



**Welcome
Parents!**

Walt Disney Magnet School-Pod 100

Morning Drop Off & Breakfast

- Please be mindful that our school start time is 7:30am. Students arriving after that time will be marked tardy.
- All students enter through the Communication Arts Center. The CAC doors will open at 7:15 each day.
- Please do not leave your child unattended outside before this time waiting for the doors to open.
- All students have the option of eating breakfast in the classroom. A universal breakfast will be served in our classroom from 7:30-7:45am.
- Students will finish eating and clean up before 7:50am regardless of arrival time to school.



Student Absences

- When your child needs to be absent from school, please send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence.
- On the day your child returns from an absence I will send home any pertinent missed work. Students will be given one day to complete makeup assignments for each day of absence.
- Families are strongly discouraged from taking extended vacations during the school year.
- CPS teachers are not required to provide missed assignments or assessments for unexcused absences.
- Please make every effort to schedule appointments after school hours.
- These absences will be unexcused.



Dismissal

- Our school day ends at 2:30pm.
- Students being picked up by an adult must be signed out in the CAC.
- Please let me know, in writing (signed paper note - NOT EMAIL), about any special arrangements for dismissal.
- If you make last minute arrangements for someone to pick up your child on a given day, please FAX the school all necessary information before 11:30 am.
- Disney FAX: (773) 534-5714



Lunch & Recess

- Our lunch and recess will be 5th period (11:30-12:30).
- The Community Eligibility Option (CEO) lunch program, will provide ***free school meals to all students***. We will no longer be collecting money for hot lunches.
- When bringing a lunch from home, please be sure to label lunchboxes with your child's name and room number.
- School menus and nutrition information can be found at cps.edu Nutrition Support Services department
- **All lunch forms need to be returned as soon as possible.**



Facilities Schedule – Room 104

- Monday - physical education (Mr. Hoover)
- Tuesday - library (Ms. Rowe)
- Wednesday - science arts (Mr. Vicante)
- Thursday - physical education (Mr. Hoover)
- Friday - music technology (Mr. Fahrenbach)



Birthdays & Holiday Parties

- Your child is welcome to celebrate by treating the class. **All treats must be non-edible.** (Examples of possible non-edible treats: stickers, small toys, pencils, erasers, etc.) **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD TO SCHOOL.** This includes special hot lunches from fast food restaurants, cupcakes, or cookies.
- Please do not pass out party invitations during school unless all classmates are invited.
- Halloween Carnival: Children will bring costumes and join friends for fun in the CAC. We need many parent volunteers for this special event.
- We have 28 children in room 104.



Field Trips

- There will be a number of fun field trips this year. I will ask for and confirm volunteers as needed.
- Please pay for trips promptly as our wonderful office clerk needs time to pay our field trip providers.
- When sending money for field trips, book orders, etc. please send it in a labeled Ziploc baggie/envelope with your child's name and room number. Please send exact change or a check made out to Walt Disney Magnet School.



Classroom Behavior Expectations

- Our class will be using the Class Dojo online behavior management tool.
- Green points are assigned for participation, following directions, homework, and helping others.
- A variety of rewards are offered to encourage students to exceed expectations and “do the right thing”.
- Red points will be given when a student chooses to not follow our classroom rules.
- Sign up for Class Dojo reports by using your parent/ student login code.



CAC Performance- October 26th

- All first grade students will participate in our CAC unit and performance. Students will spend two weeks immersed in an integrated art and science unit.
- Our lessons will culminate in a fantastic performance highlighting our learning through dance, song, drama and art.
- Families are invited to see our live performance. DVD sales will also be available. (Please, no young children at the performance.)
- Many helping hands are needed to make this special time a success. Please volunteer time to assist with costumes and props.



Volunteers - NEW for 2018!!

