

The **ABCs** of Kindergarten

A

Absence: If your child is going to be absent (planned or unplanned), please notify me or the school office as soon as possible.

Art: Students will attend art class with Ms. Rodriguez twice each week.

B

Breakfast is available from 7:30-7:55 each morning if you'd like to send your child. The cost is \$2.50/day (menus are available on the school website). Free and reduced meal forms are available in the school office.

Birthdays: If you would like to send a birthday treat with your child on or near his/her birthday, please feel free to do so (please let me know a day or two in advance). These treats will be eaten during our afternoon snack time. We will recognize summer birthdays at the end of the school year. *Please do not send birthday party invitations to be distributed at school unless all classmates receive an invitation.*

Book Orders: I will send home Scholastic book order forms for you and your child to look over a few times throughout the year. Scholastic offers books at reduced prices. It's a great way to build your child's home library!

Bus: If your child will ride the bus to school, please contact our transportation director, Jeff Williams, at school (285-1213) or email (jwilliams@sd282.org) to make plans for the school year. Buses *typically* arrive at school between 7:40 and 7:45 and leave between 3:25 and 3:30.

C

Conferences: Parent-Teacher conferences are held after the first quarter on November 5 and 6. We have student-led conferences at the end of the third quarter. Watch for information as conference time approaches and please reply accordingly. (You may opt for digital or phone conferences if you prefer.)

D

Departure: Students are dismissed at 3:15. If you are picking up your child, please wait for him/her outside the **elementary entrance by the flag pole**. I try to make eye contact with parents and caregivers to ensure that each child gets with the appropriate adult.

E

Email: I check my email throughout the day and find it a great way to communicate. My email address is mhanson@sd282.org. If you have an email address you'd like me to be aware of, please include it on the student questionnaire.

F

Field Trips: I hope to schedule a field trip during the school year if possible. Information about field trips will come home approximately two weeks before the trip and will be detailed in the field trip permission slip and weekly newsletter.

G

Guidance Counselor: We are fortunate to have the services of a counselor and a school psychologist in Genesee. If you feel your child needs to visit with someone, please let me know and I can make arrangements (I do not need to know why if it's confidential).

H

Homework: Students will have a little homework in kindergarten. Homework assignments are generally from our math program and will be sent home in the Take-Home folder at the end of the week. Unless otherwise noted, please return homework the next school day. *The best way to help your child with their learning is to read aloud to him/her daily, talk about what your child is learning at school, and find opportunities to talk about math in everyday life.*

Handwriting: There will be a strong emphasis on correct letter formation throughout the fall to make sure that your child is correctly forming his/her letters. Specific information about how you can help your child with this will be coming home early in the school year.

Health Class: This fall, Mrs. Pickard (our PE teacher) will be teaching health to our elementary classes. Kindergarten students will attend health class once each week.

I

Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-confidence.

Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following self-help skills at home: *zipping, tying, dressing, toileting, etc.*

Illness: Your child and his/her classmate's safety and health are very important to us. If your child has been sick with a non-COVID illness, he/she may return to school 24 hours after their fever has broken as long as they have no other symptoms. Students with a persistent cough or sneezing (not related to allergies), vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever will be sent home if they have any of these symptoms at school. **Please DO NOT medicate your child in the morning with the hope that symptoms will be masked at school since this risks the health of everyone else your child comes into contact with.**

J

K

Kindergarten kids rock!

L

Library: Our class will visit the library every week. Your child will be allowed to check out up to two books when we visit the library and they should be returned within the following week. If your child forgets to return the book(s), he/she will need to wait to check out new ones until they are returned.

Lunch: Kindergarten students will go to lunch at 10:55 every day. School lunch is \$2.75/meal (children may either eat school lunch or bring a lunch from home). You may send lunch money with your child and I will make sure it gets to the kitchen. Kindergarten students may choose the **main or first option** on the lunch menu (menus are available on the school website). Free and reduced lunch forms are available in the school office. This year, guests who want to eat lunch with a student must bring a cold lunch and eat lunch with the child outside.

M

Milk: Milk (white or chocolate) may be purchased for students to drink with cold lunch. Milk costs 50¢ a day. You may send a drink from home with your child if you'd prefer.

Music: The children will have music class twice each week with Mrs. Smith. There may be concerts during the year to give students a chance to share what they're learning in music class.

N

Newsletter: A weekly newsletter will be posted on the last school day of each week to keep you informed of what is happening in our class. I will send it through Seesaw, our classroom information center and student on-line portfolio program.

O

Open House: Open House will be held the week before school (August 18-20). A sign up will be emailed to you so you can choose a time that works best for your family to meet me, check out the classroom, and bring school supplies.

P

PE: The children will have PE three times each week with Mrs. Pickard. Please make sure your child has gym shoes that can stay at school (gym shoes do not need to be new but must be clean on the bottom). Unless your child is already tying his/her shoes, please send VELCRO shoes. In addition, please send socks if your child wears sandals or flip-flops on a PE day.

Q

Questions: If you ever have a question, please don't hesitate to contact me via email, phone (285-1162) or note.

R

Recess: Kindergarteners have recess three times a day. Most recesses are outside (heavy rain and especially cold temperatures result in gym recess). Please make sure your child is always dressed appropriately for outside recess. **Please do not request that your child stay in from recess due to illness. If your child is too sick to go outside, he/she is too sick to come to school.**

Report Cards: Kindergarten report cards will be sent home four times during the year (at the end of each quarter).

Rest Time: We will have a rest time every afternoon (I call it "Siesta"). Students may bring a small blanket or pillow if they would like.

S

Seesaw: This is our online information center and student portfolio program. Your child and I will be posting lots of pictures and activities here to share with you. I will also send messages and notifications through Seesaw. It is important to get signed up – I will have sign up information for you at Open House.

Snack: We have a small snack every afternoon. Please bring two boxes of snack crackers (or comparable snack – pretzels, animal crackers, etc.) that can be shared with the rest of the students. I will put a note in the newsletter if snacks are running low and need to be replenished.

T

Take-Home Folders: I send student work, notices, and homework home in Take-Home Folders at the end of each week (these folders are provided by the school). Please return homework or any other items on the "Bring Right Back to School" side as soon as possible.

Transportation: If your child has any changes in his/her transportation plans please let me know right away.

U

Use social media wisely. Many parents do not want pictures or information about their child posted online. In addition, please contact me personally if you have a concern instead of posting your frustrations online.

V

Volunteers: Unless things change, we are unfortunately no longer allowed to have parent volunteers in the classroom.

W

Web-site: Our school website contains a lot of information. Visit <http://www.sd282.org/> for the following information: class supply lists, breakfast and lunch menus, school year and event calendars, school board agendas and minutes, and more.

Winter Weather: If school is cancelled due to inclement weather (or another reason), the school will attempt to notify parents as soon as possible. You should receive a phone call soon after a decision has been made to cancel school. Cancellations are also posted to Facebook. It's possible that we may also have a 2-hour delay. If that occurs, Kindergarten will follow the same delay schedule as the rest of the school.

X/Y

Yearbook: If you are interested, you will be able to purchase an elementary yearbook for your child. Watch for information to come home mid-year.

Z

zzzzz: Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child.