

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills with dark brown soil. On the left, there is a green tree, a purple flower, and an orange flower. A small red bird is flying in the sky. The background consists of wavy blue lines representing a sky or water.

Preschool

# Meet and Greet

**Beard Elementary School**

**Thursday, August 26, 2021**

# Classroom and Staff Introduction

Welcome to Meet and Greet at Beard School! We are pleased to be able to meet you and explain our daily program in Room 201. There are 11 students in our classroom and we may get up to 20 as the year progresses.

## Classroom Teachers:



- Maggie Kelly, General Education Teacher, email: [mkelly27@cps.edu](mailto:mkelly27@cps.edu)
- Skyler Glass, Special Education Teacher, email: [sglass2@cps.edu](mailto:sglass2@cps.edu)
- Susanna Whitmore, Special Education Classroom Assistant

# What is a blended classroom?

- Our classroom is a blended learning environment. This means that we have both general education and special education students and teachers in the classroom full time.
- We are one class of learners and we participate in school and classroom activities together.

# Classroom and Staff Introduction

## School Staff to Know:

Principal: Manda Lukic

Asst. Principal: Joan Lynch

Main Office Clerk: Carmen Pacheco

Annex Clerk: Jenifer Knox

Counselor: Andrea Patrinos

Security Officer: Michael Fallon

Case Manager: Cristina Keps

ESL teacher: Alana Duffy

## Specials:

Gym: Julie Pomerantz

Art: Sarah Weis

4 Music: Kathleen Kawalkowski

# Beard School Mission

Our mission is to provide students a common core aligned academic curriculum with high quality instruction through a supportive and safe environment. Holding high expectations for all students, staff will work to increase student achievement and obtain desirable student behaviors. With a highly trained and dedicated staff, Beard will utilize innovative and effective practices that ensure students have maximum opportunities to achieve established standards. This will be accomplished through intensive staff professional development and a highly developed level of collaborative school and parental partnership.

# Beard School Vision

Beard School provides students Preschool through 3rd grade, with intensive early childhood academic support along with behavior interventions so that all students can be successful when they transition to their next school setting.

# Classroom Rules and Expectations

Beard School has a school wide PBIS program and classroom expectations:

## Be Kind



Kind Words

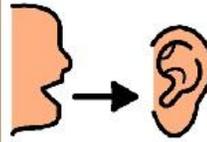


Body to Yourself



Wait Your Turn

## Be Safe



Follow Directions

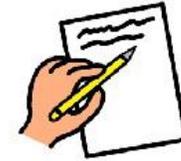


Walking Feet



Stay with Group

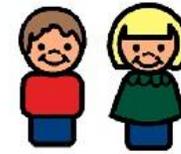
## Be Responsible



Use Objects the Right Way



Ask for Help



Body to Yourself

# Attendance

- The Beard School bell times are 7:30am-2:30pm.
- Attendance will be taken daily by 8:30 am.
- Attendance goal for all students is 95%.
- There is a direct correlation to the success of your child and their attendance at school.
- In order for students to improve academically, socially and emotionally, they must be present at school, daily.



# Absences

1. Report your child's absence by calling the school at 773-534-1228, EXT. 3
  - Leave a message stating:
    - the student's name
    - the student's room number
    - the date of the absence
    - the reason for the absence
    - the guardian's name who is calling and their relationship to the student
2. **OR** Fill out an absence excuse form and return it back to school

## Excused Absences:

- student illness
- observance of a religious holiday (absence note required)
- death in the immediate family
- family emergency
- circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for their child's safety or health (must be approved by the principal)
- other situations beyond the control of the student (as determined by principal)

# Building Security

- Any meetings with staff members are by appointment only.
- If you have an appointment and are entering the school, you **MUST** wear a face mask, sign in with your contact information, and follow the distancing protocol as outlined by the CDC.
- You will also be required to fill out a health screener.

