



**The
ABC's
of
Kindergarten**

2019-2020



Absences

Your child's regular and prompt attendance is important to his/her success in school. Please view school as a top priority, and make sure your child attends **every day except in cases of illness or emergency**. Whenever your child is absent, you must send a note explaining the absence when your child returns to school. If your child is sick, please contact the office. If possible, try to plan family trips during our scheduled breaks.

Arrival

Your child may enter the classroom at 7:50 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:00 a.m. If your child arrives earlier, they will need to wait in the cafeteria, which is supervised.



Breakfast

School breakfast is served every morning from 7:30-7:55 am.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for kindergartners. If you would like to have your child bring birthday treats for the class, please let me know in advance. You may send individual treats to school for a brief celebration at the end of the day. Please do not send a cake that must be cut up to be served. Balloons/flowers that are delivered during the school day will be picked up from the office by the student at the end of the day. If your child is having a party to celebrate this special day, please only send invitations if your child is inviting the whole class. The only exception to this rule is a gender-specific party where all boys or all girls in the class are invited.

Box Tops

We collect Box Tops for Education which help to earn money for our school. Each six weeks we see which class earns the most and they usually earn an extra recess or something fun! We also hold a drawing and an individual student can win fun prizes. **Be sure to label each box top with your child's name if you want them to win!**



Calendar

A monthly classroom calendar will be in your child's Kinder Book. This calendar will highlight special days and events.

Clothing

Kindergartners are involved in activities that require jumping, running, and climbing. **Tennis shoes are mandatory for PE.** In class, students will be painting, using markers, using glue, working with play dough, and other messy activities. Please select clothing that is both comfortable and appropriate for these activities.

Computer Lab

We are fortunate to have a computer lab in our school and computers and iPads in our classroom. We use a variety of age-appropriate programs that reinforce math, readiness, and reading skills. Computer lab will be a part of our rotation with PE and music.



Discipline

We have high expectations for our classrooms. We believe discipline should be used as a tool to teach and should have logical consequences.

Dismissal

School will dismiss at 3:28 pm each day. If you are picking up your child, please stay in your car or on the hill and a teacher will bring your child to you. Kindergarten parents should be in the right-hand lane to pick up if staying in car.

Dress Code

We do have a dress code policy at the elementary school. Please refer to the handbook for more details.



Emergencies

In case of an emergency, it is very important you give the office a complete list of phone numbers where you can be reached and the names of others who you would like us to call if you cannot be reached. **Please update the office as necessary throughout the year so that we have your most current information on file.**



Field Trips

Throughout the year we will schedule field trips to enhance our curriculum. Permission slips and cost will be sent home prior to each trip. Parents are welcome to join us at the location.

Fun Runs

Fun Runs are scheduled during PE time. **Parents can only participate on designated Fun Run dates. Remember, visitors must sign in at the office and get a visitor badge before heading to the Fun Run.**



Guidance Counselor

Our Guidance Counselor is Mrs. Robin Garrett. We have guidance classes with her every 2 weeks.

Guests

If you would like to eat lunch with your child, are just visiting, or are here to volunteer, please scan your driver's license or photo ID in the office to receive your visitor's tag. We want only the safest environment for your child and this is one way to let other teachers and faculty know that you are a guest in our building and not a stranger.



Homework

Your child will have homework on Monday-Thursday nights. All homework has a purpose. It is a quick review of concepts we are learning in class or a fun family project. It should not take more than 10 to 15 minutes each night. Homework should be returned to school by Friday of each week.

Hands-On Learning

We feel that the best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful, hands-on activities. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.



Involvement

Please stay involved in your child's learning experience! You are the best teacher your child will ever have!



Join PTO

Please support our PTO by becoming a member. See how you can share your talents and time!



Kindergarten Team

We collaborate weekly to ensure the best possible learning environment for our kindergartners. We strive to make their learning fun, exciting, and successful!

Kinder Book

This binder will be sent home on the first day of school. Your child will bring it to and from school everyday. This binder serves two purposes; it fosters better communication between home and school and it helps your child to develop strong organizational skills.

Inside your child's Kinder Book you will find the following:

- Pencil Pouch- Used to hold money being sent to school, sight words, nametag, etc.
- Behavior Calendar- Used daily to communicate your child's behavior.
- Kinder Korner- This is our weekly newsletter sent home each Monday.
- Important Notes & Homework- Important school and classroom notes will be on this side of the folder, as well as, homework. **This is where you should place notes about transportation changes and school absences.**
- Graded Papers- Work that has been completed and checked will be on this side of the folder. Graded papers should be cleaned out each week.
- Parent/Teacher Communication Log- This is where we can communicate throughout the year.



