

Dear Parents,

September 8, 2011

Welcome to Kindergarten!!! This will be one of the most important years in your child's education. We look forward with great anticipation to working with you and your child to find his/her greatest potential and to foster its growth. You will be amazed in May by how much your child grows!

As the school year begins, we would like to fill you in on some important information. First, attendance at school every day is critical to your child's success. Our doors open at 7:35 A.M. and close on the tardy bell at 7:45 A.M. After 7:45 students must be escorted to the front office by a parent or guardian to enter the building.

Next, we ask that you pick your child up each day outside. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Prouty will dismiss at their back doors. Mrs. Hofmeir and the new teacher's classes will dismiss at the Coring Street door. If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, please be sure he/she knows who that is. It is critical that you notify school before dismissal if the established routine should change in any way. We are obligated to follow the established routine, unless notified of a change.

Your child must have a backpack or sack of some sort every day to transport papers home. Papers carried home in the hand often do not make it and parents can miss crucial information, if papers are dropped along the way. If you are unable to supply a sack or backpack, please let us know.

Your child will have two folders that will travel between home and school each week. The Wednesday folder will contain important weekly school wide information. This must be returned each Thursday. On Monday your child will take home a folder containing homework for the week. **Homework must be done with an adult present to assist your child** with directions and any help needed. Completed homework and folder must be returned on Friday.

If your child does not already know his/her full name, phone number, and address, it is extremely important that you help him/her learn that vital information in the next few weeks. It is also important that your child learn his/her birthday.

One of our goals in kindergarten is to teach your child independence. With that in mind, your child should be able to button, zip and snap whatever they are wearing, as well as tie their own shoes. Our mantra in kindergarten is "Teachers don't zip, button, snap or tie after Christmas!" meaning all children must be able to zip their own coats by January. Shoe-tying needs to be learned as soon as possible. *** Please label your child's clothing. In the past we have had MANY lost and missing jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, etc., as well as articles taken home by mistake.

We are asking that your child NOT WEAR WATCHES, NECKLACES, BRACELETS, AND OTHER "DANGLIES" that become distractions during class. Toys of any kind may not be brought to school. They will be taken away.

A couple of words about BIRTHDAYS.... We are happy to celebrate your child's birthday at school. Should you wish to send snacks, the District guidelines are that the snack be something healthy, e.g. fruit, crackers, cheese, fruit cups, Jello or fruit roll-ups. Birthday invitations may not be passed out at school. We have had many hurt feelings and tears in the past when some students don't receive invitations and others do.

Finally, it is absolutely CRITICAL to your child's success that you work with him/her at home. Children whose parents are actively involved in their education are FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL than children whose parents are not. Your child's education is a partnership between the school and you. We are here to do everything we can to make that partnership as strong as possible. We are depending on you for the same. Please always let us know what you need and how we can help.

Thank you. We are looking forward to knowing each of you and working closely with you during this most important year of your child's education.

Sincerely,
Kindergarten Teachers