

Students:

Our classroom can have up to 20 students. Our class is quickly filling up and we are meeting new friends every day!

Schedule:

Every day we will have breakfast or lunch, answer a question of the day, read books, write our names, have a classroom meeting, participate in a small group, go to centers, have story time and participate in gross motor activities (recess, games, music). We also go to the kitchen garden to plant and harvest the crops that are grown and we go to the outdoor garden to play and for special activities.

Attendance:

Our goal is to have 100% attendance for all students. In case your child is sick, please call the school office (773-534-1228) to report the absence. Please remember to fill out the absence form that will be sent home and return it to school the next day.

Sick Children: If your child is sick, please keep him or her home from school. In case of fever or vomiting, keep your child home for 24 hours after the symptoms are gone. This will help prevent the spread of any illness at school.

Allergies, Medications, Dietary Restrictions:

Please inform me if your child has or develops any allergies or if they have dietary restrictions. There can be no medication brought to school with your child unless you have the CPS medication forms filled out by your doctor and kept on file at school. Our school and classroom are both "peanut free".

Curriculum:

The early childhood team uses "The Creative Curriculum". The units we will be focusing on are: Back to school, Trees, Bread, Building, Pets, Transportation, Balls and Recycling. Teaching Strategies Gold is a tool that allows us to record observations of each child and is used as an ongoing assessment during the school year.

Technology:

Our classroom is very fortunate to have 2 computers, a Promethean Board and three iPad's. The students are given the opportunity to use them individually and in groups. We use the technology to reinforce the skills that we are learning. I will send home a list of some of our favorite apps as we start to use them.

Class Dojo: Each day, students will be rewarded for following the rules of our classroom, being a good friend, cleaning up; completing classroom activities or other important skills we may be focusing on. Each parent has been invited to join class Dojo. You will be able to see pictures of your child as well as a class story. You will also be able to see what awards your child earned during the school day as well as receive important reminders of school activities. I hope you will join Class Dojo so you can hear about all the fun things your child is doing in school!

Please dress your child for the weather:

Please send your child in clothing appropriate for the weather- including shoes and outerwear. We go outside for recess- even when the weather is cold. Please label your child's hat and mittens so they do not get lost. Sending your child in layers is best. It may be cold outside but they can get warm in our classroom. Having your child wear a short sleeve shirt with a sweater allows them to be more comfortable at school. Gym shoes or secure sandals are a good choice to be worn while playing at school. If your child wears boots, please send a change of shoes in their

backpacks. Please help your child to learn to put on their own shoes and coats. Encourage them to try to zip their coats as well.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

We have parent/teacher conferences twice a year. We will notify you of the date's in advance. Please plan on attending the conference, as it's important to share your child's progress with you. This will allow us to be partners in your child's success!

Birthdays:

If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday at school with a special treat, please let us know in advance. All food brought to school must be store bought. We are a healthy school and are following Chicago Public Schools wellness plan. All snacks provided to kids at school come from the recommended list of snacks. Please do not send cake or cupcakes, cookies etc. You are welcome to send, fruit, vegetables, fruit leather, wheat thins, hummus, pretzels, goldfish, raisins, nutrition grain bars or cliff bars. You may also send in non-edibles. For example, you may send your child's favorite book for us to read or stickers, pencils, small party favors or a book for the classroom library. Please do not send cake or cupcakes, cookies etc. The school can have two celebrations a year where all treats will be allowed.

School Fundraising:

There are many opportunities to support Beard School. We will send home information about items to sell and activities that can be attended by your family. Please help with our fundraising efforts!

Wish List:

I will send out our wish list a couple of times during the school year. We appreciate any items that you can donate! Many items on the wish list are used to make playdough or go into our sensory bin for the children to explore.

Parent Volunteer:

Parent volunteers are welcome in our class! Parents who would like to volunteer are invited to apply online at <http://cps.edu/FACE/Pages/VolunteerPrograms.aspx>. If you would like to be a room parent, who helps organize volunteers and snacks for special activities we have during the school year, please let me know.

Scholastic Books:

I will be sending home Scholastic book forms which you may use to purchase books for your child. When you order books, our class benefits by earning points that we can use towards classroom books and materials. If you are interested in purchasing books, please fill out the forms send home and return to school by the due date.