Lunch

Children may buy lunch at school or bring one from home. Menus will be sent home every month. Children who bring lunches from home may buy milk at school. Parents may eat with their child, but must do so at designated tables set up in the cafeteria. Other students are not allowed to join you unless permission is given in written form. You may set up an account online through the school's website to pay the cafeteria or you may send money or a check with your child to pay the cafeteria. Visit <http://www.pisd.net/PISD/menu/payschools.htm> to set up an account. **If paying with cash or check, please put in an envelope or baggie with your child's name and "lunch money" written on it inside your child's Kinder Book in the pencil pouch.**

Library

Students will go to the library once a week for 30 minutes. Mrs. McGehee (our librarian) will read a book and do literacy activities with them. The children will have a chance to select a book to check out for the week. **Your child's book must be returned each week in order for him/her to check out another book.** If your child's book is lost or damaged, the book must be paid for before another book will be checked out to your child.



Music

Our class has music every other week. At the end of the year, students will perform songs at our graduation ceremony.



Nurse

We are very fortunate to have a nurse on our campus. She will tend to minor scratches and scrapes, as well as sudden illnesses. For more serious injuries, she will contact you. If your child takes any medication, please give it to the nurse (in its' original container). All medication goes through the nurse. Blank medication permission forms can be found at <http://www.pisd.net/pisd/elemen/roundup/medication.pdf>.



Outdoor Recess

We will be going out for recess every day unless it is raining, extremely hot, or extremely cold. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather and send a coat or light jacket when needed. Please label coats and jackets.



Parent Conferences

Teachers will hold parent conferences during the year, but please feel free to call, email or write a note in your child's Kinder Book if you feel we need to discuss your child's progress between conferences.

Physical Education

We will have PE class everyday. **Please remember that tennis shoes are required for PE.**



Quick goodbyes

Quick goodbyes (at home, in the car, or in the hall) will leave drier eyes. ☺



Rest Time

We do have a quiet rest time each day. It gives us a chance to "recharge our batteries." Each child should have a towel for rest time. Please **do not send pillows, nap mats, or stuffed animals.**

Report Cards

Students will receive report cards five times during the school year. Kindergarteners will not receive a report card the first six weeks. Report cards show your child's progress both academically and socially.

Rise and Shine

We have a Rise and Shine most Monday mornings beginning at 8:00 am in the cafeteria. Each class takes a turn presenting the pledges, school creed, and a word and quote of the week. Parents are welcome to come each Monday for a great start to the beginning of the week!



Snacks

We have snack everyday. You will be asked to send enough snacks for every child in the classroom for one week in the fall and spring semester. Please watch the newsletter for your snack days.



Transportation

If there is a change in the way your child normally goes home, **you must send a written note to school or call the office.** Please **do not rely on your child to give his/her teacher the message** or send an email. **If I do not receive a written note or a message from the office, then I must send your child home by his or her usual mode of transportation.**

Teamwork

We are a team working together to help your child become successful in school. Please let your child's teacher know if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child this year. Throughout the school year, we will communicate with you through notes, emails, telephone calls, monthly calendars, newsletters, report cards, and parent/teacher conferences.



Units of Study

Be sure to look at the Kinder Korner each week to find out what we are studying.



Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the front office or let your child's teacher know. All volunteers must have a background check. Since background checks can take several days to complete, background checks will need to be done at least a week prior to volunteering. Please see the office for more information. We have volunteers that come on Thursdays to help teachers prep for the following week (laminating, copying, cutting things out, etc). If you are available for any amount of time on Thursdays and wish to help out we would greatly appreciate it! There are snacks provided each week for the volunteers.



Word Walls

We begin the school year by placing everyone's name on the word wall. We add words throughout the year.



eXperiences

Kindergarten is such an exciting time! ☺ Enjoy this year and let your kindergartner know how important school is to you.



Yearbook

You will be able to purchase a yearbook at the end of the school year.

You!

You can help to make your children feel successful this year by reading each night with them. Remember to discuss the school day with your kindergartner. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?"



ZZZ's

It is very important that your child get a good night's sleep. Establish a bedtime routine that allows your child to get 10-12 hours of sleep each night.