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**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 to discover his or her 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 in 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](mailto:ndispigno@philasd.org)

# WELCOME BACK!!! 2021-2021

## Autistic Support Guide for Parents/Guardians

**Teacher:** Ms. DiSpigno

**Class Assistants:** Miss Bernadette and Miss Nunnally

**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:** 8:30am-3:09pm (Please drop off students before 8:15am but not before 8:00am)

**Dropping off your child:** Please walk your child directly to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 it 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 your child. WE CANNOT 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 3:09 pm. Students who take the bus will be packing up for the bus by 2:40 pm.

**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 school and leave a message (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](mailto:ndispigno@philasd.org)).*
3. *You may set up a conference with your child's teacher.*

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

## Autistic Support Classroom Supplies List

- 1 sturdy book bag or backpack
- 1 insulated lunch bag (if bringing own lunch)
- 4 **PLASTIC** two pocket folders (red, yellow, blue, green)
- 4 Marble Copybooks
- 2 bottles of Hand Sanitizer (Please no soap bottles)
- 2 Sanitizing Wipes
- 3 paper towel rolls
- 1 Eraser
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 Scissor
- 3 boxes of tissues
- Water bottle used daily (Plastic only)
- Snacks for your child in their lunch bag or to share with the class. We will keep them in a sealed container for future use.

*\*Please try your best to get everything on this list. We will be using these items for the **ENTIRE** year.*

*Any questions/concerns contact Miss DiSpigno*