

Dear Fourth-Grade Elm Families:

We are so excited to embark on a year full of learning, challenges, and amazing growth! We look forward to getting to know you all in order to help every child grow socially and academically. All families are valued members of the Brooklyn Arbor community, and we encourage communication from everyone to better meet the needs of every family.



Our class tree is the elm tree. The elm tree symbolizes strength. Elms grow in forests, fields, and along shores and streams. They have simple green leaves that turn yellow in the Fall. They were once one of the most dominant trees in America. Although still prevalent, disease has wiped many of them out. There is so much to learn about the Elm, and we are excited to share more during the school year.

About the Teachers

Erin Lindberg

As a teacher, I am passionate about my commitment to inspiring young students to realize their maximum potential and self-worth. My passion aligns well with the philosophy and goals of Brooklyn Arbor, especially ensuring that school, at all grade levels, should be meaningful, fun-filled and responsive to each child! I grew up just outside of Tampa, FL where I graduated from the College of Education at the University of South Florida. My experience includes teaching 2nd grade in Florida, Pre-K and 3rd grade in Seattle, WA, and I have spent the past three years teaching 4th grade here in New York. I am so looking forward to meeting everyone in the Fall and becoming a part of the wonderful community at Brooklyn Arbor!

Ally Tash

I was born and raised in Long Island and have also lived in Jerusalem, Israel and Lawrence, Kansas. I have a Bachelor's degree in American Studies and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. I attended Fordham University and earned a dual Master's degree in Elementary and Special Education. I am a certified yoga teacher and completed a curriculum training with Mindful Schools. I have experience as a classroom teacher in 1st, 2nd and 4th grades and have been a specialist in yoga and mindfulness as well as Hebrew language. I enjoy traveling, hiking, yoga, cooking and musical theater. This will be my 3rd year teaching 4th grade at Brooklyn Arbor. I look forward to a fruitful year!

Communication

Please feel free to call us by our first names, Erin and Ally. Our email addresses are lindberg@brooklynarbor.org and tash@brooklynarbor.org. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please email both of us or send a note in your child's folder. In addition, we will hold parent office hours on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:15pm. Please feel free to meet with us during this time.

At dismissal the safety of your child is our top priority, therefore conversations must wait until all children are safely dismissed. Thank you for your understanding regarding this important matter.

For class updates and school announcements you can visit our class website through the Brooklyn Arbor webpage at: www.brooklynarbor.org. In addition, each month we will be sending home a newsletter with important updates and celebrations of what is happening in the classroom.

Dismissal

In order to ensure the safety of your child, he/she will need to give one of the teachers an elbow to elbow high five before leaving each day. If your child goes home alone, please send a signed note that gives him/her permission to go home unaccompanied and indicate that on the blue card.

About ICT Classrooms

In an ICT classroom, students with disabilities learn the same general education curriculum as their peers with the support of an additional teacher. ICT classes follow the same curriculum at the same pace as other classes. The general education students selected for the class were chosen because they have strong socialization and collaborative skills, such as empathy and compassion, as well as a strong track record of academic success.

Homework

Your child will receive homework on a daily basis. Homework is intended to be meaningful practice and reinforcement of what we are doing in the classroom. It is a great opportunity for you to directly experience what your child is learning. In order to help your child be successful, please set aside a time and place each day to complete homework with minimal distractions and appropriate materials (i.e. sharpened pencils, paper, and class notes).

Lunch & Water

Lunch will be in the cafeteria every day at 12:10pm. If you pack a lunch for your child, please label the lunch bag with your child's name on the outside of the bag. Do your best to utilize reusable containers and make nutritious choices (no soda, chips, candy or cookies).

Unless your child is eating breakfast at school, please ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast each morning due to our late lunchtime. Students can use a reusable bottle from home for water during the day. Please label all water bottles with your child's name.

Supplies

For this school year we will be collecting \$25.00 from each student to buy bulk supplies. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with us. We are asking that the money be handed in by **Friday, September 6th**. Any extra donation of funds would be greatly appreciated!

In addition, please bring the following items to school as soon as possible:

- **1 Homework Folder** - Student's Choice
- **3 Black and White Marble Notebooks** - *Please do not label the books; we will do this in class.*
- **2 Packages of Ticonderoga Pencils (pre-sharpened preferably)**
- **2 Boxes of Tissues**
- **1 Package of Computer Paper**
- **1 package of Expo markers**
- **1 container of disinfecting/surface-cleaning wipes**

Family Fridays

On Fridays starting in September, we will have a Family Friday - where families are encouraged to come into the classroom and share/teach a lesson. If you need any help with ideas for topics to share, please let us know and we can brainstorm. It is extremely beneficial for children to have this home-school involvement and we encourage everyone to sign up.

Other Reminders:

-School starts promptly at 8:20am every day. Please arrive before 8:15am.

-Students must wear their school clothes each day. Please refer to the parent handbook for a more detailed description of uniform expectations. Also, it is best to choose comfortable, safe footwear for daily physical activity.

We look forward to an exciting, challenging, and fulfilling year. Like Elms, together we will grow stronger throughout the year!

Erin Lindberg and Ally Tash