

KINDERNOTES

GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Please take some time over the summer to familiarize your child with using a computer that has a mouse. If you don't have a computer with a mouse at home, you can sign up to use a computer at the public library free for thirty (30) minutes. This will help your child so much since we go to the school's computer lab weekly. In order to use the programs and do the testing that we have at school, a child must be proficient using a mouse.

Help your child to write his/her first name.

Read books to your child every day.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Please print your child's name on everything that comes to school, including clothing, sharing, snacks, money, etc. Always send money in an envelope with your child's name on the outside. Five year olds do not always recognize their own belongings, so the only way the teacher can be of assistance is if there is a name on the object.

Bring a pocket folder to carry papers to and from school. Please send your child to school with a backpack that will accommodate a regular size folder.

HOMEWORK

Yes, your child will have homework, even in kindergarten! The homework is designed to involve parents in reinforcing skills that are being taught at school. Your child will receive language arts and mathematics homework throughout the year. We ask that you take time to read with your child and to your child daily.

ARRIVAL

Kindergarten children attend school all day from 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. In order to acclimate to a busy school day, the first five weeks will be early dismissal (7:45-11:40 a.m.). ESS will be available. Assessments to determine each student's skill level in regards to math and reading will be administered one-on-one during those afternoons. Parents will wait outside the classroom while students are assessed. Teachers will provide more information at the Meet-and-Greet on the day before school. Kindergarten students go to the lunch area and sit at their class' table prior to school starting. This will be pointed out to you at the Meet and Greet. Parents will say their farewells at the tables when the teacher picks up her class. **Please do not accompany your child into the classroom.**

DISMISSAL

At dismissal time, the children will be walked out to the front of the school. Each class has a particular spot which will be pointed out at the Meet and Greet. Please meet your child in this area. If you are picking up your child in the car, **please park, get out of the car and meet your child.** The red zone is strictly for busses. If, for some reason, you are late in picking up your child, he or she will be taken to the office to wait for you.

ATTENDANCE

Continuity at school is very important to your child's learning. If, on occasion, your child is unable to attend school, state law requires that the school be notified of the reason for the absence. Parents may telephone the morning of the absence to the school 24 hr. Absence Tape (858-485-4876) instead of sending a note. If your child is to miss school for 5 or more consecutive days for any reason other than illness, please call the school office (858-674-4707) at least 5 days in advance to get an Off-Campus Study Contract. If you are going to be out for an extended period of time, please notify the school office 7-10 days in advance prior to departure. If you must pick up your child during school hours for an appointment etc., please go to the office rather than coming directly to their class room so that your child may be "signed-out". We also would appreciate your cooperation in having your child arrive at school on time; if they are tardy, please stop by the office to get a tardy slip which your child will be required to bring to class.

SNACKS

Please send a snack to school with your child every day. We would like to encourage you to send nutritious snacks. A healthy snack might consist of one or more of the following: a half sandwich, a piece of fruit, a vegetable, cheese, or a hard-boiled egg. There is a water fountain available, indoors and out.

DRESS

Since kindergarten is an active time in which your child becomes completely involved, clothing should be comfortable and easy for your child to manage by him/herself. Send your child clean and neat, but don't always expect them to come home that way! Please be sure your child comes to school wearing shoes appropriate for running and playing.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Report cards are sent home three times each year: November, March, and June. A parent conference will be held in the Fall. If you ever have concerns or questions, feel free to call or e-mail. Should you call during class time, you will be able to leave a voicemail message.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to invite you to be a volunteer in our classrooms. Parent volunteers strengthen and enrich the kindergarten program. If you would like to volunteer to help in our classroom, please make arrangements to leave younger brothers and sisters at home. If you would like to be a volunteer, please indicate this on our volunteer form. The teacher will be contacting you. Each volunteer must have a TB skin test, Megan's Law clearance, Volunteer Code of Conduct and attend the Volunteer Orientation meeting with Mrs. Watson in order to work in the classroom. All of the volunteer forms are available on the website and your attendance at the Volunteer Orientation meeting is a one-time requirement. Your cleared TB skin test is good for a period of four years.

BIRTHDAYS

School policy is that no personal birthday party invitations come to school, but rather be sent via the mail to avoid hurt feelings of those not invited. We do not allow a treat to be brought and shared with the class on students' birthdays. Each class acknowledges student birthdays, usually with singing.