

WELCOME TO THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to an amazing year filled with fun and adventures. We are incredibly excited to meet every one of you. We have a bunch of fun activities planned to go along with our reading, writing, math, music and movement and much more. We are excited to be able to help develop a curiosity in cultural diversity and aid in our student's cultural studies! We can't wait to get you involved in all that our classrooms have to offer.

Meet Our Teachers



Courtney Christenson

Courtney grew up in Bountiful, UT where she graduated High School. She then attended college and earned her Associates Degree from Dixie State University. She has always loved to be around kids and see them learn and grow. She's been working with children for 6 years and over the last 2 years her love of teaching has grown tremendously! She is married with two dogs who she absolutely adores. She is so excited to get to know your children this coming year and to watch them learn and grow.



Portia Adams

Portia brings to PEEK over 14 years' experience working with children in various roles at Alpine Adventures/Summit Kids, Park City School District Childcare Center, Sierra Vista and Right Steps. Portia has been married to her wonderful husband for over 29 years and has two grown boys of her own that live in Iowa. She is also a PROUD grandmother to two grandchildren. She has travelled through the United States and lived in several different states throughout. Portia enjoys baking, cross-stitch, making people happy and loves to watch her boys play football. If you are looking for great pie recipe, see Portia!



Alyssa Spencer

Alyssa has spent most her life working with special needs children and adults and has a background in early childhood education. She has worked in elementary schools with students 3 – 12 years old as well as in a summer program for teens with disabilities, as a DSP. She has worked with kids from a young age and has experience with all ages. Other experiences include creating and operating summer camps, working in childcares during high school/preparing age appropriate lessons, and tutoring a variety of kids in math and English.



Colleen Veylupek

Colleen has worked at a therapeutic boarding school where she helped young teens learn to develop problem solving skills, coping skills, and how to acclimate to new experiences. She comes from a large family with an abundance of cousins, nieces and nephews. She absolutely loves working with, and learning from, children. College is in Colleen's future; she plans to pursue art therapy in hopes of helping those who've experienced PTSD, early childhood trauma, or been diagnosed with autism. Colleen enjoys everything outdoors. Whether it's hiking, rafting, camping or hammocking she's always ready for the next adventure! She loves singing, laughing, mountain exploring, movie watching, painting, and more! She's open to learning new things, and believes there is always something new to do, learn or create.

Center Based Programs

Many of you have asked about Center Based Programs. Here is some information on them. We are happy to sit down and go over any of this information if you have any questions. Center based schools are quite popular in Europe and promoted by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and most educational organizations. NAEYC sets the gold standards for schools all over the world. Here are some articles about learning centers and what they are meant to accomplish and how they operate.



- http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=426
- <https://fun-a-day.com/centers-in-preschool-kindergarten/>
- <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/allie-magnuson/learning-centers-part-1-why-theyre-important/>
- <https://articles.extension.org/pages/70567/using-learning-centers-in-child-care>
- https://www.uen.org/k-2educator/learning_centers.shtml
- <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/what-does-high-quality-primary-classroom-look>
- <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/what-does-high-quality-program-for-preschool-look-like>

Overview of Activities

Drop Off

Your child will have a cubby where they can place their belongings. Leave jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, hats and gloves, naptime items and other personal items in the cubby. NO TOYS FROM HOME PLEASE. Water bottles go in their bins in the classroom and are taken home daily. PLEASE DO NOT STORE sunscreen or medications in the cubbies. Sunscreen is stored in the classroom (labeled). Medications must be checked in at the front desk.

Please assist your child in learning to put away their items as they enter the classroom and placing their water bottles (filled) in the basket.

As you enter the classroom please have your child wash their hands. One of our goals is to teach our students to care for themselves and each other. Good health and safety are important in all aspects of our lives.

Once you have gotten your child and their belongings in the classroom it is important to say goodbye to them, even if they have a hard time when you leave. It is much better for them to see you leave, and cry as they watch, as opposed to them wondering where you went later during the day. Your child will adjust more quickly and will do better during the day if they see you have left, and they will learn that you will return at the end of the day. Please feel free to let us know if you need help during the drop-off process. We will take your lead.

