

Dear Students and Families,

I hope this letter finds you in great spirits as the school year begins! My name is Nicole DiSpigno, and I will be your child's Autistic Support at Kirkbride this year! My goal is to work with students and families to provide an appropriate educational program that provides each student with the tools that they need to thrive and be successful in school.

This will be my 7th year teaching in an Autistic Support Classroom at Kirkbride! I am truly passionate about teaching and learning and feel that with the right support, any student can achieve success.

My philosophy for learning is that each child is unique and learns in a different way. One of my jobs as a teacher is to help students discover their individuality and work with them to maximize it. I look forward to contributing to your educational experience with all of my knowledge and abilities.

Finally, I want you to know that one of my most important goals this year is to keep the lines of communication open with you. I am always available to speak with you to address any questions or concerns you may have throughout the school year. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (215) 400-7980. Attached is an informational packet for the start of school. I have also included a questionnaire for you to complete, which will help me get to know you more! Providing some information specifically about your child will go a long way toward creating a positive relationship throughout the school year! Please return this questionnaire with your classroom supplies during the first week of school.

I am truly looking forward to a fun-filled, educational year and getting to know you and your child this fall, and I look forward to meeting you soon! Let's have a great year together!

Sincerely,

Nicole DiSpigno, M.Ed

Autistic Support Teacher, 3-5

ndispigno@philasd.org

WELCOME BACK!!! 2023 - 2024

Autistic Support Guide for Parents/Guardians

Teacher: Ms. DiSpigno

Class Assistants:

Classroom: 108

Kirkbride phone number: (215) 400-7980

Parents and Families Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to start a fun and successful school year! This guide has been created to assist and clarify any questions you may have about the Autistic Support Program at Kirkbride School.

School Hours: 9:00 am-3:39 pm (Please drop off students before 8:30 am but not before 8:15 am)

Dropping off your child: Please walk your child directly to the 7th Street entrance. A classroom assistant or teacher will be there to escort your child to his or her classroom.

In the event of lateness: Please sign in at the front desk, pick up a late slip, and walk your child to the classroom.

Breakfast: Breakfast will be served in the classroom every day. If your child prefers specific breakfast items, please have them eat at home. Snacks are welcome.

Lunch: Lunch will be served in the cafeteria daily. If your child prefers a specific lunch, please send it to school with them. WE CAN NOT REFRIGERATE OR HEAT UP LUNCHESES.

Pick-up procedures: If you pick up your child daily, please discuss a pick-up routine with your child's teacher. Pick-up should be before 3:39 p.m. Students who take the bus will be packing up for the bus at approximately 3:00 p.m. Transportation services are provided by the School District. I will send the bus numbers, and pick-up and drop-off times, but any other questions regarding transportation should be directed to 215-400-4350.

Visiting your child's classroom: Parents and guardians are welcome to visit their child's classroom at any time. If you wish to visit your child's classroom during the school day, please stop by the main office first.

Absences:

When your child is absent, please let the teacher know the date and reason for the absence. You may:

1. Call the school and leave a message at (215) 400-7980
2. Write a note.
3. See your child's teacher in person.

*Please send in a doctor's note if your child has an appointment.

Communication with your child's teacher:

1. You may call the school (215) 400-7980, and leave a message for your child's teacher. They will call you back at their earliest convenience.
2. You may email your child's teacher (ndispigno@philasd.org).
3. You may set up a conference with your child's teacher.
4. I will also use Class Dojo to communicate general information about assemblies, dress-down days, etc.

We encourage communication and partnership between parents and teachers. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the school year with any questions, concerns, or updates you may have!

Autistic Support Classroom Supplies List

All of the items listed can be found at your local dollar stores, Five Below, or Walmart

- 1 sturdy book bag or backpack
- 1 insulated lunch bag (if bringing your own lunch)
- 4 **PLASTIC** two-pocket folders (1 red, 1 yellow, 1 blue, 1 green)
- 2 Marble Copybooks
- 1 Eraser
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 pack of construction paper
- 1 pack of colored markers
- 1 pack of crayons
- 1 pack of dry-erase markers
- A set of headphones
- 2 bottles of Hand Sanitizer (Please no soap bottles)
- 4 Sanitizing Wipes (Lysol or Clorox Wipes-no baby wipes please!)
- 4 paper towel rolls
- 4 boxes of tissues
- Refillable water bottle used daily (Plastic only)
- Individual snacks for your child in their lunch bag

**Please try your best to get everything on this list. We will be using these items for the ENTIRE year. For any questions/concerns contact Ms. DiSpigno*