The ABC’s of Kindergarten

If your child is absent, please call (847) 540-2898. Your child will get all missing homework when they return to school.

Birthdays are a very exciting time for your child! In order to follow the Wellness Plan and dietary needs, we will not be celebrating Birthdays in the classroom with food. Suggested alternatives would be Bookmarks or pencils to share with the class or a birthday book to donate to the library or classroom.

Scholastic Book Clubs offer books that are just right for your child at great prices. Each month you can place an order and our classroom receives free books and learning materials every time you place an order.

Please make sure your child’s backpack is big enough to fit all of their things!

Parent and Teacher conferences are held in November.

Communication is important. Please feel free to contact me whenever you have a question, comment, or concern.

There will be a monthly calendar that is sent home in your child’s red folder. This calendar has everything that is going on in kindergarten for the month.

Discipline is simple. We work hard as a class to make a positive and safe place for all. Our 5 rules are:

1. Listen to the speaker
2. Follow directions quickly
3. Make good choices
4. Raise your hand
5. Be a caring friend

The kids get an individual punch card and they “earn” a punch for good behavior. The class can also earn brownie points to reinforce positive behavior.

Early release days will take place several times throughout the year. The AM kids get dismissed to the busses at 10:15.

Information about field trips will come home in the red folder and will be detailed in the permission slip and newsletter. We try to go on 2 for the year.

Germs!!! Please teach your child how to wash their hands, use Kleenex properly and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing. Also, please do not send your child to school if they are sick.

Learning to print is an exciting experience for young children. It is important that children learn how to print correctly. At District 95, we use Handwriting without tears handwriting.

Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and 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.
Each child has their own journal. We write in them during our literacy block. The children also illustrate their writing. **Jolly Phonics** is a thorough foundation for reading and writing. It teaches the letter sound in an enjoyable, multi-sensory way, and enables children to use them to read and write words. We have at-home folders for the worksheets that you can practice with your child at home.

**Kindergarten** is the beginning foundation for your child’s education. It is an extremely important year for you and your child. I would appreciate any support you can give at home for a successful first year at school.

We have **library** once a week. At this time, your child will be able to check out one book of his or her choice. The book has to be returned the next week. If your child does not return it, they can’t check out another book. If the book is lost, you will have to pay the library the cost of the book before checking out anymore books. Please remind your child how to take care of his or her book!

We have **literacy stations** five times a week. During this time the kids work on the computers, reading, writing, word work and guided reading instruction.

For **math** we use Origo. We work with numbers, counting, geometry, measurements, graphing… all aligned to the Common Core.

If you are sending **money**, please put it in an envelope with your child’s name on it and what the money is for.

There will be a **newsletter** available through email. Please let me know if you do not have access to email.

Please make sure all **notes** are labeled.

**Open House** is in April.

We have **PE** once a week. Your child has to have gym shoes on in order to participate. Please have your child wear gym shoes to school on PE days. Please do not bring tie shoes if they are still learning to tie shoes! If your child has an injury and cannot participate that day, please send a note for the PE teacher.

**Questions?** Please feel free to call, email, or send a note.

**Reading Fundamentals** is our reading curriculum in Kindergarten. We have whole group lessons, mini-lessons and shared reading. During this time your child will be taught reading strategies they can use during independent reading and guided reading.

**Report cards** come home at the end of each trimester.

The **red** folder is a form of communication between home and school. Your child needs to bring it to school every day! Please make sure to check it daily, as important notes and work come home from school in it.

We will try to go out for **recess** when possible.

For **science** we use National Geographic materials. We explore life science, physical science, and earth science.
We use Social Studies Alive – Me and My World, for **social studies**. The program explores families, friends, school, neighborhoods, and the world.

In kindergarten, the kids are introduced sight words. Each week they will learn a new one. Please practice these at home!

Our daily **schedule** includes a morning opening, whole group time, daily 5, writing, handwriting, free choice/recess, specials, math, reading....

If your child has any changes in their **transportation** please let me know in writing prior to, or the day of, the transportation change. Calling the office is the best method for letting me know of last minute transportation changes.

If you drop off your child in the morning before school begins, you must drop them off at the front circle drive no earlier than 8:15am.

If you are picking up your child, please wait outside the circle drive to meet your child and then walk them to your car.

Always send a note if you or somebody else is picking up your child from school. I have to put the students on the bus if I do not have a note from home.

**Volunteers** must check in at the office.

Please use the school **website** to visit for any important information from the District.