Once your child is dropped off in the classroom you will sign them in at the front desk. **Please make sure your signature is legible.** Do not let siblings draw/scribble on the sheets as we use these for our emergency evacuations.



Circle Time

We start each day off with Circle Time. Our Circle time starts at 9:00am and ends at 9:30am. **We ask that if you arrive after Circle time starts (9:00am) that you wait until 9:30am to enter the classroom so as not to disrupt this valuable learning time.**



Snack Time

The children have a variety of fresh fruit in both the morning and afternoon for snack. Each family is asked to sign up 2-3 times per year to bring fruit. Sign up at the front desk. We encourage the children to try the fruit on their plates. It is amazing what we as teachers can get the children to try, that they won't at home.



Lunch Time

We are a peanut free facility with severe allergies. Children may have almond butter, sun butter etc. If you are introducing new foods to your child, please try them at home first to check for allergies prior to bringing them to school. Please note, we do not heat or refrigerate lunches. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS.**



Outdoor Exploration & Field Trips

Nature is beneficial to a child's development in many ways. It helps intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. We will be taking our lessons and exploring the outdoors as much as we can. We will be planning activities outside of school. These activities include hikes, biking, museums, local parks and other attractions. Please dress your child appropriately so that we can explore in all types of weather.



Newsletter & Calendar

Each month you will get a newsletter and calendar outlining important dates, events and daily activities. Please read them and do not hesitate to let us know if you have questions. Please pay attention to when your child will be returning to Peek during any outings or field trips. We follow the Park City School District Calendar for Snow Days and Closures. In the event of a snow day, you may not receive notice from us. Please listen to the radio and check the news and Facebook for the Park City School District's closures.



Pick-Up

Pick-up times are at 11:45am, 2:45pm and 5:15pm, late fees apply 15 minutes after pick-up times. Please remember to take your child's lunch box and water bottle home at the end of every day to be washed. Water bottles will be in the bin by the door and lunch boxes, hats etc. will be in their cubbies. This is a great time to talk to your teachers about your child's day. We are a cell phone free building so please no cell phones! Once you have taken your child from the classroom you will need to sign out at the front desk. **Please make sure your signature is legible.** Do not let siblings draw/scribble on the sheets as we use these for our emergency evacuations.



Extra-Curricular Programs

We have several extracurricular programs that we offer throughout the school year. All these programs are available with an added cost and you must sign-up for them before the start of the program when the sign-ups are sent out. We need to have at least 8 children signed up to do these programs. We may combine with Creekside Kids in order to get the numbers we need to pursue the program.

Skiing

If you would like your child to participate in our skiing program your child will need a pass to Vail Resorts as well as their own equipment. There will be more information coming out to you about this program closer to the time. Our skiing program generally runs for about 6-8 weeks in the winter.



Ice Skating

This Learn to Skate program has been set up for the students at The Peek Program with the Park City Ice Arena. Students will learn the basics of ice skating in a fun and exciting atmosphere. Qualified professional skating instructors will teach skaters to go forwards, backwards and stop, in addition to other skills (depending on the ability level of class). The one-hour class includes: skate rental, 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of free skate/ practice time. This program generally runs for 4 weeks in the fall, and again for 4 weeks in the spring.



Basketball

Little Hooper's Basketball is a special basketball class designed specifically for 3 to 9-year old's! This unique class introduces the game of basketball to youngsters in a fun, non-competitive environment. We will focus on skills such as dribbling, passing, catching and shooting and play games such as dribble tag, steal the bacon and sharks and minnows. Children will learn how to play together and improve their hand-eye coordination. This program generally runs for 4 weeks in the fall, and again for 4 weeks in the spring.



Dance

Beginning Ballet and Tap Lessons taught by Melissa Nester with Dancing Little Stars. The first ½ hour of the class is ballet and second ½ hour of the class is tap. The focus of the class will be poise, concentration, balance and memory.