# Arrival and Dismissal Routines

- School staff will open the doors for students at 7:30am
- If you are tardy, please report to the main office to sign in
- Adults are expected to remain with their children until school staff is present
- School staff will dismiss students at 2:30pm
- For this week and until further notice:
  - Parents will come through door 1 in main building and go straight through door 8 to the ANNEX.
  - Due to COVID at this time, parents may not be allowed in the building.

# Health Protocols

- Face coverings: Must be worn at all times when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- At-Home Daily Health Questionnaire: Students will complete a daily health checklist at home before they come to school using the [CPS health screening questions](#). The questionnaire will not be submitted electronically.
- Parents and guardians will be required to submit a quarterly attestation form in which they agree to perform daily health screening of their student before sending them to school. The attestation will ask parents and guardians to:
  - Agree to screen their child for possible symptoms or COVID-19 exposure at home each day prior to school
  - Confirm that they will not send their child to school if they answer “yes” to any of the CPS health screening questions
  - Inform their child’s school if their child will be absent from in-person class because they are sick or have been exposed to a confirmed COVID case.
  - Schools will be asked to collect these forms back by September 3, 2021 for the first Quarter.

# Health Protocols

- **Travel Guidance for Family:**
  - Domestic travel follows CDPH guidance:
    - If unvaccinated and traveling from states and territories that are labeled Orange, obtain a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Chicago or quarantine for a 10-day period upon arrival.
    - If vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine or receive a negative test.
  - International travel follows CDC guidance:
    - If unvaccinated, get tested with a viral test three-five days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full seven days after travel.
    - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full seven days.
    - If your test is positive, isolate yourself for 10 days from your first symptoms (or the date of the test if asymptomatic) to protect others from getting infected.
    - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
    - Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine but are encouraged to test.
  
- **HOWEVER, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT BEARD STUDENTS ARE NOT VACCINATED DUE TO THEIR AGE. THEY NEED TO FOLLOW THE UNVACCINATED PROTOCOLS**

# Parent Teacher Conferences

- Scheduled with all families through an app called Sign Up Genius
- Available time slots for meeting with us will be sent out to all the parents electronically at the same time
- Time slots are available on a first come first sign up basis.
- Sign Up Genius links will be shared on Seesaw two weeks prior to the parent - teacher conference meeting dates in November and April of each year.



# Classroom Learning Schedule

Maggie Kelly & Skyler Glass 2021 - 2022 Time Distribution Full Day Blended Preschool						
Time Block	420 Min.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	30	Arrival Routines Breakfast/Bathroom Independent Reading	Arrival Routines Breakfast/Bathroom Independent Reading	GYM (Julie and SECA will facilitate) Independent Reading	Arrival Routines Breakfast/Bathroom Independent Reading	Arrival Routines Breakfast/Bathroom Independent Reading
8:00-8:30	30	Calm Classroom Morning Meeting Movement Sign-in	Calm Classroom Morning Meeting Movement Sign-in	GYM	Calm Classroom Morning Meeting Movement Sign-in	Calm Classroom Morning Meeting Movement Sign-in
8:30- 9:00	Literacy/ Math 30	Small Groups	GYM (Principal directed prep) 8:30-9:30	Calm Classroom Morning Meeting Movement Sign-in	MUSIC 8:30-9:30	Small Groups
9:00- 10:00	Centers 60	Self-Select Interest Areas	Self-Select Interest Areas (9-9:30) (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)
10:00-10:30	30	(SECA 15 minute break)	Small Groups	Small Groups	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Recess (Playground 2)
10:30 - 10:40	Read Aloud 10	Whole Group Read Aloud	Whole Group Read Aloud	Whole Group Read Aloud	Whole Group Read Aloud	Whole Group Read Aloud
10:40 - 11:30	Lunch 30	Lunch Handwashing Bathroom Teacher Lunch	Lunch Handwashing Bathroom Teacher Lunch	Lunch Handwashing Bathroom Teacher Lunch	Lunch Handwashing Bathroom Teacher Lunch	Lunch Handwashing Bathroom Teacher Lunch
11:30 - 12:00	Quiet Time 30	Quiet Time SECA Lunch	Quiet Time SECA Lunch	Quiet Time SECA Lunch	Quiet Time SECA Lunch	Quiet Time SECA Lunch
12:00- 12:15	SEL 15	Calm Classroom Second Step	Calm Classroom Second Step	Calm Classroom Second Step	Calm Classroom Second Step	Calm Classroom Second Step
12:15 - 12:30	Literacy/Math 15		COUNSELING 12:20-12:30	Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups
12:30 - 1:15	Centers 45	ART 12:30-1:20	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (SECA 15 minute break)	Self-Select Interest Areas (12:35-1:05) (SECA 15 minute break) Snack (1:05-1:20)
1:15 - 1:30	15	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	
1:30- 2:00	30	RECESS (Garden)	RECESS (Playground 2)	RECESS (Playground 1)	RECESS (Playground 1)	MUSIC 1:20-2:20
2:00 - 2:15	15	Closing Circle Read Aloud (SECA 15 minute break)	Closing Circle Read Aloud	Closing Circle Read Aloud	Closing Circle Read Aloud	MUSIC (Kathleen and SECA will facilitate) Closing Circle Departure Routines
2:15-2:25	10	Departure Routines	Departure Routines	Departure Routines	Departure Routines	Departure Routines
2:25 -2:30	5	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

