

September 5, 2018

Dear P.S. 39 Families,

Welcome to Class 1-305! I am so excited about the upcoming year! I hope this letter will help you learn more about me, as well as provide you with some beneficial information to ensure that this year will be a successful one.

I am thrilled to begin my 22nd year of teaching at P.S. 39. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to launch my career in such a remarkable building. P.S. 39 is more than just my workplace- it's my home. I started out teaching kindergarten for one year and then taught third grade for six years. Although I enjoyed those grades and gained valuable experience, first grade is where my heart is. I have been teaching first grade for the past fourteen years and could not be happier. I love my job and I'm passionate about what I do each day. Although I have been teaching for many years, I approach each new school year with the same devotion as my first.

First grade is a very special time in your child's school career. It is a time to experience important transitions and acquire new skills. I look forward to guiding your children through new explorations and discoveries. The focus these first few weeks will be to establish routines and build a sense of community in the classroom.

In order to get to know your child better, I am asking for your help. I invite you to write me a letter about your son/daughter (optional). Feel free to include his/her hobbies, interests, likes, dislikes, strengths/challenges, or any other information you feel would be relevant. This information will help me get to know your child on both an academic and personal level.

Every Tuesday afternoon between 2:40-3:25 has been designated by the DOE as Parent Engagement Time. These 40 minutes have been set aside for face to face meetings, telephone conversations, and written correspondence (including email) with parents. Please take advantage of this time to communicate with me as needed across the school year. Although this specific time has been provided it is not the only time that I'm available to meet or speak with parents. We'll be communicating regularly. School/family communication is important at PS 39!

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me. I have enclosed a copy of my prep schedule (my prep period is when the children are with another teacher). You can reach me by phone at the school during one of those periods. If you are unable to call during my prep, simply leave a message with the office or write me a note and enclose it in your child's homework folder. I will make every effort to get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email me anytime. My email address is PPolverino@ps39.org.

Arrival: Our class will line up in the mid-school yard above the 8th Street tower. In the case of inclement weather, students will line up inside the building. Students will enter through the lower door and sit at our assigned class table. The school day begins at 8:20 a.m. Any student who is not present at line-up on time will be marked late.

Dismissal: Our class will be dismissed from the 8th Street yard near the playground at 2:40. To ensure student safety, children must be dismissed prior to leaving the line. Please wait outside of the fence on the sidewalk for your child. Children that are not picked up on time will be brought to the front steps. On rainy days, students that are not picked up immediately after coming out of the building will be taken to the hallway in the lower entrance of the school to wait.

Lunch: We are so excited to launch our new lunch schedule! As you know, we will be having two Mix It Up lunch days every week this year. This will give students an opportunity to make new friends across grade levels.

Lunch/Recess periods are 50 minutes. Students will split this time (by grade level or Mix It Up group) between lunch in the cafeteria and recess on the playground.

Grade Level Lunch: On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, students will have lunch and recess time with their fellow first graders period 4 (11:20-12:10).

Mix It Up Lunch: On Tuesdays and Wednesdays our class will have lunch and recess with one kindergarten and one second grade class during period 6 (1:00-1:50). Due to the later lunch time, I will be working with our class parents to coordinate a snack time as necessary in the morning on those days. Mix It Up Lunch will begin the week of September 25th.

To avoid any confusion in the cafeteria and yard, please label all lunch bags and water bottles with your child's name and class.

Since we have limited classroom space, please make sure your child brings only necessities to school. Personal notebooks, stuffed animals, toys, and electronic devices should remain at home. Also, since we share supplies as a community, your child does not need a pencil case, personal pencils, sharpeners, erasers, etc. Everything they need will always be accessible throughout the classroom.

Stay tuned for information regarding homework and homework routines in the upcoming days. Please make sure your child returns his/her homework folder daily.

Curriculum Night is scheduled for Monday, September 17th. This time will give me an opportunity to guide you through the first grade curriculum.

Please return all necessary paperwork by Wednesday, September 12th.

I truly look forward to working with your children. It will be my joy and privilege to watch them grow and develop this school year.

Thank You,
Phyllis Polverino

Prep Schedule

Monday:

Gym (Period 6) 1:00-1:50

Tuesday:

Music (Period 2) 9:40-10:30

Wednesday:

Art (Period 1) 8:50-9:40

Thursday:

Art (Period 2) 9:40-10:30

Friday

Gym (Period 2) 9:40-10:30

