In every neighborhood all across our country,
There are good people insisting on a good start for the young,
And doing something about it.

From: The World According to Mr. Rogers

KINDERGARTEN CLASS DESCRIPTION
Welcome to all the students and parents in Room 1! We plan to have a fun and exciting year that will be filled with exploration, experimentation, and knowledge acquisition!

The purpose of kindergarten is to teach children a rich, meaningful, and balanced curriculum of skills and information through age appropriate activities that encourage the children to want to learn and to develop the skills necessary to be successful contributors to society.

KINDERGARTEN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The kindergarten curriculum includes several main subject areas: language arts (oral language, listening, writing, and reading), math, integrated core areas (science, social studies, and art), music, technology (computer), and physical education. Students will engage in learning activities in these areas to communicate in
several different ways (ex.: oral and written language, movement, etc.).

Utah has developed a Core Curriculum which outlines standards of learning that are essential for all students at each elementary grade level. The curriculum includes ideas, concepts, and skills to provide a foundation on which subsequent learning may be built. The curriculum for each grade level can be accessed on the Utah State Office of Education’s website at:

http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/core

A summary of basic kindergarten goals is included in the Salt Lake City School District Kindergarten Curriculum pamphlet which is attached.

We will be implementing the new National Mathematics Core this year and it is reflected in the pamphlet mentioned above.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Language Arts (Reading):
Students will work in whole group, small group (guided reading groups, ERI groups, literacy corners/centers), and individually. Materials that will be used for instruction will be:

* Small Book Sets (StoryTown, Wright Group, Rigby, etc.)
* Nursery Rhymes, Songs, Finger Plays, and Poetry
* ERI (Early Reading Intervention)

Language Arts (Writing):
Students will write in journals, writing workshop, and literacy corners. Students will practice manuscript letter formation using the Zaner-Bloser model of handwriting. A copy of the “path of movement” for students to learn the formation of letters is
included in this disclosure document.

**Literacy Corners:**
Students will work in early literacy corners (centers) based upon the StoryTown basal and the Apprenticeship Model.

**Mathematics:**
Students will acquire math skills through the use of hands-on, exploration activities incorporating the use of manipulatives.

Materials that will be used for instruction will be:
- supplemented with Math-Their-Way activities

**Integrated Core Areas (Science, Social Studies, and Art):**
Students will participate in skills in the integrated core areas in daily activities. Students will use big books, learning corners, and activities involving direct experimentation and exploration.

Various areas of study include:
- Five Senses
- Seasonal Changes
- Animal Variations
- Self, Families, and Communities

In addition to art in the classroom, Mrs. Rich provides an art activity for kindergarten students once a month.

**Music:**
Students will practice music skills by memorizing nursery rhymes, singing songs, reciting fingerplays, and by participating in rhythm activities.

**Technology (Computer):**
Students will practice literacy and math skills using computers
in the classroom and in the computer lab.

Physical Education
Students will participate in locomotor, gross motor, and fine motor skill activities. Please make sure that your child wears appropriate shoes for safety when participating in the various activities. Our day for p.e. is Monday.

Words and Concepts to Reinforce at Home:
It is our kindergarten goal to have all kindergarten students able to recognize and name all their upper and lower case letters by the end of December. Please practice recognizing and writing the letters of the alphabet at home on a daily basis. Homework will be sent home to assist parents in achieving this goal.

The list of 25 words that kindergarten students will need to know by the end of the school year is presented below. These are words that you may wish your child to practice recognizing and writing throughout the school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fry Instant Words for Kindergarten Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, students are expected to master the high frequency words in the StoryTown reading program. These words are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>StoryTown High Frequency Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You will notice that some of the words in the StoryTown list are also words in the Fry Instant Word List.

**Phonics Sequence**

Letters will be introduced in the following sequence from left to right:

MSRT NPCA DIGF BKOL HWXE VJYZ UQ

Weekly homework packets will be sent out in this order. Word packets will follow when letter packets are completed.

**Social Studies Words/Concepts**

Kindergarten students need to be familiar with the following words and concepts by the end of the school year. You may wish to discuss and reinforce these words/concepts with your child at home.

