

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Mary Bechtold and I am your child's teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. I am the Middle School Autistic Support teacher for grades 5th-8th. I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself. I have been a special education teacher for over the past eight years teaching students in a learning support and autistic setting in grades K-8th grade. Special Education is truly a love and passion of mine.

I graduated from Temple University with dual certifications in Elementary and Special Education. I graduated with my Masters in Education with a focus in literacy from Augustana Univeristy and this past fall I set out to get my certification towards National Board Teacher Certification in the area of Exception Needs.

I look forward to working with your child this school year. I will do all that I can to make this school year be as successful and fun as possible for your child. I promise that I will do my best to help them meet their academic goals as well as challenge them in order to help them grow.

I do want you to know that I am always available and that I do believe in having a strong and open communication with the parents and families of my students. If you have any concerns about your child during the course of the school year please let me know. I would be happy to set up a meeting or arrange a time for a phone conference.

Below is additional information that you will need to be aware of:

1. **Emergency Contact Information Sheet:** It is imperative that this sheet be filled out and returned to school promptly.
2. **Homework:** All homework assignments will reflect individual student needs and are designed as an extension of classroom learning. Homework packets will be sent home on Monday and are to be returned to school on Friday of that same week.
3. **Birthdays:** If you choose to send in a treat for your child's birthday please contact me two days prior as there are student with food allergies and dietary restrictions.
4. **Uniform Policy:** All students are to be dressed in khaki bottoms and navy blue tops.

If this letter did not answer all of your questions please feel free to contact me at mdudascik@philasd.org call the school. I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night as well as working with you throughout the school year!!

Sincerely,

Mary K. Bechtold