



Dear Rainbow (1st-2nd grade) Families,

We hope that you all have been enjoying a peaceful and relaxing summer. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and starting another exciting year in Rainbow. This year we will have our **Classroom Welcome Night on Monday, August 19, from 6-7 p.m.** This is a great way for students to become comfortable in their new classrooms and meet their teachers and fellow classmates.

*A note from Genny Smith, Head of Lower School*

Since the 2023-24 school year ended, we learned that former Rainbow teacher Nichole Deno will not be returning to NGFS this year. You can read her farewell message [here](#). We are sad to see Nichole go and wish her all the best. You will see that our Rainbow group is smaller this year and will be taught by a team of two, our returning Rainbow teachers Erin and Brianna.

This is Erin's seventh year teaching in Rainbow. She loves working with this age group and is looking forward to our exciting units and field trips. This is Brianna's second year in Rainbow. She is thrilled to be back in the classroom and is looking forward to an amazing school year.

### **Contact Groups and Cubby Locations**

The class is divided into teacher contact groups. If you have information or questions you would like to share to help ensure a successful start to the school year for your child, please feel free to email your child's contact teacher. In addition, you will have an opportunity to share the hopes and dreams that you have for your child's school year with their contact teacher at our conferences held on Friday, August 30. Look for a Sign-Up Genius to be emailed near the start of school from your child's contact teacher. Your child's contact teacher will be meeting and communicating with you throughout the year.

Rainbow is made up of two classrooms; students will work each day in both classrooms with both teachers as well as the learning specialists and resource teachers. When students arrive each morning, they will place their things in their cubby. Once students unpack, they may be in either classroom to read, color, or play with morning tubs. Cubbies are divided evenly between the two classrooms, not split by grade. One of the benefits of a multiage classroom is opportunities for the two grades to interact and learn together, including classroom procedures for utilizing cubby space.

Please see the Welcome Letter email, sent on August 9, for the Rainbow contact groups and cubby locations.

### **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures**

- You will be given a name card to display on your car visor. Please be sure to display the name card in the morning and afternoon; we appreciate your assistance in helping drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and efficiently.
- Drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m. for Extended Care and 7:45 a.m. for the regular school day. **The school day begins at 8 a.m.**
- At arrival, staff will direct you through the carpool line to drop off your child. Students will use the sidewalk to walk to their classroom and will be assisted by staff.
- If your child arrives late, please bring your child to the office and sign them in. An adult must accompany your child to the office. Your child will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
- **Rainbow dismisses at 3 p.m.** We are excited to bring back a much loved and long standing tradition of having parents of our younger friends come into the classroom to pick up their children. At dismissal, we will open the classroom doors, and you may pick up your child from their room.
- If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up, please make sure the person is on your authorized pick-up list in ParentsWeb (FACTS Family Portal). Instruct them to have identification with them; staff will check the ID of anyone unknown to them. (Please note that changes may take up to 48 hours to update.)
- If you must pick your child up before school is over, please go to the office to sign your child out. If early pick-up is for a scheduled appointment, please coordinate with your student's teacher in advance so they will have their belongings packed and ready to go at the designated time. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up early, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick up list in ParentsWeb.
- Please email your student's contact teacher if your child will be absent. If an extended absence from school is necessary, communicate with the Division Head at least one week in advance so that arrangements can be made for work. After contacting the Division Head concerning a protracted absence, parents/guardians of students in K-6th grades should contact teachers for assignments.

### **Extended Care** (see [Extended Care page](#) for information)

- Morning care is offered from 7:30-7:45 a.m.
- Afternoon Extended Care runs until 6 p.m.

### **School Supplies**

All classroom materials will be provided, including headphones. Whole-class ownership of supplies decreases conflicts and increases cooperation and classroom harmony; therefore, we ask that you don't send in "special" items for your own child's use (special pencils, markers, etc.). The desire for individualized items can best be addressed by letting your child choose a special lunch box or book bag. If families wish, they may contribute the following items: Clorox

wipes, Ziplock bags (gallon, quart, sandwich, or snack sized), hand sanitizer, bandaids, and/or Kleenex. These supplies may be brought in on Classroom Welcome Night (Monday, Aug. 19) or during the first week of school.

### **Backpack**

Students will need to bring a backpack to school each day to help transport books and folders. Large backpacks with wheels often do not fit in the cubbies and can present a storage issue in the classroom. Please help your child stay organized by providing a backpack that can fit in their cubby and will hold several pocket folders for assignments going to and from home.

### **Snack and Lunch**

- Each day your child will need a lunch box containing a snack, lunch, and drinks/water bottle.
- **Each day students should bring a refillable water bottle that is plastic or metal (not glass).**
- There is an option to order hot lunch through My Hot Lunchbox; see [Back to School page](#) for more information and directions for ordering.
- **Please remember to send a snack daily, even when ordering hot lunch.**
- Sodas are not allowed.
- We can not refrigerate or heat items. Please use ice packs for cold items and a thermos for warm items.
- Please help your child practice opening containers. Please do not send food in glass containers.

**Allergy Information:** Any classroom food allergy restrictions will be announced before school begins.

### **Shoes and Clothing**

- Closed-toed shoes or sturdy sandals (with a backstrap) should be worn daily.
- Remember to wear or bring sneakers on PE days.
- Please bring an extra set of clothing in a labeled Ziplock by the first week of school. Spills and accidents happen and students are most comfortable in their own clothes.

### **Important Dates:**

- Monday, August 19 - Classroom Welcome Night (preschool-6th), 6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 21 - First day of school
- Thursday, August 22 - New Parent Orientation (preschool-6th), 8-9 a.m.
- Friday, August 30 - half-day, Rainbow dismisses at 12 p.m.; Hopes and Dreams Conferences in the afternoon
- Monday, September 2 - Labor Day, School closed
- Tuesday, September 10 - Lower School (preschool-6th) Parent Night, 6-7-30 p.m. Begins with presentation in the Student Activity Center at 6 p.m. followed by class-level curriculum presentations in the classrooms.

We would not be able to have such a great program in Rainbow without the help of our wonderful volunteers! We will have information available at the parent meeting on September 10 and will send several Sign-Up Geniuses throughout the year so that you can find a way to share your time and special talents with us this year. We are really looking forward to seeing old friends and are very excited about getting to know the new folks. It should be another wonderful year in Rainbow!

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