

# Ms. DiPaola's Information and Procedures



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Dear First Grade Families,

I am so excited to be your child's first grade teacher this year. This is my 4th year teaching at Prairie Crossing Elementary. I taught for many years before coming to DCSD, in grades K-2. I am originally from Michigan, where I graduated from Michigan State University in 2004. I moved to Colorado in 2008. I'm a single mom to two amazing daughters, Sariyah (11 years) and Everly (9 years), who are my world outside of teaching. It's my goal for your first grader to be an active and engaged learner and for us to build a partnership to support both you and your student!

Hugs and smiles,  
Kendra DiPaola

## Schedule

8:30 First bell rings / Soft Start

8:40 Second bell rings / Attendance

8:40-9:00 Carpet - Calendar, Classroom Promise, Safe Box, Share & Connect, SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

9:00-9:15 First Grade Spiral (Literacy & Math)

9:20-9:45 Math whole group

9:45-10:10 Math Independent

10:10-10:30 Math DLT

10:30-10:50 Handwriting

10:55-11:15 *Lunch*

11:15-11:35 *Lunch Recess*

11:35-12:40 Literacy - Benchmark Advance & Phonics

12:45-1:05 Reading DLT

1:10-1:50 Specials

1:50-2:10 Writing whole group

2:15-2:30 Recess/Snack

2:30-3:00 Writing independent

3:00-3:20 Social Studies/Science

3:20-3:30 Ready for home - pack, Kindness Report, Friday paw prizes

### **First Day of School**

Children line up on the blue lines at the front doors of the main entry of the school. I will be there to help guide my class for the first couple weeks of school. We highly encourage parents to give a goodbye/kisses/hugs outside the school!

### **End of Day Routine**

The following is information about parent pick-up, bus routine, and BASE for the beginning of the year.

- Parent Pick-ups may choose to park and walk up to the front of the school to meet their child, or stay in the car pick-up line and your child will be brought to your car. Please do not leave your car unattended in the pick-up and go line.
- BASE students will be walked down to the cafeteria for the first couple weeks of school. In my mailbox each day I get a list of students who will attend BASE, and I will let them know at the end of every day for the entire school year.
- Bus students will be walked to their bus for the first few weeks of school.

### **Transportation Changes**

If you need to change your child's transportation schedule please make sure you contact our office at (303)387-8200. The office will contact me before the end of the day to let me know of any changes. You are more than welcome to text me on Class Dojo

or email as well, however please do not simply rely on these platforms as there are some days I can't check before the end of the school day.

### **Reporting an Absence**

Regular attendance at school is a key factor in any student's success at school. If your child is ill, please report the absence at (303)387-8202.

### **Specials**

First grade will have specials every day. Specials include Health and Wellness, Art, Music, & PE. It will follow that order as we rotate through them. We will attend the same special for an entire week. Please make sure your child is wearing running shoes when we have PE.

### **Snack**

We will have an afternoon snack every day. Please make sure to pack their snack in a separate space in the backpack then the lunchbox. Sometimes children have a hard time saving something until snack time if they see it at lunch time. In consideration of food allergies, we do not share snacks at school. If you're feeling generous and would like to help provide extra snacks in the classroom for those who forget at times, our class would greatly appreciate it!

### **Water Bottles**

Students should bring a water bottle to school daily to keep in the classroom. It is their

responsibility to gather their water bottle and lunchbox at the end of each day.

### **Backpack**

Your child should bring a backpack to school daily. It should be large enough to accommodate a Thursday folder, Homework folder (red), library books, and any other items going home during the year. **Please check your child's backpack daily.**

### **Thursday Folder**

This schoolwide folder comes home every Thursday afternoon. It will have important school information as well as classroom work. Please return it to school emptied of all contents on Friday, the following day.

### **Homework Folder**

The red homework folder comes home every Friday. Work may be done over the weekend if after school activities make it difficult during the week. It's to be completed by the following Friday, when students should turn it in Friday morning; along with their Thursday folder too.

### **Birthdays**

Birthdays are a fun and exciting day for First Graders! Feel free to bring in a small trinket (no food) to pass out to the class. We will celebrate by singing happy birthday at snack time! If your child has a summer birthday, he/she will get a chance to celebrate their big day toward the end of the school year!

## **Birthday Parties**

Children may pass out birthday invitations if the whole class is invited or ALL boys or ALL girls. If not, you will need to distribute them outside of school hours. This policy is to protect tender feelings.

## **Behavioral Expectations**

It is very important for first graders to know when they are making good positive good choices during the day! Prairie Crossing uses a schoolwide Positive Behavioral System. Positive expectations are routinely encouraged, and children are recognized for displaying positive behaviors in school.

The school-wide motto is PRIDE, which means, Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy. These positive behaviors extend to all areas of the school environment including the classroom, playground, cafeteria, hallways, bathrooms, etc.

- Paw stickers (PCE Wolves) are given to students who use their PRIDE. For every sticker earned, the student gets to put their name in the jar for the Friday PRIDE drawing. Each Friday we pull 3 names that win a Paw award. These can be a special paw sticker, paw keychain, paw notebook, paw rubber bracelet, etc. Please let me know if you send in an Amazon gift card that you would like to go toward this classroom donation!

### **Class Dojo**

I will be using Class Dojo to communicate with parents; especially for quick reminders, or schedule changes due to earned classroom rewards! You will be getting a code to sign up. We will be able to send each other text messages using the app. It's a great way to stay informed on what is going on in first grade.

### **Updates**

In addition to Class Dojo, I will also send home a weekly e-mail detailing what we are learning, our upcoming events, and other important information.

I hope this communication has answered a few of your questions you might have about the beginning of school. As the year progresses, there will be notes going home with additional information and requests as needed.

Thank you,

Kendra DiPaola (Narvaez for email)

Prairie Crossing First Grade Teacher