Dear Parents:

Below you find a list of pertinent classroom information. Something we like to refer to as: "☺ REMINDERS☺ ."

Thank you,

Mrs. Miller and Mr. Jerkatis

Horace Mann School Kindergarten Website:
www.mannschoolmustangs.org/kindergarten

...ABOUT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The students will arrive and line-up for school at the second south entrance to Mann school (i.e. - 4S). The students will also be dismissed in the same location. The kindergarten schedule is as follows:

Kindergarten
Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri. (8:00 am - 2:55 pm)
Wednesday (8:00 am - 1:55 pm)

...ABOUT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Students will have their birthday recognized and celebrated during snack time. Due to the various allergies that members of our classroom have (including Mr. Jerkatis), and our wellness policy, edible treats are not permitted. Examples of acceptable non-edible treats include: school supplies, stickers, bookmarks, etc. You may also want to consider the presentation of a class gift such as a book (similar to the birthday book program in the library). Presenting a book to the class as a gift, helps build the classroom library.

...ABOUT SUMMER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

If your child’s birthday is during one of the summer months (when school isn’t in session), you may choose a date that you would like his/her birthday recognized in the classroom. Please email me for further details.

...ABOUT CONTACTING MRS. MILLER AND MR. JERKATIS

We prefer to be contacted via email (ajerkatis@op97.org) and CC’d (kmiller@op97.org). If it is imperative that you speak with us, we can be reached by calling the main office [(708)524-3085].
Handwriting without Tears

Every week the students will be work in their *HWT Letters and Numbers for Me* book (in addition to using the *HWT slates* for Uppercase letters and Numbers).

Language Arts

- The students practice their writing their names throughout the week (beginning with their first name and eventually their last name).
- The students work on reviewing letter/sound correspondence daily.
- The students work on Heggerty’s Phonemic Awareness daily.
- The students work with the Treasures reading series.
- The students write in journals throughout the week.

Lexia Reading

The *Lexia Reading* program is a computerized web-based reading program that provides phonics instruction and gives students independent practice in basic reading skills. The *Lexia Reading* program is designed to supplement our regular classroom instruction. It is designed to support skill development in the five areas of reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel (phonological awareness, alphabetic principle, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension). This program offers a School-to-Home Connection, extending the school day by providing on-demand access to the *Lexia Reading* program from your home computer.

Tumble Book Library

Tumble Book Library is an online collection of Tumble Books – animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they’ll love. Tumble Books are created by adding animation, sound, music and narration to existing picture books in order to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you.


The Tumble Book Library provides enrichment to students who are reading independently with a variety of high interest material. It also provides support to students who require skill building with a variety of exercises that can be matched with other areas of the curriculum. In general, Tumble Books are a great addition to a reading program that can be worked on independently by each student or by the whole class. It has been exceptionally well received by ESL and Special Education teachers.

The Tumble Book Library collection is accessed online from every computer in our school or library with Internet connection.

Mathematics

- The students work on: Calendar, Days of School, Weather Observation and Data Collection/Analysis.
- The students will practice addition or subtraction problems on a daily basis (beginning at the end of the 1st Trimester).
**Sight Word Lists**

Sight Word Lists (a.k.a. – Dolch Words and High Frequency Words) are divided into 4 categories (Preprimer, Primer, Grade 1, and Grade 2). The current requirement in the District 97 Kindergarten program is to be able to identify 26 out of 30 sight words by the end of the Kindergarten school year. To challenge all of the students at their learning level, the Kindergarten team at Mann School has developed a total of 23 Sight Word Lists (226 words in all). Attached to each list, is a set of flashcards. Use the Sight Word List Flashcard Envelope (the students will receive the envelope with Sight Word List #1) to store the flashcards. The Sight Word List Flashcard Envelope also includes various activities to aid in the student's mastery of the sight words.

The "Preprimer" category contains a total of 50 words; divided into 5 separate lists (10 sight words per list).

The "Primer" category contains a total of 42 words; divided into 4 separate lists (the first 3 lists will contain 10 sight words per list and the last list will contain 12 sight words).

The "Grade 1" category contains a total of 86 words; divided into 9 separate lists (the first 8 lists will contain 10 sight words per list and the last list will contain 6 sight words).

The "Grade 2" category contains a total of 48 words; divided into 5 separate lists (the first 4 lists will contain 10 sight words per list and the last list will contain 8 sight words).

Prior to the start of the second trimester (exact start date will be posted in the newsletter), every student will start in the "Preprimer" category with Sight Word List #1. Please practice the words with your child. Once your child is able to recognize all the words on a list, please sign the space at the bottom of the list and have your child return the list to school. When I receive the signed list, I will then test your child. If he/she gets all of the words correct, I will send the next list home. Please note: There may be a couple day turnaround for your child's next sight word list to be sent home; this is due to the influx of sight word lists being returned daily. Also, please send your child to school with only one list at a time.

Once your child is finished with a list, please review the words from that list (and all previous lists) on a regular basis. It is important to be able to identify and use the Sight Words (especially days, weeks, and months, after they have been tested). Please note: When working on Sight Word Lists with your child, going over the meanings of the words is extremely important, in addition to the beginning, middle, and ending sounds of the words. For an added challenge have your child work on spelling the words.

**Science**

The students will work on the following Delta Science Modules throughout the school year:

1. Sunshine and Shadows/Moon (earth science unit)
2. Investigating Water (physical science)
3. From Seed to Plant (life science)

**Social Studies**

The students will learn about different history related events throughout the year (ex. – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, President's Day, Veteran's Day, etc.).

**Technology**

The students will use iPads on a weekly basis for Language Arts, Mathematics, and Exploration.
...ABOUT CLASSROOM PARTIES

○ The Kindergarten Classes throw parties for the following:
  1. Halloween
  2. Winter Holidays
  3. Valentine’s Day
  4. End of School

○ The party activities are set-up by the "Room Parents."

...ABOUT GYM SHOES

Please make sure that your child wears Gym Shoes to school on their designated Gym class day (this will help save time and as a result not effect instructional time). In the winter months or when it rains, we can have the students change into gym shoes at school.

...ABOUT LIBRARY BOOKS

Each week the students will attend the library. The students will be allowed to check out two books. The books will then be due one week from when they were taken out. If your child is finished reading the book and would like to return it before the due date, he/she may bring it to class and place the book(s) in the yellow library book return crate (located above the students' mailboxes).

...ABOUT THE WEATHER

Please make sure that the kids are dressed for the cold weather. Even though it is cold outside, we will still have recess outdoors (if the majority of students vote for outdoor recess on that day).

If there is snow on the ground, please ensure that your child wears “snow pants” and “snow boots.” When your child wears “snow boots”, please have him/her bring a pair of shoes to change into (boots are uncomfortable to wear during the entire school day and leave a mess throughout the classroom).

...ABOUT PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES

There are two scheduled Parent - Teacher Conferences throughout the school year (One during the first trimester and one during the second trimester). We will email Parent - Teacher Conference Sign-up lists. Once the forms are received, we will email you your designated Parent - Teacher Conference Appointment.

...ABOUT “SPECIALS”

2015-2016 “SPECIALS” SCHEDULE
("Specials” are 30 minutes each)

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