- Step 1: complete the online volunteer form <https://chicagopublicschools.civicore.com/admin/index.php?section=application&action=new>
- NOTE: You are requesting to be a level 2 volunteer. A fingerprint criminal background check is not required for Level II Volunteers.
- Step 2: Please stop by the school to present your ID to the volunteer coordinator as soon as possible.
- Step 3: Once this step has been done the school will approve you as a volunteer candidate, you will receive a separate email with instructions regarding next steps.
- Step 4: To access your account and review your status, please visit the Chicago Public Schools volunteer website: <https://chicagopublicschools.civicore.com>



Language Arts

- Your child's language arts teacher may not be the same as their homeroom teacher. We will use test data and class performance information to place children into classes that are taught at different levels of instruction in order to best meet the needs of all students. These groups will change throughout the year as new student data is collected. **Your child's daily reading homework will be brought home in a RED folder.**
- Journeys is a comprehensive language arts program that provides systematic instruction for Reading Literature and Informational Text, Foundational Skills, Speaking and Listening, Language, and Writing.
- Direct Instruction (D.I.) is a supplemental reading program to help students who are struggling to develop phonics and reading skills. D.I. instruction is provided in smaller groups to ensure students are receiving more targeted instruction to meet their needs.



Math

- Go Math! Combines 21st century educational technology with modern content, dynamic interactives, and a variety of instructional videos to engage students.
- Written to fully support new math standards and offers a variety of differentiated instructional materials.
- Students will have math homework from the Go Math! Workbook daily.
- Families should also practice math +/- facts every night.



Science

- Science Fusion is a state-of-the-art science program designed for building inquiry and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) skills.
- The digital curriculum, virtual labs, and hands-on experiences develop important critical thinking skills.



Social Studies

- *Harcourt Social Studies* was created to help develop thoughtful, participating citizens and reinforce democratic values. With features like Biographies, Point-of-View, Primary Sources, Citizenship Skills, Study Skills, and Critical Thinking Skills, students are encouraged to acquire, analyze, and apply knowledge to solve problems, make thoughtful decisions, pose questions of their own, and tell fact from opinion. These skills are at the core of helping them to become 21st-century global citizens.



Coding

- Coding is typing step-by-step commands for a computer to follow.
- Every website, smart phone, app, and even microwaves rely on code in order to operate. Coders are the builders of the digital age.
- Coding will be an essential job skill for your child's future career. Even jobs not related to computer sciences, such as medicine and journalism, will need a basic understanding of code in the future.
- First graders will spend 30 minutes weekly learning and practicing computer coding.



eSpark

- eSpark analyzes MAP scores to diagnose student learning needs and identify areas for targeted instruction.
- Provide individualized learning quests for each student by delivering highly engaging and challenging activities to student iPads.
- Students will spend 120 minutes each week on eSpark reading and math quests.
- The eSpark app can only be accessed during school hours. This is not for practice at home.



IXL

- Not only do students gain new skills on IXL—they also gain a whole new appreciation for how much fun learning can be! From the vibrant images that permeate IXL's skills, to the enticing awards and certificates that are hidden throughout the site, students cannot wait to jump into IXL—and you'll have trouble tearing them away.
- IXL approaches each topic from many angles, offering visual representations, interactive activities, and more. With an abundance of questions for every learning style, students are guaranteed to build lasting skills and confidence.
- IXL is a program that celebrates effort and persistence. Questions are dynamic, thought-provoking, and nuanced, so guessing your way to success is never an option. Instead, we encourage students to learn from their mistakes and move through new challenges at their own pace.

-from [IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com)



Kids A-Z/RAZ Kids

- Raz-Kids delivers hundreds of interactive, leveled eBooks spanning 29 levels
- 400+ eBooks and open-book eQuizzes, with new books added every month, even in Spanish!
- Corresponding eQuizzes test comprehension, providing teachers with skill reports for data-driven instruction
- The motivational "Raz Rocket" gets students excited about reading and strengthens the school-to-home connection
- A winner of numerous awards, including CODiE and EDDIE Awards and a Teachers' Choice Award for the Classroom

RAZ Kids login information will be provided by your child's reading teacher.



Contact Me

- If you would like to schedule a meeting, please contact me ahead of time via note or email. I am available for meetings before and after school hours.

Phone: Disney front office - (773) 534-5840

Email: ktbrannigan.@cps.edu

