodate.) This is also a chance to be sure all your registration paperwork is complete and turned in at the office. Forms are on our school website and the emailed Back-to-School Registration Paperwork memo. I will give a more detailed

description of our routines, procedures, and curriculum plans and answer any questions you may have at the Back-to-School Night, **Wednesday, September 11th**.

- Please read the school's weekly electronic memo and the school website, pacificesd.org, which is well-maintained with up-to-date information on events.
- We also encourage everyone to explore our online family handbook at www.pacificesd.org/family-handbook.html.

Communication is important to me, and I generally have an open door policy to share concerns, delights, or garner information. In addition to parent conferences in the fall and spring, trimester report cards share information about student growth. I will try to create newsletters that alert you to upcoming events, units of study, opportunities for extra volunteering, and potential ideas to engage.

I hope you all had a restful summer, and I'm looking forward to a wonderful next school year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bird
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