The ABC's of Kindergarten: Your Handbook

Mrs. Jobst
2013-2014 School Year
The ABC's of Kindergarten

A  Animated Alphabet - Animated Alphabet is a program we use to teach letter names and sounds through the use of characters, stories, songs, and actions. Children are taught letter sounds, letter recognition, segmenting, and blending. As students accumulate letter sounds, we will begin to build word lists and sentences.

B  Bathrooms - We have a bathroom in our classroom that the children may use throughout the day, with permission.

Basehor BlueJay Team (BBT)- BBT is our Parent-Teacher Organization that helps our kids in so many different ways. They coordinate events such as Chilingo, the Carnival, and our Talent Show. Not to mention, they delegate money for students’ field trips and materials. Please consider joining the organization for only $5 per family and helping with this group.

Birthdays - You are welcome to bring birthday treats on or around your child's special day. If you child's birthday is over the summer, we can celebrate on their half birthday or in May. Birthday invitations can only be sent to school if the whole class is invited. Unfortunately, I cannot help you with addresses. You may join BBT in order to get a school directory.

Book Orders - Scholastic book orders will be available to you but you are under no obligation to purchase these books. If you would like to order, please fill out the book order form or complete your order online. Enclose your order along with any money in an envelope labeled “Book Order” with your child's name on it. Please may checks payable to Scholastic.

C  Computers - Your child will be going to the computer lab at least once a week, where computer skills will be used to enhance learning in other areas. Also, technology is taught within the classroom on a daily basis.

D  Dismissal - If your child will be going somewhere else after school other than his/her normal dismissal routine, please call the office or email Mrs. Dearinger at ddearinger@usd458.org and teacher. Also, some days we have inclement weather, and we may need to dismiss school early. Please make sure your phone numbers are updated.

E  Every day- We encourage you to read to your child every day!

Estimation Jar - Once a week, one child will take home a jar to fill with small items. They may choose what item and how many of that item as long as the total number is below the number indicated on the paper that accompanies the jar. Please count the items together and have the child write the number on the paper. The class will then estimate how many items are in the jar and then count the items together.

Email - Email is a quick and easy way to get in contact with me. My email is vjobst@usd458.org I will try my best to reply to emails within 24 hours.
**F  Folder** - Your child will be bringing home a “take home folder” each day. The left side of the folder is for our Pride Paper and notes that I send home to you. The right side is for work we have completed, school/district communication and notes that you might send “right back” to me. Together, we can help them to remember to check it daily after school and bring it back every morning.

**Friends** - Your child will be making many new friends this year.

**Feelings** - Your child will experience a variety of emotions each day with these new friends and their day full of learning. Please encourage your child to share their feelings with you.

**G  Grade Card** - Kindergarten grade cards are sent out each nine week period and will be a communication tool regarding how your child is behaving, participating, and learning in school. When assessing your child, we are looking for progress toward our end of the year goals. Please keep each grade card that is sent home, but sign & return the yellow envelope.

**Guidance** - Our guidance counselor is Mrs. Knight. She will be visiting our classroom once a month to talk about different character traits. She is also available to meet with individual students with specific needs.

**H  Handwriting** - Handwriting is taught using the Zaner-Bloser method. Letter formation is introduced and practiced at school. Repetition of this handwriting at home is a great benefit.

**Homework** - Homework will be sent home on Friday and will be due the following Thursday. It may be turned in sooner if finished. Homework will consist of reading and math skills that they have already been taught or a family project. You may assist your child as much as needed, but please make sure that it is completed in the student’s handwriting.

**I  Illness** - If your child is sick, please notify the school (724-1038) as soon as possible to let us know your child will be absent. They need to be fever, diarrhea, or vomiting free for 24 hours.

**J  Journals** - The children will be writing in journals. We encourage the children to write their “own way” by accepting whatever the child produces. Your child’s writing may be scribbling, drawing, and/or stringing letters together any which way. Inventing ways to put letters together shows a beginning to understanding spelling (kt - cat). Praise them for their work and ask them to read their writing to you or tell about their work. Through writing, your child will become an even better reader.

**K  Kindergartners** - Kindergartners are allowed into the building at 8:45. School starts promptly at 8:55. They are dismissed at 3:55.

**L  Language Arts** - Our language arts program, **LEAD 21**, uses literature to teach reading skills and integrates other subject areas. Your child will be taught reading both in whole and small groups. You will be able to access the reading series online. Look for that information at Back to School Night or my website.
Lunch - We will have lunch every day from 11:57 to 12:17. Please go over the lunch menu with your child to make sure they know whether they will be eating a #1, #2, salad, or a home/"cold" lunch. Also, make sure to check your lunch account balance on a regular basis. You may come eat with your child, in which you can bring them lunch or purchase one from school. Please let the office know you want to order a lunch by 9:00 and bring cash to pay for it.

Math - Our math series is McGraw-Hill's My Math. Skills taught in kindergarten include, patterns, number recognition, counting, one-to-one correspondence, addition, and subtraction. Although worksheets will be used for some practice and assessment, in kindergarten, we know that hands-on learning with math tools is much more important.

Marvelous Me - Each Friday, one child will be chosen to share all of her/his talents and favorites with the class. During your child's week, he/she will bring a self-made poster to share with the class. At the time of presentation, any family members are welcome to attend. Additional information about the project will be sent home on the Friday before the poster and presentation are due.