24 Hour Emergency Bag

In the event of an emergency where you are unable to get to us to pick-up your child (road closures, major storms etc.), we ask that you pack them a 24-hour Ziplock bag with pjs, shelf stable food, a water bottle, underwear, socks etc. Anything that can help us keep your child calm and comfy until you are able to get to us. This will stay in their cubbies and is only be used for major emergencies, not evacuations.



What to Bring

AM or PM STUDENTS:

- Water Bottle/Sippy Cup/Non-breakable Bottles – Labeled with your child's name
- Change of Clothes (include socks and underwear) – Labeled with your child's name
- Large box of Wipes refills – ALL STUDENTS (Think Costco or Wal-Mart big boxes)
- Closed toe shoes – We will go outside daily so please wear appropriate shoes
- 24-hour Emergency bag – Freezer bag with items needed for 24-hour emergency stay like pjs, shelf stable food, underwear, etc.
- Appropriate weather-related clothes – Raincoats, hats, sunglasses, snow clothes, etc.
- Sign up for snack at the front desk! Sign up 2-3 times/year per child.

ALL PM Birds Students should also bring:

- Crib sheet – Labeled with your child's name
- Blanket – Labeled with your child's name
- Comfort item if applicable



AM/PM – FULL DAY STUDENTS:

- Water Bottle/Sippy Cup/Non-breakable Bottles – Labeled with your child's name
- Change of Clothes (include socks and underwear) – Labeled with your child's name
- Large box of Wipes refills – ALL STUDENTS (Think Costco or Wal-Mart big boxes)
- Closed toe shoes – We will go outside daily so please wear appropriate shoes
- 24-hour Emergency bag – Freezer bag with items needed for 24-hour emergency stay like pjs, shelf stable food, underwear, etc.
- Lunch – Labeled with your child's name. Please put in an ice pack if it needs to be cool (we do not heat or refrigerate lunches)
- Appropriate weather-related clothes – Raincoats, hats, sunglasses, snow clothes, etc.
- Sign up for snack at the front desk! Sign up 2-3 times/year per child.

ALL PM Birds Students should also bring:

- Crib sheet – Labeled with your child's name
- Blanket – Labeled with your child's name
- Comfort item if applicable

Please do not bring in toys from home!

**Please do not leave medications or sunscreens in cubbies or backpacks.
They need to be checked in at the front desk.**

Please no glass containers/bottles.

A few last words...

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

We promise to focus on your kids 100%, but this sometimes means we lose track of their stuff. Please help us make sure we can keep things organized by labeling everything!

Classroom Parent Volunteers

Thank you for volunteering! Classroom parents oversee organizing classroom holiday parties as well as special events/activities. These volunteers will also help organize Teacher appreciation week in May. If you have any questions, please ask us!

We also have additional times throughout the year where we need volunteers so if a room parent isn't quite right for you, don't worry there are other times we'd love to have you. If your schedule is such that you are unable to volunteer in your child's classroom but you would still like to be involved in some way, we would love to have you and can be very creative in finding ways that you can be involved, just let us know.

Upcoming Events

NO SCHOOL – Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd

Picture Day – Monday, September 9th

Picture Day is Monday, September 9th. If you do not usually attend school on Mondays, you are welcome to come in and get your picture taken. Siblings are welcome to come by for sibling photos as well.

Parent Social & Kids Night Out – Friday, September 13th

A meet and greet opportunity for parents to get to know each other with Mark and Brandy at Rasmussen Ranch from 6:30pm – 8:30pm Bring an appetizer to share, drinks will be provided. Need Child Care? It's also Kid's Night Out! Drop your child off at Creekside Kids from 6:00pm – 10:00pm (Cost: 1 Child/\$35, 2 Children/\$50, 3 Children/\$65)

NO SCHOOL – Teacher Training Day – Tuesday, September 17th

Park City Neighbor Day – Friday, September 20th

Park City Neighbor Day is a fun tradition that provides us the opportunity to get to know our neighbors! Stay tuned for more details.