

WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE DUAL IMMERSION!

Hello Families,

Welcome to first-grade dual immersion! We are so excited to have you this year. This packet will provide you with basic information about our classes and expectations for the school year.

About Your Teachers:

Ms. Jencks - English

Hello First Grade Families,

My name is Jessica Jencks and I am thrilled to be joining Parley's Park Elementary School as a first grade teacher this year. Originally from the Midwest, my spouse and I have enjoyed raising our grown daughter here in the mountains of Park City, and I am excited to continue my teaching journey in this wonderful community. Over the past decade, I have had the pleasure of teaching kindergarten at Weilenmann, and I bring with me experience from both Montessori and Waldorf educational environments. This year, I am particularly enthusiastic about the adventure of teaching first grade at PPES. I am passionate about fostering a positive and engaging learning experience for each child. Outside of school, I enjoy the great outdoors, especially mountain biking, traveling, and experiencing live music. I look forward to getting to know you and your children and working together to make this a fantastic year of growth and discovery.

Maestra Leti - Spanish (Ms. Leti)

¡Hola amigos! My name is Maria Leticia Burns. I grew up in Asuncion, Paraguay. I received a BA degree in Business Administration from Universidad Americana. I am fluent in Spanish and hold an American Montessori Society teaching credentials at the

Infant/Toddler and Lower Elementary levels from Westminster College. I recently received my Associate Elementary License and Spanish Word Language Endorsement. I love the outdoors, traveling and spending time with family and friends. I live in Park City, UT with my husband Kerry, daughter Sophie (11) and son Kaleb (8).

Schedules

PCSD has made the decision that DLI students will spend half of their day in English Class and half of their day in Spanish class. They will transition between classes before lunch.

Classroom Management

School-wide Rules: Our school-wide rules are: be safe, be respectful and be responsible. As a class, we will come up with what it looks like and sounds like to follow each rule in our classroom.

Individual Rewards/Consequences: We will follow the school-wide individual and classroom ticket system. Students will receive individual tickets when they are following the school rules listed above. They will write their names on the back of the tickets, and the tickets will be collected in their classroom jar. Every Thursday afternoon there will be a school-wide drawing, and student winners will be announced on Friday morning's announcements.

There are also classroom tickets that are handed out by teachers throughout the school that *catch* the whole class following the school rules. Once the class earns 10 tickets, they are rewarded with a special party or experience (i.e. extra recess, class movie, popsicle party, etc.).

Classroom Rules:

Rule #1: Follow directions quickly.

Rule #2: Raise your hand for permission to speak.

Rule #3: Listen when your teacher is talking.

Rule #4: Make smart choices.

Whole Class points: Throughout our day, students as a whole class, will have a chance to compete against the teacher for points. When students are following all of our rules as a class, they earn a point. When the class is not following the rules, the teacher earns a point. At the end of the day, if the students have more points than the teacher, they win a Friday Fun Day!

Friday Fun Day: Students work in teams to conduct hands-on science experiments, in both English and Spanish classrooms. We will also have a period of *earned* free choice time. This is a reward for all the hard work students do during the week, and is a perfect opportunity for students to engage in sharing, turn taking, creating, cooperating and negotiating play!

Natural Consequences: We believe in natural consequences, therefore, we do not have a standard list of consequences. For example, if a child is running in the hallway they may have to practice walking properly. If there is an incident that requires further attention, we will call you and discuss the situation.

Individual Goal Charts: If individual rewards are not working for a child, we will create a personal goal to work toward to address the behavior. They will have a POSITIVE reward chart in place for that specific goal. Parents will be included in this process. We will not start a goal chart for a child before first meeting with you.

Friday Folders

Students will bring home a weekly folder on Fridays. In the student's folder, you will find: general school communication papers, your student's completed classwork, and information about your child's curriculum. Remove all the papers and send the empty folder back to school on Monday. If there is any paperwork or notes you need to send back to school, you can put it in the folder.

Newsletter:

On Friday each week, we will send home a newsletter via email that tells you what your child is learning in both the English and Spanish classrooms. It may include links to extra resources or songs.

Homework:

The transition into first grade can be demanding and exhausting for little ones and giving more schoolwork to do at home can often be counterproductive. We, therefore, try to keep homework to a minimum. The only regularly assigned homework given is to **have your child read to you at home 20 minutes daily in English and Spanish (if you are only able to help in your native language, that will benefit your child)**. Though reading **to** your child is a valuable opportunity to model and share a love for reading, first graders benefit greatly by **reading to others**. The main purpose is to start building habits of reading every day and to practice the reading skills they are learning at school.

Snack:

The class will have **two** opportunities daily to eat a snack. **Please pack two snacks for your child to eat, even if they are buying lunch. Please provide two healthy snacks that are nut free. Candy will not be allowed during snack time.** We will do our best to have some extra for families who are unable to provide them. If you would like to contribute to our snack supply, it would be greatly appreciated.

Recess:

Students will have morning and lunch recess time. This year, 1st grade classes will not have a third recess but we will provide “brain breaks” for first graders to move their bodies in the afternoon. These activities might include physical games, dancing and yoga.

Daily schedule: Daily class schedules are still being finalized and will be shared once completed. School starts at 8:15 and students will be on the playground before school until 8:10. School ends at 3:05 M-Th and 12:30 on Friday.

Specialists

We are very lucky at Parley’s Park for our students to receive specialists Monday through Thursday. Children rotate between library, music, art, dance, Coding and PE.

Communication and Reporting Absences

This year we will be using **Email** for home communication, class news, and fun class pictures. If you need to communicate with Maestra Leti or Ms. Jencks, please

call directly **before or after school hours**. During school hours, please call the office. Please **report absences directly to the office, as well as to both teachers**. This will prevent a call to you from the office.

Materials

If you would like to donate any supplies to the class please consider donating items from the “**Optional**” items list below **School Supplies**. We will be creating an Amazon list in the near future and will be adding to the list throughout the year. The link will be included in our Weekly Newsletters.

School Supplies:

- Washable Marker Sets (thick - no more than 12 markers).
- Pencils (8 wooden -please don't send mechanical pencils)
- Glue sticks (4 to 8)
- Black sharpies (2 black)
- Whiteboard markers (4, thin, black)
- Highlighters (2)
- Pencil case

Art / Project Supplies (Optional)

- Pipe cleaners
- White clay (½ gal. or 1 gal.)
- Masking tape
- Decorative tissue paper
- Scotch tape
- Clear packing tape
- Ribbon/yarn

Cleaning/Hygiene (Optional)

- Unscented Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Baby wipes
- Clorox wipes or natural unscented cleaning spray or wipes

Miscellaneous (Optional)

- Individually wrapped snacks (granola bars, squeeze applesauce)
- Playground chalk
- Paper cups/plates
- Ziploc - quart-sized and gallon-sized

Birthdays

We look forward to celebrating your child's birthday this year. We will sing to your child and celebrate their special day. If you wish to bring a food item and/or small toy to share it needs to be prepackaged.

Volunteers

PPES is welcoming volunteers this year. All volunteers will need to complete the Volunteer Application as well as get fingerprinted through the district office. In first grade, parent volunteers will start in late October, so that the students can get acclimated to school. If you can't make it into the classroom or as a chaperone on a field trip this year, but still want to help out, please let us know as we have other jobs that can be done at home. Please let us know if you have interest in volunteering this year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! You can reach us via email at jjencks@pcschoools.us and mburns@pcschoools.us

We look forward to a great year together!

Maestra Leti y Ms. Jencks