**Social Studies Word/Concept List for Kindergarten Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>alike</th>
<th>eagle</th>
<th>map</th>
<th>respect</th>
<th>top</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bottom</td>
<td>environment</td>
<td>month</td>
<td>respond</td>
<td>traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caring</td>
<td>fireman</td>
<td>national</td>
<td>restroom</td>
<td>turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classroom</td>
<td>flag</td>
<td>parent</td>
<td>right</td>
<td>week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conflict</td>
<td>friendship</td>
<td>playground</td>
<td>season</td>
<td>weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cooperate</td>
<td>globe</td>
<td>pledge</td>
<td>symbols</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>day</td>
<td>health</td>
<td>police</td>
<td>teacher</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different</td>
<td>height</td>
<td>polite</td>
<td>today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES
Instruction is given in large group (whole class), small group (ex.: guided reading group, intensive skills work, ERI, etc.), and individually (based on need). We utilize volunteers in the classroom to assist students. We have a part-time assistant, Mrs. Pezely, who will be with us Mon.-Thurs. in the afternoon. At times, we may combine with other classes to participate in instructional activities.

Students will create books and participate in projects, corner activities, and individual seatwork.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
Our expectations for students are that they will attend school every day and be on time every day. If you child is absent, please send a note with the reason for the absence to the teacher. If your child is tardy, please stop at the office to let them know that your child has arrived at school.

Discipline:
We have a school-wide discipline policy that we follow. In class, students have “stars” that they move if they have difficulty in following a rule. A weekly conduct sheet noting star moves will be sent home for parents to see, discuss with his/her child, sign, and return to school. Behavioral expectations are listed on the conduct sheet attached. If you wish to discuss anything on the conduct sheet, please let me know.
Homework:
Homework consists of skills and concepts taught in kindergarten and reinforced at home. Language Arts and Math homework will be sent home Monday-Thursday. Please assist your child when necessary and return the homework to school the following day. Daily reading for 10-20 minutes is also expected. Reading calendars/logs will be sent home to assist parents in documenting reading minutes. Small books that students choose will be sent home daily. Please read the book with and/or to your child. Please continue to read on the weekends and document the time. Homework will officially begin no later than October.

TENTATIVE KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
The kindergarten students will enter through the back kindergarten door. The door will have a picture of Clifford (the big, red dog) on it. In the event of rain or snow, a green sign will be placed in the front window of the school building. This means that students may come into the building and wait quietly in the gym. At dismissal time, the students will exit through the front kindergarten door and will wait by the teacher. Please remember the safety procedures when picking up your child. If parking, please use the designated parking spaces. Please do not park in and/or block the loading zone. Also, please inform the teacher as you pick up your child so that he/she may be checked off the dismissal list.

The full day schedule for students will be:
Monday-Thursday from 8:10-2:45
Friday from 8:10-12:30

Our class schedule for Monday-Thursday will be:
8:10-10:00    Language Arts Block
10:00-10:15  Recess
10:15-11:10  Language Arts Block (continued)
11:10-11:15  Preparation for Lunch
11:15-11:45  Lunch
11:45-1:00  Mathematics/Calendar
1:00-1:30  ERI Groups
1:30-1:45  Recess
1:45-2:00  Story Time (Listening/Auditory Skills Develop.)
2:00-2:10  Letter Formation/Handwriting
2:10-2:20  Sound Book (Phoneme Segmentation)
2:20-2:35  Integrated Core Activities
2:35-2:40  Closure
2:40-2:45  Notes and Dismissal
*12:30-1:00  P.E. on Monday

Our class schedule for Friday will be:
8:10-8:30  Opening Activities
8:30-9:00  Language Arts
9:00-9:30  Computer (Mathematics and Language Arts)
9:30-10:00  Library
10:00-10:15  Recess
10:15-10:35  Story and Preparation for Lunch
10:35-10:55  Lunch
10:55-11:45  Calendar and Literacy Activities
11:45-12:20  Oral Language Development (Show-and-Tell)
12:20-12:25  Notes and Dismissal

GRADING PROCEDURES
Clear standards and expectations are established for all students at each grade level. To be on grade level, students are expected to be able to demonstrate knowledge for the information that has been taught with minimal assistance from the teacher. A copy of the report card is attached.
**Conferences and Report Cards:**
S.E.P. conferences are held twice per year. Each student is expected to attend with his/her parent. Portfolios will be presented and student goals will be set. Report cards are sent home three times per year.