# Diet Restrictions, Allergy Free Zones, Food Policies

- Please alert us to any cultural restrictions, allergies or food sensitivities, and other dietary restrictions such as no dairy, gluten free, etc.
- Allergies to Food or Medicines: Make sure that a medical form is completed and turned in by the first day of school.
- Beard is an allergy sensitive school with designated allergy zones unless otherwise stated in the child's IEP.

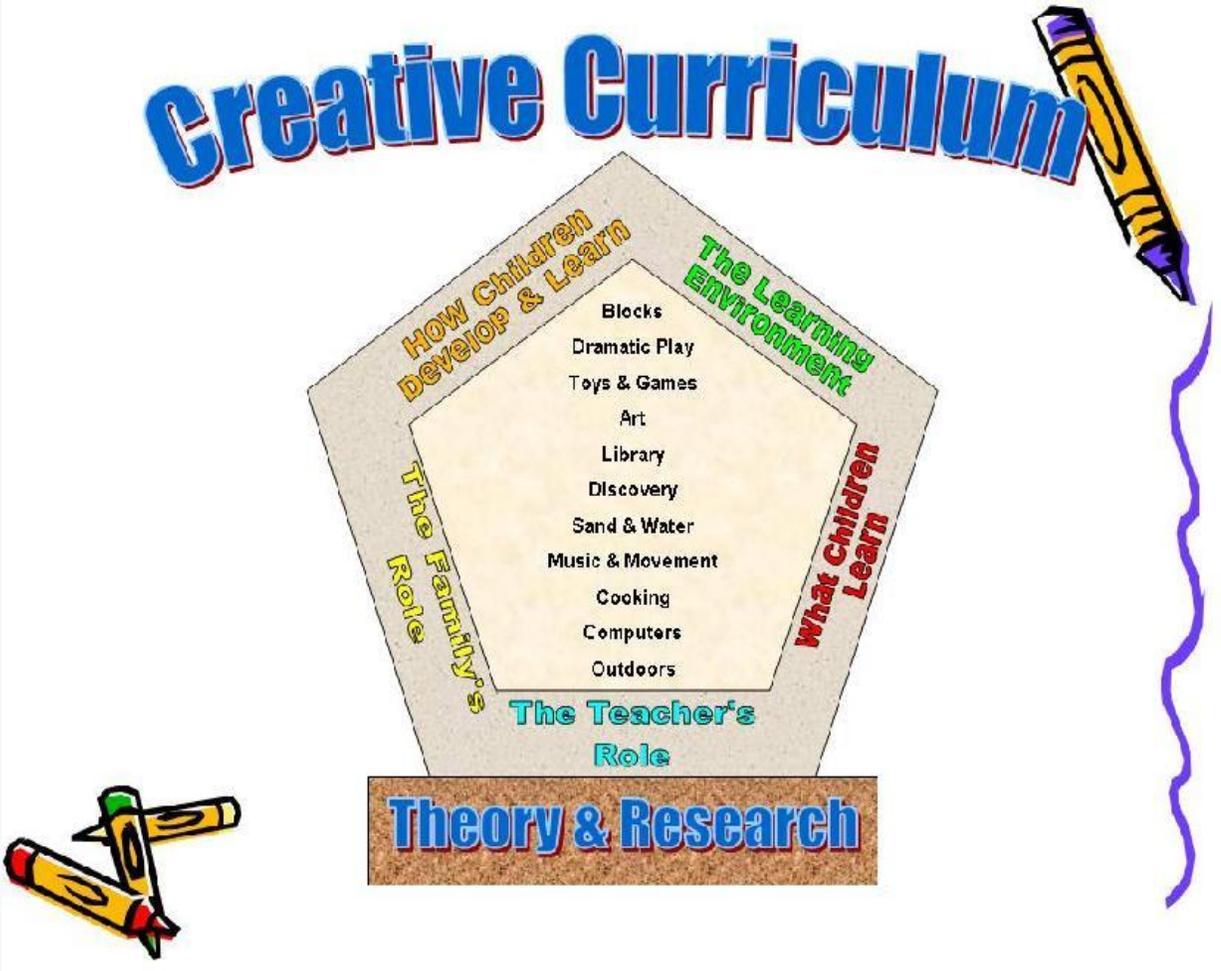
# Celebrations

Due to CPS policy, we will not be distributing any edible treats. This includes birthday celebrations. If you bring in an edible treat for your child, it will **not** be accepted.

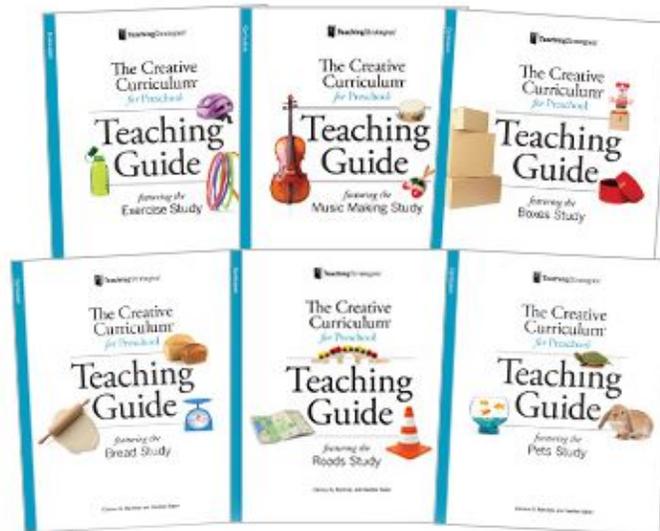
# Screenings

- ASQ: Due to our whole child approach to education and in accordance with Chicago Public School mandate, teachers will be completing the ASQ social emotional screener for each child. This provides the early childhood teachers with a greater understanding of the student's individual needs.
- ESI-R: Teachers will complete an ESI-R cognitive and language screener on each child enrolled in the preschool program. This information will provide additional information to assist the teachers and staff in meeting the individual needs of the students.

# Curriculum Overview



# Creative Curriculum



- **Themed-based units. Some examples of units from the past year: beginning of the year, trees, bread, buildings, pets, insects, getting ready for kindergarten.**
- **At the beginning of each unit, we will send home a letter/post to Seesaw that explains the unit, book suggestions, for home, etc.**

# Teaching Strategies Gold

Assessment tool used in conjunction with Creative Curriculum.

