

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Kirsty Ashby, and I am thrilled to be your child's special education teacher and case manager this year at Henderson Elementary. I'm looking forward to partnering with you to support your child's academic, social, and emotional growth. A little about me: This is my 21st year in education and my 15th year as a special education teacher. I hold a Master's degree in Special Education (K-12) from the University of Sydney in Australia. I joined Henderson Elementary in January of 2025, and I'm excited to be back for another year with our amazing students and staff. My youngest two children are proud Henderson Huskies, entering Grades 2 and 3 this year. As a family, we feel incredibly fortunate to be part of this welcoming and supportive school community.

In our classroom, I strive to create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed. I use a variety of teaching strategies and tools to meet the diverse needs of our learners, and I believe in celebrating every step of progress—big or small. One of the key principles we focus on is growth mindset—the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through effort, persistence, and learning from mistakes. I encourage students to embrace challenges, celebrate progress, and understand that setbacks are a natural part of learning.

My goals this year include:

Supporting your child in achieving their IEP goals

Encouraging growth in grade-level academic skills

Fostering confidence, independence, and self-advocacy

I love teaching because it allows me to witness the incredible growth and resilience of students. Watching them overcome challenges and discover their strengths is truly inspiring.

Communication is key to a successful school year. You can reach me by email at [ashbykl@pwcs.edu](mailto:ashbykl@pwcs.edu) or by phone at 703-670-2885. Please allow 24 hours for email responses, as my priority during the school day is instruction and supervision. For urgent matters, a phone message is best. I am happy to schedule a touch-base phone call or meeting before or after school hours.

To help me better understand your child's unique strengths and needs, I've included a student questionnaire. Your insights are invaluable and will help me tailor our classroom supports and activities.

How you can support us this year:


Stay in touch and share updates about your child

Reinforce IEP goals and routines at home

Encourage your child's efforts and celebrate their progress  
Reach out if you have questions or concerns—we're a team!  
Thank you for entrusting me with your child's education. I am honored to be part of their journey and excited for a year full of learning, growth, and joy.

Warmly,  
Kirsty Ashby  
Special Education Teacher – Level I  
Henderson Elementary

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 703-670-2885