Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to join Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School as a leader, an aspirational Spanish speaker, and a strong proponent of multiculturalism. I’m honored to be part of a school community that recognizes the immense benefits that come with a bilingual education. I regret that I did not have the opportunity to learn two languages as a child, but it is never too late to start! Even those of us with older brains can benefit from language study, so if you see me at school, please give me the opportunity to test my emerging Spanish skills.

My background includes 20 years as a teacher and 12 years as an administrator. I’ve worked in large, small, public, and private schools, and all of these experiences have deepened my conviction that students need a deep toolkit to thrive in a global society. For three years, I worked at The International School of Panama as an elementary principal, and I got to see first hand the advantages of helping students absorb multiple languages and cultures from an early age. Being bilingual and learning to see the world through different cultural lenses opens so many doors, and Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School has been successfully preparing students for bright futures for the past nine years. We are consistently rated among the top 5 charter schools in Oregon, so we know we are doing something right!

The 2019-2020 school year is almost here, and we are delighted to begin the year in our new building. I want to send out a huge appreciation to all the hardworking parents and staff members who made this building a reality. We look forward to settling in and making it our own.

We have so much news to share about the start of school that you may want to print this message and put it on the fridge for future reference. If you have questions about anything, do not hesitate to give us a call. We want everyone to be prepared, excited, and ready to learn when we come back to school on September 3rd!

Warmly,
Michelle

**Daily Schedule and Calendar Changes**

As many of you know, we have our charter agreement through the Beaverton School District and we try to align with their calendar as much as possible in order to access their professional development opportunities. This year, they eliminated their early release Wednesdays, so we followed suit. We will no longer have early release on Wednesdays and we have modified our
daily schedule slightly to allow for ongoing teacher training and collaboration. We have also added additional non-student contact days to provide teachers in-depth training programs.

Our school day this year is 8:30 am - 3:15 pm for grades 1-8, and 8:30 am - 3:00 pm for kindergarten. The school year calendar is available on the website - Academic Calendar. Students may be dropped off starting at 8:10am. If you need an earlier drop off, please contact Buenos Dias to arrange for childcare. Buenos Dias/Buenas Tardes

Supply Drop, Fees and Picnic.

Drop off your school supplies and meet your teacher on Friday, Aug. 30. Please follow the drop off times listed.

LAST NAME: A - I 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
LAST NAME: J - Z 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

You can also visit the office to pay your fees at this time. Fees for this year include:

- Program Enrichment Fee, $300 before first day of school/$350 after school starts

After you drop off your supplies and pay your fees, we invite you to join us across the creek in the THPRD Fanno Creek Greenway for an information meet and greet with other families. Feel free to bring a blanket and some food if you want to help create a community picnic. The school will provide some sweet treats to welcome you to the new school year.

Class List

Class lists will be posted on Aug. 30 when you drop off your supplies.

New Nut Free Policy

We are implementing a new nut-free policy this year to protect our students with severe nut allergies. Please read the guidelines carefully. We need to have 100% adherence to these guidelines in order to keep our students safe.

Peanut and Tree Nut Guidelines:

- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child does not bring nut containing products to school for snacks or lunch.

- Parents must not bring in any food or treats to the classroom unless they have checked the ingredients carefully. If unsure about a selection, please speak to a staff member before bringing in the food item into the school.
• All product packaging must be checked for warnings directed at nut allergy sufferers and if the following or similar are displayed, the product must not be used in school.
  • Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers
  • This product contains nuts
  • This product may contain traces of nuts

Supply List
Supply list information can be found on our website here Supply List

Back to School Night

Because of our parking and meeting space limitations, we are splitting up our Back to School Nights based on grade level. You will be getting more information from your homeroom teachers after school nights.
  • Kindergarten and 1st grade: Sept. 12- 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
  • 2nd - 4th grade: Sept. 17 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
  • 5th - 8th grade: Sept. 18 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Staggered Starts for Kindergarten and 1st Grade

In order to give our youngest students a chance to settle in to their new school routine, we are having kindergarteners and first graders start the year in small groups so that the teachers can get to know them and help them become comfortable with the classroom routines without getting overwhelmed. The staggered start days are Sept. 3-6, and the office will reach out to every family directly to let you know what day your child will attend. Your child will attend one staggered start day prior to the first day for the full class. They will not come to school on the staggered start days that are scheduled for other students.

The full kindergarten classes will attend together for the first time on Monday, September 9.
The full first grade classes will attend together for the first time on Thursday, September 5.

Uniforms

We have a uniform exchange table at school if you’d like to come before school starts to see if there is anything that will work for your child. Our uniform policy is as follows:

Student dress code

Staffing Changes
At the end of every school year, we have the bittersweet experience of saying goodbye to some of our beloved staff members and, at the same time, wishing them well in their new endeavors. This year, the following people have moved on to new adventures:

- Jaska Arroyo
- Tessa Gonzales
- Lily Smith
- Aaron Bronikowski

We’ll be welcoming the following new members to our community. Please say hello when you see them at school!

- Irene Sester - Kindergarten
- Tabitha Kanen - 2nd grade
- Karen Garay - 4th grade
- Jessica Parlanti - Middle School Spanish
- Jackie Walter - Elementary English Language Arts
- Meralee Valenzuela - Elementary English Language Arts

We also have some staff members who are moving to new positions:

- Sarahi Vega - Kindergarten
- Layra Colon - 3rd grade
- Milagros Febus - Middle School Social Studies
- Kim Stoecker - Middle School English Language Arts