Money - If you give your child money for lunch or any other reason, please put it in an envelope and write on the envelope your child's name, teacher's name, and the purpose for which the money is sent.

Newsletter - Each week, we will be sending a newsletter home on Monday, via email. The newsletter will contain what the students will be working on and any important information you need to know. Newsletters will be sent by email, unless you inform me you would like a paper copy.

Outside - Your child will go outside for two, 15-minute recesses every day unless it is raining or the wind chill is below zero. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately.

Pride Paper - Your child will be bringing home their pride paper calendar every day in their folder. This will tell how your child's behavior in the classroom was that day. We try to encourage positive choices and, with guidance, the student and I decide together how their day went. They will have a visual with a color code to use to help us decide. If needed, there may be a note or comments on the back of their pride paper.

Progress Reports - You will receive a progress report, at Midterm, the halfway point between Grade Cards that are sent home every quarter. Progress/Midterm reports are similar to grade cards, but not as many skills will be assessed at midterm. You may keep these and there is no need to sign and return anything.

Quiet Time - We will have a quiet time right after lunch for about 20-30 minutes. During this time, the students will be encouraged to read quietly, rest, and/or listen to the classical music being played. Please send a towel for your child to lay on during quiet time.
R Respect—My main goal with students is to focus on respect for self, others and our belongings. I point out the positive choices they are making and reinforce those decisions by showing the good things that come from that. At times, consequences will need to be given for unwelcome behavior. These might include, but are not limited to, extra practice time of appropriate behavior, time-out, loss of privilege (such as recess), chill-out time in another classroom, and or a note or phone call to the parents.

S Secret Agent Share Bag - One child each week will be our Special Secret Agent. That child will bring home the share bag on Friday to fill with a favorite item from home. There also will be a paper with three clues to fill out. Please fill out the clues together and practice reading them. Your child will then share the clues with the class and the class will try to guess the contents of the bag on the following Friday. This sharing time will help improve verbal, thinking and questioning skills. * Please do not send valuable items or objects that might break.

Snacks - We would greatly appreciate your help with our snack program by sending in 2 boxes/bags of a snack item (such as graham crackers, cereal, animal crackers) for our snack cabinet at the beginning of the school year. I will let you know of any food allergies, when I get that information. When our snack cabinet runs low, I will also inform you of this and ask for your help in filling it again. There will NOT be a snack calendar every month so don’t worry about missing a date. ;)

Stay in Touch - Regular, open, and honest communication with me is essential to understanding how you and I can help your child learn. We are partners in one of the most important jobs we have - helping your child become all he or she can be! The best times to get in touch with me would be before and after school and during plan time from 2:00 to 2:50.

Team Four - Your child will have two Team Four classes each day. It will vary each week according to an A, B, C, D schedule. They will have a set A, B, C, D day, but not a set schedule on a weekday. Our weekly schedule includes visits to physical education, music, library, and art. The team four schedule will be written on the pride papers. When it is P.E. day, make sure your child wears tennis shoes. Library books need to be brought back by library day so your child may choose a different book to take home and enjoy.

Thank you—Thank you for sharing your most prized possession with me-your child!!

Understanding - Your child is learning a lot of new things and encountering new situations and routines. Please show understanding as your child experiences new emotions, achievements, and frustrations.

Volunteers - We have a volunteer program if you are interested in volunteering in our room or at the school. Please see the back page for information.
Website - The district website has lots of information that is updated on a regular basis. The district website is [www.usd458.org/home](http://www.usd458.org/home). You can find the lunch menu, district calendar, school website, teacher websites, and much more.

To access Mrs. Jobst’s Classroom website follow the steps below:

* Search-http://[www.usd458.org/Home](http://www.usd458.org/Home)
* Click on schools- Basehor Elementary
* Click on Staff- Select BES Staff
* Scroll down to find Mrs. Jobst & click on it

Expectations - Teachers and parents have high expectations for their children. Keep them high, but also realistic.

You - You are your child’s most important teacher!

Zzzz - Make sure your child is getting enough rest at night. It is important to their learning each day and to keeping them healthy.
*We would LOVE to have you or someone from your family volunteer in our rooms. If you would like to spend some time in our classroom (working with students) or if you would like to help in other ways (making games, performing other clerical tasks), please indicate that below. Thanks!

_____ Yes, I would like to volunteer in your room.

Please contact Tammy Potts our District Volunteer coordinator.

tpotts@usd458.org or 913-724-1727 (ext. 111)

_____ Yes, I would like to help with clerical work.

*Please take the time to fill out a few questions to tell us more about your child and your family. Feel free to share any other information with me that you feel is valuable in helping your child learn and feel comfortable here, at school.

Do you use any special rewards or consequences that seem to be very effective at home that you would like for me to know about?

__________________________________________________________________________

Do you have internet access at home?     YES or  NO

Will you need paper copies of school to home communication?     YES or  NO

Email Address: ___________________________

Other information: ____________________________________________________________________

*After reviewing the handbook, please sign below and send this form back to school. This indicates that you understand our policies and procedures and will support us throughout the year. Thank you!

Child’s Name________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature________________________________________