

PETALUMA ACCELERATED CHARTER SCHOOL

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ANI LARSON - PRINCIPAL

ALISE ROACH, MATTHEW DE LUCIA-ZELTZER, LAURA CLEMMENS, KATIE GILL, DR. JOAN MARIE FELTES - TEACHERS

Summer 2021

Dear Petaluma Accelerated Charter School Families,

Greetings! We hope this letter finds you well and you're enjoying summer. August 17th, the first day of school for Petaluma Accelerated Charter School (PACS), is fast approaching, and we wanted to give you all an update on our progress. Please take some time to carefully read the contents of this letter to be fully prepared for the start of the school year.

Teachers

Matthew De Lucia-Zeltzer and Alise Roach will be leading the 7th grade program in the 2021-2022 school year. Laura Clemmens and Katie Gill will continue to teach our 8th grade students. Dr. Joan Marie Feltes will oversee our Spanish program and Kevin Klemenok will be our band instructor.

First Day of School

On the first day of school, go to your homeroom teacher's class. Homeroom lists will be posted in the PACS hallway. Bring a water bottle and a face mask. The cafeteria will be open or you're welcome to bring a snack and lunch. This is also an early release day with a **1:45 PM** dismissal time. Please don't bring any school supplies on the first day.

- 8th Grade
 - Mrs. Gill - Room 21
 - Mrs. Clemmens - Room 22
- 7th Grade
 - Ms. Roach - Room 23
 - Mr. D-Z - Room 24

Week of Welcome: August 17 - August 20

During the first week of school (Tuesday, August 17 - Friday, August 20), our objective is to: (1) Begin building a sense of community and belonging among the students and staff to be developed throughout the year, (2) Foster a sense of ownership among the

students over their school and their collective learning, and (3) Facilitate a high level of excitement about the academically rigorous year ahead.

The Week Of Welcome will culminate on Friday with a trip to Dillon Beach. **A permission slip and \$30 is required for the trip.** Permission slips will be handed out on the first day of school and will be due by Thursday, August 19th. The \$30 goes toward a Week of Welcome t-shirt, bus transportation to the beach, and supplies for the week of team building. Because of the Week of Welcome objectives above, we are requesting to make this a student and staff only field trip. It is our hope that these first days of school will be an exciting introduction to the year ahead!

Class Placement

All PACS students joined PACS in order to participate in a “dynamic, rigorous, and challenging 21st-century learning experience,” and we intend to provide this experience to all students. Students will be evenly divided into two, balanced homeroom classrooms for the core periods for Integrated Math/Science (taught by Mr. D-Z and Ms. Clemmens) and Integrated English Language Arts/Social Studies (taught by Ms. Roach and Ms. Gill). Regardless of homeroom placement, all PACS students will have both grade level teachers for the core subjects. Class placements will be posted in the PACS hallway on the first day of school.

PACS Bell Schedule

Please note the following bell schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:35 AM - 3:05 PM

Wednesday: 8:35 AM - 1:45 PM

- Class begins at 8:35 AM.
- Students who arrive early can wait in the PACS hallway/snack table area.
- Students will receive a detailed schedule during the first week of school.

Elective Sign Up

Students will complete the electives request form during the first week of school

and will rank their elective choice for the 2021-22 school year. Please note that elective placement will be made in a randomized way, and students may not receive their first choice. Classes only have 32 spots available. Students will take the same elective for both the fall & spring semester. The courses are created to build upon skills as the school year progresses. Elective classes will meet twice a week.

- Film Studies
- Introduction to Visual Art

- Robotics
- Leadership

In addition to the elective options, students will also have the ability to sign up for Band. Band will meet in the mornings before school during zero period a few days a week.

Aeries Parent Portal

It is very important that you create a Parent Portal account through Aeries, our District data system. Please complete this before school starts as it will be the primary reporting system we use to update your child's academic progress. By familiarizing yourself with this system, you can keep up to date on your child's academic progress (<https://portal.petk12.org/parent>). The District emailed regarding Aeries in late July.

Accelerated Program

PACS at McKinley's mission is to successfully engage students in a dynamic, rigorous, and challenging 21st-century learning experience with access to a smaller, personalized setting for their junior high school experience that will prepare them to be leaders and problem solvers. At PACS, we are committed to providing a rigorous and advanced curriculum that will challenge our students in the following ways.

