Dear Families,

My name is Caitlin Arbuckle, and I am thrilled to be your child's fourth grade teacher! This year will be my fourth year at Brent, and I am looking forward to getting this school year off to a great start! I have been teaching for eight years, including four years in Florida before moving to DC. I am passionate about reading and history, which are my favorite things to teach. I love working with fourth graders because they learn and grow so quickly at this age. Watching them learn more about the world around them, and their place in it, is amazing to see. I can’t wait to learn and grow with your child this year!

As we enter this new way of learning together this school year, the first few weeks are inevitably going to look a little different than usual. Below is some information that will help you prepare for the first week of school!

**Welcome from your Focus Teacher:** Your fourth grade focus teacher is Ms. Ullo. She will engage with students across the whole grade level and work closely with students in small groups. Ms. Ullo has worked for DCPS for many years, however she recently moved back from three years abroad in Madrid Spain. While there she worked with third and fourth graders at the American School of Madrid. You can contact her at Megan.ullo@k12.dc.gov.

**Virtual Home Visits:** During week 1 (8/31-9/4), ECE – 5th grade families and teachers will participate in virtual home visits. Relationship building is the central focus of these conversations that will serve as the launching point for a year-long collaborative relationship. I will share more about these home visits in an email on Friday. **Please sign-up for a virtual home visit time [here](#).**

**Asynchronous Open House:** On Friday, we will have an asynchronous open house where your family will be able to watch a video introducing students to their new grade. More information will be in the email on Friday.

**Instructional Time for Week 1**
To accommodate the home visits, we will have a modified instructional schedule for Week 1. All students will be expected to participate from **8:30-10:00 each day** as well as during the times below.

- **Closing Meeting:** Our class will come together for closing meeting at the end of each day during Week 1. Closing meeting will be from 2:45-3:15.
- **Small Groups:** Our grade level schedule has small group time across the week. For Weeks 1 – 3, your child will be in the same small group with me. The attached document titled **Week 1 At-a-Glance** shows your child’s small group assignment as well as a snapshot of the week 1 schedule.
- **Specials:** Specials will start on the first day of school. Our class will have Art every day from (10:15-10:45).
- **PE:** Our class will have PE on Tuesday from 1:00-1:45.

Be on the lookout for more communication on Friday! Information about logging on for all components of the schedule will come, as well as be shared with students at morning meeting and throughout week 1.
I am looking forward to (virtually) meeting you next week!

Cheers to a great fourth grade year,
Caitlin