



Beard School Open House

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Open House at Beard School! I am pleased to be able to meet you and explain our daily program in Room 120.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to talk to me this evening. You can always communicate with me in your child's folder, or call the school office at 773-534-1228 and leave a message for me. The quickest way to speak with me is to email me at amkearns@cps.edu. I return email within 24 hours on weekdays, usually sooner.

Attached you will find some important information about our program. Please read through it carefully.

Thank you for coming tonight! I look forward to a good school year with your child.

Staff - Alana Duffy, Teacher, Room 120
Anna, Evelyn and Debbie, Assistants

Students - There are presently 7 students in our room:
Mohammed, Syed, Kyara, Brandon, Walter, Jameer, Isreal

Schedule- Art on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Annette
Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays with Julie
Library on Fridays with Rachel
Social Work Group with Katie on Fridays
Psychology Social Group with Noel TBD
Speech with Trisha TBD
O.T. with Andy TBD

Attendance-

Our goal is 100% attendance for all students. In case of illness, please call your child's bus company. Also call the school office (773-534-1228) to report the absence. In addition to calling, please remember to fill out the Excused Absence form which can be found in your child's binder and return it to me.

Sick Children –

If your child is sick, please keep your child home! In case of a fever or vomiting, keep child home for 24 hours after the symptoms are gone.

Doctor, Dental, and Therapy Appointments -

Please try to schedule all appointments after school hours. If you absolutely cannot do this, then please try for an early morning or late afternoon appointment so that your child can be in school for most of the day.

Allergies, Medications, Dietary Restrictions –

Please inform me if your child has or develops any allergies. Also let me know if your child takes medication at home or if there are any dietary restrictions (no pork, milk, etc.) I will pass along the information to our school nurse.

Religious or Cultural Restrictions –

Please let me know if you do not want your child to participate in any holiday celebrations such as Halloween, Christmas, etc.

Curriculum-

Reading – Orton Gillingham and Wonders

Math – Singapore Math

Science – Attainment

Social Studies- News2You and Second Step

Writing Program –

Our school uses a writing program called *Handwriting Without Tears*. The children will learn to print their letters correctly, starting at the top for most letters. They will learn to print neatly on the lines - paying attention to try to "bump the lines." Encourage your child to write at home!

Technology –

In the classroom we have a smart board that is used for many interactive lessons. Students also use laptops daily to access RAZKids online books, Lakeshore Learning Games, and other resources for skill practice.

Homework –

Homework is a great tool that can be used to reinforce skills that are being worked on in the classroom. I understand that some students have busy schedules with outside therapy, making it challenging to complete homework. If

you are interested in receiving homework for your child please let me know and I will be happy to send home weekly assignments.

Daily Parent-Teacher Communication –

Parents and teachers communicate daily in the folder. Please write any concerns or questions you may have, and I will respond the same day. If you do not have time to write, please initial my note so that I will know you have read it.

Behavior Reinforcement –

Students complete a rotation of centers for both language arts and math. At each center, students earn a sticker once they have completed all of the expected work. After centers, students who have done all their work can have a short break to work on a preferred item that they have chosen (sensory area, drawing, big pillow, books, etc.) If a child has not completed their work, they will use this time to work with an adult to finish.

Classroom Dojo-

Our class uses a website called Classroom Dojo to help us track rule following behavior. Each child receives points throughout the day for positive behaviors like participating, following directions, being a good friend, etc. Students do not receive points if they have failed to follow a school rule. The Beard rules are Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Kind.

Report Card Pick-Up –

Report cards will be distributed four times a year. You must come to Parent Conferences **two** times a year to receive your child's report card. Our goal is 100% parent attendance at conferences. You will be notified of the parent-teacher conference dates in advance.

Parent Meetings –

Beard School offers parent meetings which provide valuable information and support. You will receive a notice in your child's binder about these meetings. Please try to attend!

Field Trips –

We will be attending some field trips this year. Your child must have a permission slip with a parent signature to participate. Parents can attend some of the field trips. Parents are required to apply as a volunteer if they are interested in attending field trips. Please let me know in advance if you would like to attend.

Birthdays –

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school with a special treat, please let me know in advance. All foods must be store-bought. No home-baked items are allowed and we prefer healthy treats. We love to celebrate birthdays!

No Electronic Games or Toys –

Do not bring electronic games or toys to school. The school will not be responsible for lost/broken toys or games.

Sweater, Sweatshirt, Emergency Clothes –

Please send a sweater or sweatshirt to keep in the classroom. Put your child's name on it. Accidents happen to all children. Please make sure to send labeled emergency clothes, including underwear, and to replace them when they are used.

Recess in Winter –

Children will be allowed to play outside during recess in the snowy weather if they have the proper clothing: boots, snow pants, hat, and mittens or gloves.

Early Departure -

If your child leaves school early, please be sure to sign him/her out in the office before you leave the building.

School Fundraising –

We need your support for our school fundraising efforts throughout the year! The profits benefit the purchase of school materials, such as laminating rolls. There are many school fundraisers throughout the year and would love if your family can participate!

Wish List – Thank you for all of the families who have sent in supplies. We continue to need snacks (chips, pretzels, goldfish, crackers, etc), paper towels, and cleaning wipes.

Thank you for coming to our Open House tonight! If you have questions, you can reach out to me over email at amkearns@cps.edu, by sending a note in the notebook, or by leaving a message for me in the school office (773)534-1228.