Assessments are completed through teacher observations.



# Other Curriculum:

## Learning Software:

- Learning A-Z (Includes RAZ Plus: Reading A-Z & Raz-Kids, Headsprout, Science A-Z, Writing A-Z and Vocabulary A-Z)
- BookFlix
- Starfall
- Happy Numbers

## Platforms:

- Google Classroom, Seesaw

# Other Curriculum:

## Social Emotional:

- Second Step
- SS Grin
- Calm Classroom
- Kindness Curriculum: Ready for Kindness



# Participation From Home

- There will be a monthly parent project that will be based on the study your child's class is working on. All preschool classrooms will begin with the Beginning of the Year study unit, which includes the "All About Me" book/poster.
- Review classroom rules at home
- Read to your child at home for 10-15 minutes a night. Ask questions about pictures and text.
- When in the community/home environment, ask questions about what is going on. Have conversations with your child.
- Practice counting, recognizing numbers, writing their name
- Please sign up for Seesaw family app. We post here often and include updates, reminders, and photos.

# School Supplies

- A PDF copy of the suggested supply donations can be found [here](#)
- Please bring the following on the first day of school:
  - 1. Regular size backpack. Please do not get the very small backpacks. Place a label or luggage tag on the inside of the backpack with your child's full name, address, parent contact phone number, and bus route and company information if your child rides the bus.
  - 2. Change of clothes (shirt, pants, underwear, socks, gloves, hat) - labeled with the child's name in a gallon size Ziploc bag to be kept at school.
  - 3. Extra Cloth Mask in a ziplock bag with your child's name on it to be kept at school.
  - 4. Reusable Water Bottle - labeled with their name daily.
  - 5. Lunch Box/Bag - labeled with your child's name if they are bringing their own lunch to school.
  - 6. 2 packages of baby wipes
  - 7. 2 rolls of paper towels
  - 8. 2 Boxes of Kleenex
- Remaining supplies can be brought the week of September 7

# Parent Portal

- Parents have access to their child's grades and attendance at all times throughout the year using Parent Portal. Using your child's CPS ID number and a PIN number which are provided by the school, you can keep track of your child's progress online at anytime.
- Preschool students do not receive grades, but Beard asks that you still connect to the parent portal.

# Donorschoose.org

- Donorschoose.org is a crowdfunding site for public school teachers. We have received many, many new materials, games, supplies, etc. from generous donors.
- We will be sharing projects throughout the year and would appreciate any donations or shares on social media. Sometimes there are match offers where any donation is doubled so a \$10 donation doubles to \$20!

# Beard School Website

- [www.beard.cps.edu](http://www.beard.cps.edu)
- Has many of the forms you need throughout the year
- Has learning links for students to practice skills
- Has current up to date information on events
- Calendar of Events - important dates for the year
- Teacher's web pages
- Emails of staff
- Fundraiser Information
- Access to Resources
-  Transportation phone numbers

# Family Dynamics

- If your family is experiencing any legal custody issues, please provide the office and the teacher with appropriate documentation.
- Unless otherwise documented both birth certificate parents will be contacted regarding their child's education. If additional legal paperwork is provided that states otherwise we will follow those guidelines.

# Forms of Communication

- **Calendar of events on the Beard School Website & Newscroll (most current news will always be posted on the school website)**
- **Seesaw (classroom communication tool)**
- **Monthly Calendar**
- **Electronic Email**
- **Robo Calls from the school**
- **Facebook (Beard School has their own page, and one is for the Beard parents and community)**
- **Weekly classroom newsletters**

# Forms of Communication

- **Any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We can be reached by:**
- **Email: Maggie – [mkelly27@cps.edu](mailto:mkelly27@cps.edu)  
Skyler – [sglass2@cps.edu](mailto:sglass2@cps.edu)**
- **Seesaw messaging**
  - **Please join our class through the Seesaw Family App to stay connected and informed**

# What is Seesaw? Introduction for Families

