

Dear Families,

Welcome to the school year. First Grade is so exciting. Within the “big elementary school” each classroom is a small community where your child will be cared for and nurtured by master teachers.

Our classroom is an ICT, or Integrated Co-Teaching class. This means that there are two certified teachers working side by side to ensure systematic academic and social growth for each child. Both Abby and Valerie are experienced teachers and are dually certified in General Education and Special Education. Our classroom will have children who have been following the typical developmental trajectory and those who have been identified as having special needs. The special needs can range from motor skill delay to needing a bit of extra academic support. The beauty of this kind of classroom is that children can be supported to learn what they most need to, whether it is to move in a coordinated fashion, to identify their letters, or to read a more challenging book. At the same time, they practice compassion and what it means to be part of a team. All learners have areas of struggle and things that come easily to them; the magic in an ICT class is that all children are given very clear moments to be both a leader and learner amongst peers. Having two teachers significantly improves the teacher-student ration, permitting the class to remain academically rigorous and responsive to all the varying needs in the community.

Your children are going to have a wonderful and challenging year both socially and academically. We, the teachers, are thrilled to welcome you to the PS3 community.

With dedication and excitement,
Abby and Valerie
(1-205)

To read more about ICT classrooms:
<http://www.uft.org/teaching/integrated-co-teaching-ict>