

Welcome to Kindergarten Co-Op!

Next week your child will complete one of the most important milestones in his or her life~The First Day of School! I know this day may be met with excitement and perhaps some apprehension. I hope this packet will help you learn more about what to expect in kindergarten as well as answer some questions you may have! ☺

Parent/Teacher Partnership

We believe that a good parent/teacher partnership is essential for maximizing student success! Throughout the year, we will communicate with you through notes, newsletters, phone calls, texts, Kinder Co-Op website, progress reports and parent/teacher conferences. If you ever have questions or concerns, you can send a note in the blue folder, call the office at 359-2143, or email us at jkasiano@kUSD.edu or vnavarro@kUSD.edu!

School Hours

Students attend school Monday thru Thursday from 7:20 – 2:25. On Friday students are dismissed at 11:21. Kindergarten will meet on the small playground directly behind the main entrance. Our class will line up on the red circle. Bus and car riders will all be expected to line up on that playground before school. For security reasons, parents are expected to stay outside unless they sign in as a volunteer in the office. At dismissal time, bus students will be escorted to their buses and children who are being picked up will exit through the northeast door (small parking lot). If you need to pick your child up during the day, **YOU MUST SIGN HIM OR HER OUT IN THE OFFICE.**

Changes in Transportation

If you plan to pick up your child that normally rides the bus, or if someone other than the parent is picking up your child, **you must send a written note!** We cannot rely on a child to relay those important messages. If we don't receive a note, your child will be sent home by their normal method of transportation.

School Attendance

Your child's regular attendance at school is crucial to their success. Most kindergarten activities are group orientated and involve interaction with classmates. It is almost impossible to make up the work. Please view school as a priority and make sure your child attends except in the case of illness.

Outdoor Recess

Your child will be going outside every day unless it is raining or extremely cold (below 0). Please keep this in mind when helping your child to select clothing for the day. Also, we are fortunate to have a variety of playground equipment for climbing (with wood chips on the ground). Please consider this when choosing outfits and footwear! Along with our new dress code, we also want kindergartners to be safe and comfy! ☺

Communication Folder

The communication folder is the blue folder that will be coming home on the first day of school. It will come home each day and is to be returned EACH DAY! We will send home notes and occasional homework via the blue folder. We will check it every morning so if you need us to know something, you can jot a note and put it in there as we will see it right away in the morning. PLEASE BE SURE TO GET IN THE HABIT OF CHECKING THE FOLDER EVERY DAY!

Discipline

Establishing good classroom discipline is essential to each child's success, confidence and well-being. In Kindergarten Co-Op we use the acronym S.H.A.R.K. to give a guideline for behavior. S-Safety First H-Have a good attitude A-Always do YOUR best R-Respect others and yourself K-Kindness is the key. If they respect these "Shark Fins" their shark remains on green! If they are struggling with some "shark fin" element, their shark will go to yellow as a warning. We will then talk about/teach the expected behavior they will need to display in order to work their shark back to green. If they continue to struggle, their shark will go to blue. This is considered "dangerous water" and the student will have an appropriate consequence for their behavior. Finally, if there are extreme difficulties or if a child hurts someone, their shark will move to red. We will then reflect on their behavior together while filling out a behavior reflection sheet that will come home to be signed by a parent/guardian. At the end of each day, if their shark is on green, they will earn a small treat (sticker, tootsie roll, m&m, jelly bean, stamp, etc.) We also do a school-wide positive behavior recognition program called "bucket filling" - On the first day of school we will learn how to be a "bucket filler"---ask your child all about it!

Snack Schedule and Birthdays

This week you will receive a snack calendar and guideline for healthy snack ideas. Usually your child will be scheduled to bring a snack about once a month. In addition to bringing snack, that day is their "Special Day." Your child will get to perform many classroom duties and get to bring in a show and tell. Please limit their show and tell to something that fits in their backpack. We will try to schedule your child's special day on his/her birthday in case you want to send a birthday treat!

Homework

Each week your child will bring home a "Homework Goal Sheet." It will summarize the major learning objectives for the week. There is also an individual goal sections where there may be an additional skill for you to work on with your child. We ask that you sign off on this so that we know you are both aware of and working on these goals at home. Occasionally we will send other forms of homework to help reinforce skills we are working on in the classroom.

Book Folder

Research shows that the more you read, the better reader you become. All kindergartners will be reading by the end of the school year! One way to do this is to get books in our kid's hands as often as possible! Starting soon, your child will bring home a book to read with you. This will be a book they should be able to read with only a bit of guidance (in the beginning they may need more help). There is a book log in the folder ~please fill that out upon completion of reading the book. After you enjoy that book together, return it for a new one the following day! You will be amazed at how this daily practice will impact your child's reading success!

Dress Code

The Stocker parent hand book describes the dress code in great length. For kindergarten, we ask that you also consider clothing your child is able to do manipulate independently! Fancy belts and buckles are not usually a good idea! Also, if your child is prone to accidents, you can send in a change of clothes for us to keep on hand. PLEASE NO FLIP FLOPS OR SPAGHETTI STRAP TANKS!

Academics

Your child will learn so much this year you will be absolutely AMAZED! Most kids leave kindergarten reading, writing sentences, counting and writing to 100 and beyond, adding, subtracting, and investigating and exploring a wide range of topics! Right from the beginning, we overview letters and start our 60 kindergarten words! Our math curriculum is very hands-on and we incorporate technology into every academic area! We will be very busy and have lots to accomplish this year!

We are honored to have the privilege of working with you and your child this year!