1. All PACS students are automatically enrolled in a compacted math course that combines three years of math into two years of instruction. Successful completion of PACS' compacted math program will put students on track towards an accelerated math placement (Math II) as a high-school freshman.
2. Under her guidance, all PACS students will take Spanish with Dr. Joan Marie Feltes.
3. All PACS students will take at least one STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) elective course per semester. These courses are designed to give students academic choice and the encouragement to deepen their understanding of academic areas of interest.

Physical Education

Students will be required to wear athletic shoes during PE. These shoes will need to be worn on PE days OR kept in lockers/backpacks for changing during lunch before class.

Athletic shoes must have closed toes/heels and rubber soles. Vans, Converse, and other flat sole or slip-on shoes do not have the support needed to maximize performance and prevent injuries, and will not be permitted.

Students will not be allowed to change their clothes during lunch (only shoes) as PACS does not have a locker room or space to allow this. It is recommended (not required) that students wear comfortable clothing appropriate for exercise on PE days. Students should try to avoid clothing that restricts movement, such as jeans.

7th and 8th Grade Camp: Alliance Redwoods

Alliance Redwoods Science School (<https://redwood.camp>) is an exciting, experiential learning adventure that is special to the PACS program. The entire 7th and 8th grade student body attends this trip. This year, we will go to Alliance Redwoods February 28 through March 4. We must have parent volunteers to chaperone for the week (1 parent for every 7 students). This involves supervising a cabin of students at night and helping supervise a group of students during the day. Please consider volunteering for this trip, as it is not possible without parent volunteers. More information regarding camp will be distributed once school begins. The cost of the camp is approximately \$375. **Please note that 8th grade is only attending camp this year because they missed camp due to COVID/Distance Learning.**

PACS has an excellent staff in place and we are all very excited to work with you and your child this upcoming year. Please enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all of you on the first day of school.

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

Alise Roach, 7th-grade teacher - aroach@petk12.org

Matthew De Lucia-Zeltzer, 7th-grade teacher - mdelucia-zeltzer@petk12.org

Laura Clemmens, 8th-grade teacher - lclemmens@petk12.org

Katie Gill, 8th-grade teacher - kgill@petk12.org

Ani Larson, Principal - alarson@petk12.org

Please visit us online at:

www.petalumacityschools.org/mckinley

PACS Supply List

Please don't send supplies to school until Monday, August 23rd

- 1 backpack (try to fit within 12" wide x 12" deep x 36" high locker)
- 1 3-Ring Binder (1") (*Give to your English teacher to be used for your writing portfolio*)
- 2 3-Ring Binders (1 ½") (One for math/science, one for English/history)
- 1 package of insertable tab dividers (at least 8)
- 5 packages of 3-hole punched and reinforced 8 ½" x 11" graph paper (4 squares per inch)
- Scientific Calculator: *Recommended model is Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS*
- 5 packages of 3-hole punched 8 ½" x 11" college ruled lined paper
- 4 packages of 100 COLORED index cards (3"x 5" - NOT white)
- 1 spiral notebook for Spanish
- 1 box of Colored Pencils
- 1 box of Fine Tip Markers
- 1 ream of 8 ½ x 11 white multipurpose copy paper (*Give to homeroom teacher*)
- 1 pair of headphones/earbuds
- 1 pencil box/bag containing:
 - 1 large eraser
 - 5 standard OR 2 mechanical pencils (with extra lead)
 - 1 yellow highlighter
 - 1 pink highlighter
 - 1 green highlighter
 - 3 red pens
 - 1 blue pen
 - 1 black pen
 - 1 black Sharpie
 - 1 glue stick
 - 1 ruler (6 or 8 inch)
 - 1 pair of scissors
 - 3 packs of 3x3 Post-It Notes

***Additional supplies may be needed based upon elective course enrollment.*

Items to Donate

These items are not mandatory, however, your teachers would be very grateful for any of the following items to be donated.

- Pencils
- Tissue Boxes (**always needed!**)
- Disinfecting Wipes (**always needed!**)
- Expo Dry Erase Markers (**always needed!**)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Additional packages of 3-hole punched and reinforced 8 ½" x 11" graph paper
- Additional packages of 3-hole punched 8 ½" x 11" college ruled lined paper

***Students will not have storage space at their desks. All individual supplies will be kept in a locker outside of the classrooms and retrieved as needed for each class period.*