

Dear 1D Families,

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Kait Doherty, and I am so excited to be your child's first grade teacher this year!

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over! I look forward to seeing everyone at 7:55 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2nd, the first day of school. This year, you are invited to a "Sneak Peek" of our 1D classroom on Thursday, August 28th from 1:45-2:15.

First grade is the year when a child's academic skills really take off. We will work as a community to foster independence, both academically and socially. In reading, students will learn various strategies for solving new words, study characters, and learn from non fiction texts. First graders will write across a variety of genres, incorporate exciting features of writing by studying an author's craft, and improve their spelling and handwriting. In math, students will develop stronger number sense and learn many ways to add and subtract. In science and social studies, we will do many experiments and learn about communities around the world. As the summer winds down, please encourage your child to keep reading and playing math games from the Summer Math Calendar. Please help your child complete their Summer Reading List and Math Calendar. The Math Specialists and Librarian will collect the lists and acknowledge their work this fall.

Now, I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself. I am originally from New Jersey and every summer I spend a lot of time at my family's house on Cape Cod. I have a sixteen month old daughter, Maggie, who I chased around the beach all summer; and my husband and I will be welcoming a baby boy this fall. I am lucky enough to be working with Ms. Corrine Calderbank again this year; this will be her third year as the paraprofessional in my classroom. Below, you can find an introduction from her. I am certain she will help make the transition seamless during my maternity leave midyear. I have an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Human Development from Boston College. I also completed two master's degrees in Special Education and Reading from Boston College. This is my fifteenth year as a first grade teacher at Baker School. I was a student teacher and an intern at Baker School and worked as a first grade teacher in New York City for four years prior to my return to Baker. I look forward to learning more about your child as the year goes on.

Finally, I would like to explain what else should be completed before the start of school. Please fill out the Family Questionnaire (a link to the Google Form is also included on the 1-D website). The information on the questionnaire is extremely valuable and I thank you for taking the time to complete it before the start of school. I am also offering optional Listening Conferences for parents/guardians before the start of the school year. There is a suggested supply list that has been created to ensure students have the materials necessary for all the important learning we will be doing. Please note that all our supplies are communal; so please do not individually label each item unless otherwise noted. This allows children to share and take responsibility for the well-being and cleanliness of our classroom and supplies. If possible, please bring all your child's supplies to our Meet and Greet on August 28th. Financial assistance is available by contacting Mr. Joshua Howe or Ms. Alexa Cuff at joshua_howe@psbma.org and alexa_cuff@psbma.org respectively. Lastly, the town no longer supplies art materials for each classroom. I have created a wish list of art supplies if you would like to contribute any supplies for the large number of art projects we do each year.

Please contact me at Kaitlin_Doherty@psbma.org if you have any questions. You will find links to all the supply lists, questionnaires, listening conferences (optional) and letters on the 1-D website: <http://1dfirstgrade.weebly.com/> Enjoy the rest of your summer. I am looking forward to a wonderful year in first grade!

Sincerely,

Kait Doherty

Ms. Calderbank's Introduction

Hi! My name is Corrine Calderbank and I am so excited to be working in 1D this year. This is my fourth year at Baker School, and third year working in 1D. Ms. Doherty and I worked closely together to make it a smooth transition for the students when I took over during her maternity leave in 2024. Some of you might know me from when I took over for Ms. Kaitlin Folsom during her maternity leave last year. I'm originally from Langhorne, PA. I moved to Massachusetts to get my M.A. in theatre education from Emerson College. I am currently studying at Endicott College to get my certificate in elementary education. When I am not at Baker, I am teaching musical theatre at The Wellesley Theatre Project. Looking forward to working with everyone this school year!

Friendly First Grade Reminders

Classroom Directions:

1-D is located in the first and second grade wing. From the school office, go straight to the end of the main hallway and take a right at the large double doors. Walk straight across the bridge to the very end of the hallway. At the end of the hallway, make a right. Our classroom is the first room on the right, #228. The best way to enter is through the door by the multipurpose room (Door 21). The classroom is three doors down on the left.

Door 21



Drop off:

School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. The classroom door opens at 7:55 a.m.

Pick up:

Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1:40 p.m. on Fridays. Children who take the bus or attend extended day will be chaperoned to their destination for the first week. Teachers will help dismiss students and get them acclimated to new routines at the beginning of the year and then be in touch if dismissal procedures change. Our meeting spot is right outside the multipurpose room door.

↓ Door 21

↓ Our Tree



Snack:

Children enjoy snack in class every day around 10:00 a.m. Please send a nutritious, **peanut-free snack** and drink with your child everyday in a reusable snack bag **packed separately** from your child's lunchbox. I suggest you pack two smaller snack choices daily as children often become very hungry. In addition to a drink, please include a water bottle in your child's backpack for him or her to drink throughout the day (especially during the first few hot weeks of school).

Lunch:

If your child brings lunch, please label his or her lunchbox with their name and classroom – **1D**. If your child buys lunch, you may set up an account through Brookline Food Services.