

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Shannon Kelly-McNally and I am your child's teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. While I have had some of your children in the past, I am new to a few in our classroom. I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself.

I am entering my 10th year of teaching as a special education teacher and my 9th year teaching Autistic Support. I graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2009 with dual certifications in Early Childhood and Special Education. In May 2014, I graduated with my Masters in Literacy with a certification as a Reading Specialist from West Chester. Over the course of the last school year I complete all components required for National Board Certification.

I look forward to working with your child this school year. I will do all that I can to make the transition from summer to school as smooth as possible. This school year will be busy and challenging, yet engaging and fun! Your child will be actively involved in the learning process throughout the school year. Learning should be relevant and meaningful. Children achieve the most when they are given the opportunity to discover the "how" and "why" behind what they are learning. In addition to learning important academic skills, your child will continue to grow as a problem solver and thinker as well as learn important life skills.

I believe that an open line of communication between parents and the teacher is vitally important. As such, I want to make all parents aware that I will be out on maternity leave until the end of September to the beginning of October. Despite being on leave, I plan on coming to Lea on selected days to complete VB-MAPP assessments, update program books, and work with staff on student programming. I will also be available for any questions you might have during that time. As of now, Mr. Jackson, a retired Philadelphia School District special education teacher, will fill in as my sub. He is a familiar face at Lea and has acted as my sub in the past. Many of your children already know him.

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

1. **Special Subjects Schedule:** Specials this year will follow a quarterly schedule. All students will participate in physical education one quarter during the school year.
2. **Emergency Contact Information Sheet:** It is imperative that this sheet be filled out and returned to school promptly.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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 skellymcnally@philasd.org or call/text my cell 484-319-0359. I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night as well as working with you throughout the school year!!

Sincerely,

Shannon Kelly-McNally