

Dear Families,

Welcome to first grade! My name is Cati Bisanz and I will be your child's classroom teacher this year. Megan Dunn is the first grade focus teacher. At Brent, there is a fourth teacher in grades K-5. Focus teachers work with all students in a grade level, teaching full classes and small groups. Unlike in Kindergarten, there is no classroom assistant. To make things even more complicated, you'll see emails, Teams meetings and other communications coming from Catherine Sprague -- that's still me! DCPS uses my full and maiden name in their records. The beginning of school this year certainly feels different and we are so excited to be on this journey with you and your brand new firstie. Keep reading for some details about the first week of school.

### **Home Visits**

During Week 1 (8/31-9/4), ECE – 5<sup>th</sup> grade families and teachers will participate in virtual home visits. We are so excited to get to know you and your child! Please click [here](#) to sign up for a time slot. We will share more about these home visits in an email on Friday. When selecting a time, please consider your student's small group schedule. We recommend choosing a timeslot on a day they are not scheduled for a small group.

### **Week 1 Schedule and Small Groups**

Attached, you will find the Week 1 schedule as well as the small group assignments for Weeks 1-3. During Week 1, we will have morning meeting and closing circle each day. Additionally, your student's small group will meet twice. Their small group assignment will remain the same for Weeks 1-3. In the afternoon, students will meet in half groups for Math instruction and Specials class. Our Trimester 1 special is Music. Students are in either group A or B for this block.

Information about getting your child logged on for all parts of their day will come in Friday's email. Please use the attached documents to confirm your small group assignment and schedule.

### **Family Survey**

In order to better understand your student's virtual learning experience, please fill out [this](#) survey before the first day of school. The information collected will help us provide more specific directions about accessing content and will allow us to better troubleshoot when issues arise.

### **Term 1 Schedule**

Click [here](#) to view the first grade weekly schedule for Term 1. As we move through the first six weeks of school, students will add live instruction to their day incrementally in order to build stamina as we work toward the linked schedule. Be on the lookout for details about our ramp up plan on Friday.

### **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. Keep an eye out for an email on Friday!

Best,  
Cati and Megan