August 2018

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome your child and family to kindergarten. This month your child will complete one of the most important milestones in their life – the first day of school! I understand that you and your child may meet this day with excitement or apprehension (or a little of both). I hope that this letter will help inform you of the expectations in kindergarten and answer any questions you may have.

**Parent/Teacher Relationship**: I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through weekly newsletters, webpage, notes, telephone calls, emails, report cards, and parent teacher conferences. You are encouraged to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Home/School Folders**: Our weekly communication will be through the Home/School Folders. Each child will be given a folder to transport to and from school. In this folder, you will find important papers, daily work, and others notes from school. Please make sure your child brings in his/her folder each day.

 **Backpacks**: Each child will need to have a backpack to transport their Home/School Folder, projects, daily work, notes and lunch box. I ask that you do not purchase a backpack with wheels. Please remember to send the backpack with your child each day.

**Labels**: Please make sure to write your child’s name in all of his/her belongings (coats, hats, backpacks, boots, etc.) Many children have the same coat and backpacks, so this can really help!

**Nametags**: Please have your child wear the provided nametag for the first day of school. This helps identify your child to the bus driver, staff and principal. Most students attach them to their backpacks. I will attach a dismissal tag to their backpack on the first day. Please leave the dismissal tag on for the first few weeks.

**Birthdays**: Your child’s birthday will be celebrated on or close to the day. You may send in a special treat for that day. Individually wrapped snacks are best. Remember that we only have time for a quick treat. Those with summer birthdays will have a chance to celebrate their special day in May or June.

**Snack**: Your child will have an afternoon snack. Please send a snack to school that your child can eat in 5-10 minutes and open/clean up independently. Some ideas include: apple slices, carrots, cheese, crackers, cereal bars, or fruit snacks. Snacks should be finger foods and easily manageable by students. Please do not send sandwiches, Lunchables, or other large items. Those items are more appropriate for lunches. Drinks are not needed for snack time. Snacks need to be kept separate from cold lunches. Put snacks in backpacks and lunches in a separate lunch box/bag. Your child will be provided a gallon sized bag for snacks.

**Water Bottles**: Water bottles are welcome. Please only send in water bottles with a squirt top on them to avoid spills. Students will be reminded to take them home daily. Remember to label the water bottle.

**Lunch**: Students have the option to bring a cold lunch from home or purchase school lunch. Prepaying towards your child’s lunch account is highly encouraged. Send any lunch money in a baggie/envelope labeled with your child’s name. Cold lunch can be sent to school in a reusable lunch bag/box clearly labeled with your child’s first and last name. Students will have twenty minutes to eat their lunch. Please keep this in mind while packing your child’s lunch.

**Homework**: In kindergarten, practice of skills at home is highly encouraged to allow your child to reach his/her full potential. This includes reading to your child four to five times a week. Students may also be given pages to complete at home daily/weekly.

**Discipline**: Developmentally, children at this age want to please the adults in their life. However, there are times when they do not know what is considered acceptable. This year we will teach acceptable behaviors by using positive reinforcements and our schoolwide management system. Students will be encouraged to be responsible for their actions and rewarded accordingly. You will soon be hearing a lot about P.B.I.S---Positive Behavior Intervention Supports. Expected behaviors will be explained during the first week of school. Students will earn ‘pride points’ for making good choices. Please remind your child to do his/her best and always make good behavior choices.

**Supplies**: Many parents often inquire about the supplies needed for kindergarten. The supply list will be attached at the end of this letter. Throughout the year, the need may arise to replace glue sticks, pencils, and crayons. I will notify you accordingly.

**Student Information Paperwork**: The office has put all necessary papers in the Home/School Folder such as emergency cards, free/reduced lunch applications, etc. Please return these completed forms within the first week of school.

**Communication**: Communication is very important for a successful year. I have shared the many ways I will keep you informed about the classroom and your child’s success. Please contact me when you have questions, concerns, and important information to share about your child. The best ways to reach me would be by email, a note, or a phone call. Visit my website ([www.readysetgrowincapac.weebly.com](http://www.readysetgrowincapac.weebly.com)) for curriculum links, newsletters, field trip notes and other classroom information.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. By setting guidelines and expectations, together we will reach your child’s full potential and prepare him/her for the future. I look forward to working with all of our new kindergarteners! I hope you and your child share in my excitement!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Baur

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