**Assessment Schedule:**
This is to inform you of our kindergarten assessment schedule for the school year 2010-11 at Hawthorne Elementary School. We have 10 kindergarten assessment days, 5 days at the beginning of the school year and 5 days at the end of the school year allotted for individually assessing kindergarten students.

As you know, the Fall Kindergarten Assessment is given the first week of school. The Spring Kindergarten Assessment will be given the week of May 16th-20th, and we will set an appointment with you prior to testing for you to bring your child in for the assessment. Therefore, our kindergarten class will not be held for 5 days in May, and you will need to make arrangements for your child to be out of school during that time.

Informal assessments of student progress are made throughout the year to adjust instruction and determine mastery of skills. Assessments are given prior to each report card. In addition, our school district assesses students three times per year using the DIBELS assessment.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
**Preparing Your Child For School:**
We request that you provide for your child a sturdy, large size backpack or book bag to be brought to school every day. Please write your child’s name on it.
Please assist your child with the following:

1. Where to line up before school starts. The students are to line up outside the back classroom door when the bell rings.
2. Where to wait (front of the building) for you to pick them up.
3. Exact way to go home from school.

Money
Please send money in an envelope or plastic bag with the student’s name on it and the purpose for the money. Be sure to enclose it in the homework folder in your child’s backpack.

Ex.: Johnny Smith  
Room 1 (Lunch Money)

Ex.: Johnny Smith  
Room 1 (Book Order)

Clothing:
Please mark all coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, boots, and mittens with your child’s name.

Birthdays:
Birthdays are very important in kindergarten and we will celebrate each child’s birthday during the school year. If your child’s birthday falls on a holiday, weekend, or during the summer, I will assign a day as close to his/her birthday as possible. If you would like, you may send a store bought treat to school with your child on his/her birthday. There should be enough of the treat so that each child can have some. Due to allergies to milk and nuts/peanuts, please make sure that the treat does not contain these ingredients. Birthday treats do not have to be edible. A pencil or balloon is always appreciated.

Invitations to individual parties outside of school are not to be brought to school to pass out to students. As not everyone is
invited and feelings can be hurt, it is not appropriate and they will be returned undelivered. The only exception to this rule is if all the students in the class are invited, and the invitations are given in advance to the teacher to ensure that there are enough invitations for everyone.

Show and Tell (Oral Language Development):
Show-and-tell is very important in kindergarten. Many things can be taught by having this as part of our curriculum. This is an excellent opportunity for oral language development. It allows each child the opportunity to speak about something they are familiar with in front of a group. Your child may need some practice at home so he/she will feel comfortable speaking in front of the class. Friday will be show-and-tell day. On each Friday, each child may bring ONE item to talk about and show to the class. Due to allergies and for safety purposes, pets cannot be brought to class for show-and-tell. However, a picture of them may be brought.

V.I.P. (Very Important Person):
Your child is a very important person in our class. To recognize the importance of each student, a note with directions and a poster will be sent home as close to your child’s birthday as possible to inform you as to when his/her very important day will be. Please complete the poster according to the directions that will be sent. Your child will have the opportunity to share his/her poster with the class and to talk about him/her self, family, and interests.

Thank you for all your cooperation and I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a very productive and happy year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you!
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.
So let's make the most of this beautiful day;
Since we're together we might as well say,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?
From the song: Won't You Be My Neighbor?
Please sign below that you have received and read this copy of the open disclosure and return this page to Miss Jachim.

I have received and read this copy of the open disclosure and am returning this page to Miss Jachim.

Student Name: ___________________________________________

Parent Signature: __________________ Date: ___________