

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016 - 2017 school year! This is an exciting time for your child, although he/she may be a little apprehensive about going to kindergarten. This is also a time of mixed emotions for parents---joy that your child is ready for school, but sadness because he/she is no longer a "baby"! The first day of school will mark one of the most important milestones in your child's life. Be assured that we will do our best to make this school year an enjoyable time for your child, but also a time filled with real learning. Please do not think your child will be just "playing" all day! The skills we practice daily in kindergarten are the building blocks for your child's future success in school and in life!

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Colleen Picchietti. This will be my 12th year teaching, but my 2nd year here at Disney. I graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. I am currently getting my Master's in Education to obtain both an ESL and Reading Teacher endorsement. I am looking forward to meeting you at Disney's Open House on Thursday, September 22nd at 6pm. The first day of school for kindergarten students will be Tuesday, September 6th (half of the students will come in the morning and the other half in the afternoon). All students will begin a normal schedule starting on Wednesday, September 7th.

Allow your child to rest. If you are relaxed and confident about school, they will follow your lead. I understand many children will be tired but I know they will gain momentum as we get going through this great school year.

Throughout the school year, things change! I will keep you informed through conferences and weekly newsletters. Please take the time to discuss each school day with your child. Thank you for all of your help and support.

Thank you for loaning your child to us. We will do our very best to facilitate them toward independence. Thank YOU for being your child's very FIRST teacher. I look forward to our partnership. ☺

Sincerely,

Ms. Colleen Picchietti

**Wish List:**

- Extra glue sticks—we go through these very quickly
- Treasure box treats---stickers, small toys, books, matchbox cars, pencils, erasers, etc.
- Walmart or Target gift cards---will be used to buy odds and ends we will need throughout the school year.
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Construction Paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Paper Towels

**Daily Folders:**

Your child will be bringing home a folder each day. It is important to read and review the contents with your child DAILY. Students will bring home a separate Language Folder from their Language Teacher with homework and notes. Please check both folders nightly. I will communicate with you about your child's behavior, work habits, classroom events, and homework assignments. Please watch the website (<http://picchietti127.weebly.com>) carefully. I will be using this means of communication to save paper as much as possible. If you do not have access to the internet please let me know and we will work something else out! Use this folder to send me any notes about changes in your child's transportation, academics, life, etc. At the beginning of the year I will be checking each child's folder for notes but as the year progresses and the students become more independent I will rely on them to be responsible for turning in important notes and homework.

**Walking Reading:**

Starting the first week of school, students will be grouped into different language groups according to test data and class performance. Your child's language teacher may or not be the same as his/her homeroom teacher. During the language block, students will walk around the POD to their language teacher's room. You will hear from this teacher the first week of school.

**Homework:**

Homework will be sent home when it is meaningful and compliments our lessons. Please send back all homework as soon as it is completed. Homework is a great way to reinforce skills practiced at school as well as a method to keep you informed on our lessons. Your child will be receiving homework every night. Along with the homework assignment, your child should be reading or read to for at least 20 minutes at home.

**Grading:**

Students will be assessed formally and informally throughout the year. Students will have math and language homework almost every night and some assignments will be graded for completion and others will be graded on correctness. When tests are given the score will be sent home but the test will not. You are always welcome to schedule a conference to review the test but per school policy the tests will not be going home. Homework and Report Cards will be graded using the following rubric:

- 4 - Exemplary (student exceeds expectations)
- 3 - Proficient (student meets expectations)
- 2 - Developing (student partially meets expectations)
- 1 - Beginning (student does not meet expectations)

**Absent:**

You must bring a note if your child has been absent. If your child has been out of school due to illness, PLEASE make sure that they are fever free—without medication-- for at least 24 hours before returning to school. It is crucial that your child is at school as much of the school year as possible, so that your child can continue to grow and learn and reach their potential in all developmental areas!

**Morning Drop Off/Breakfast:**

Students are to arrive at school no later than 7:30 a.m. Students may not arrive prior to 7:15 because there will be no supervision. Students must enter the CAC upon arrival. Please say your goodbyes outside to help create independence. All students have the option of eating school breakfast in the classroom. Breakfast ends promptly at 7:50. Students that arrive after 7:45 may miss breakfast service because our cafeteria staff will leave the POD.

**Dismissal:**

School ends at 2:30 p.m. Kindergarten students will begin dismissal at 2:15 to allow time for the students to get to their destination before the rest of the school is released. The walker door will be opened at 2:15. Please try to keep your child's dismissal procedures consistent from day to day to alleviate confusion and anxiety for your child. Kindergarten will be dismissed from the 1st floor gym. Only people on the emergency contact paper will be allowed to take your child even if there is a note and must have the green pass with the correct students name to be able to take a child.

**Transportation:**

If your child will be going home differently than normal, a written note is always needed. (For example, Susie will be riding home with Jill today on Bus #3.) The more specific the better! Put this note in your child's folder.

**Communication:**

Parent/Teacher communication is very important to me. Students learn best when we are on the same page! You can always communicate with me by writing a note, or sending me an e-mail at [cpicchietti@cps.edu](mailto:cpicchietti@cps.edu). I check email several times a day. If you call and leave a message with the office, I will return your call as soon as I can. Our classroom website is [picchietti.weebly.com](http://picchietti.weebly.com). I will be posting weekly newsletters, homework, and other important information here. Please check this website regularly.

**Birthday Policy Notice:**

There will be NO treats distributed for birthdays. If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday with a special pencil, sticker, or small treasure please send enough for the class. Also, please do not send party invitations to school unless they are for the ENTIRE class or all boys/girls. Please check with me prior to sending in anything in order to plan the day's schedule accordingly.

**Our Classroom Rules:**

1. Listening Bodies (I will listen and follow directions.)
2. Raised Hands (I will raise my hand to share ideas.)
3. Quiet Mouths (I will use a soft voice indoors.)
4. Walking Feet (I will walk in school to be safe.)
5. Helping Hands (I will use my hands for helping and not hurting.)
6. Caring Hearts (I will use kind words.)

**Behavior Plan:**

We will be discussing skills and strategies for making good choices at school. Every child will have a pocket on a pocket chart with a green, yellow, and red card in the pocket. Each child starts the day on green. However, if your child breaks one of the rules, the following consequences will apply:

- A verbal warning
- If the student chooses to break a rule again, he/she will be asked to change their green card to a yellow card. The student may also be moved to the "thinking table".
- Should the student break another rule, he/she will move their card from yellow to red and will continue to stay at the "thinking table". Inside your child's Take

Home folder will be a monthly calendar. The calendar does not leave your child's folder. It should be returned to school each day. If your child stays on green all day, he/she will color the box green. For students that have extra wonderful days they will be placed on purple and color their calendar accordingly. If a yellow or red should occur, your child will color the box yellow or red. If your child has a red day, I will jot a note down to inform you of what happened. Please celebrate green days with your child. If your child gets a yellow or red please reinforce good behavior, review the rules, and discuss the problem. Please initial at the end of each week. A child may be referred to the Floor Director when the behavior prevents the rest of the class from working in a safe and positive learning environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this policy.