

Dear ID Families,

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Kait Doherty, and I am so excited to be your child's first grade teacher this year!

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over, but I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and, more importantly, invite you and your family to a *"Sneak Peek" of our classroom (Rm 228 in the first and second grade wing)*. The tentative date and time are Wednesday, August 31st from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. I will update our class website as soon as the date and time are confirmed. This will give us an additional opportunity to meet one another and allow your child to become acclimated with the new classroom. Of course, if you can't make it then, I look forward to seeing everyone at 7:55 a.m. on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school.

First grade is the year when a child's academic skills really take off. We will work as a community to foster independence, both academically and socially. In reading, students will learn various strategies for solving new words, study characters, and research information in non-fiction books. First graders will write across a variety of genres, incorporate exciting features of writing by studying authors' craft, and improve their spelling and handwriting. In math, students will develop stronger number sense and learn many ways to add and subtract. In science and social studies, we will do many experiments and learn about new cultures. As the summer winds down, please encourage your child to keep reading and playing math games from the Summer Math Calendar. Please help your child complete their Summer Reading List and Math Calendar. The Math Specialist and Librarian will collect the lists and acknowledge their work this fall.

Now, I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself. I am originally from New Jersey and this summer, I have spent a lot of time at my family's house on Cape Cod. I have an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Human Development from Boston College. I also completed a master's degree in Special Education from Boston College. This is my sixth year as a first grade teacher at Baker School. I was a student teacher and an intern at Baker before working as a first grade teacher in New York City for four years. I look forward to learning more about your child as the year goes on.

Finally, I would like to explain what else should be completed before the start of school. Please fill out the Family Questionnaire (a link to the Google Form is included on the I-D Blog). The information on the questionnaire is extremely valuable and I thank you for taking the time to complete it before the start of school. There is also a suggested supply list that has been created to ensure students have the materials necessary for all the important learning we will be doing. Please note that all our supplies are communal; so please do not individually label each item unless otherwise noted. This allows children to share and take responsibility for the well-being and cleanliness of our classroom and supplies. Please let me know if you are unable to find or purchase any of the items on the supply list. In addition, scholarships are available by contacting Dr. Brown at 617-879-4506 or [mary\\_brown@psbma.org](mailto:mary_brown@psbma.org). If you would like to donate extra materials to the classroom, there is also a link to a wish list on the I-D Blog. I thank you in advance for your generosity. The first day of school is extremely busy, so it would be very helpful if you could bring supplies to our "SNEAK PEEK".

Please contact me at [Kaitlin\\_Doherty@psbma.org](mailto:Kaitlin_Doherty@psbma.org) if you have any questions. You will find links to all the supply lists, questionnaires, and letters on the I-D Blog: <http://ldfirstgrade.weebly.com/blog>. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I am looking forward to a wonderful year in first grade!

Sincerely,

Kait Doherty

# Friendly First Grade Reminders

## Classroom Directions:

I-D is located in the first and second grade wing. From the school office, go straight to the end of the main hallway and take a right at the large double doors. Walk straight across the bridge to the very end of the hallway. At the end of the hallway, make a right. Our classroom is the first room on the right, #228.

## Drop off:

School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. The classroom door opens at 7:55 a.m.

## Pick up:

Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m Monday through Thursday and 1:40 p.m. on Fridays. Children who take the bus or attend extended day will be chaperoned to their destination for the first week. *Procedures coming soon for the 2016-17 School Year!*

## Snack:

Children enjoy snack in class every day around 10:00 a.m. Please send a nutritious, peanut-free snack and drink with your child everyday in a reusable snack bag **packed separately** from your child's lunchbox. I suggest you pack two smaller snack choices daily as children often become very hungry. In addition to a drink, please include a water bottle in your child's backpack for him or her to drink throughout the day (especially during the first few hot weeks of school).

## Lunch:

If your child brings lunch, please label his or her lunchbox with their name and classroom – ID. If your child buys lunch, you may set up an account through Brookline Food Services.