

The ABC's of Kindergarten

Everything you need to know about your child's kindergarten experience

Aa

Allergies- Please let me know immediately if your child has any allergies that will impact his/her school experience.

Arrival- School begins at 8:30 each day. Students will meet in the front of the building beginning at 8:10 A.M. Please do not drop your kindergartner off before this time, as students are unsupervised before 8:10. When the weather gets colder we will meet in the primary commons.

Art- Our class will attend art with Mrs. Cunningham once a week.

Attendance- Regular school attendance is very important in kindergarten. This is the start of your child's formal schooling and good habits are formed early. Many activities are "hands-on" and require that your child participate in order to benefit, rather than working on a worksheet at home. Because of this hands-on approach, I ask that you make every effort to plan family trips or vacations during our school breaks. If your child is ill, please call the school office by 8:00.

Bb

Backpacks and Folders- Please make sure that your child brings a backpack and folder to school every day. Please be sure your child's name is on each as well. Backpacks should be big enough to hold a regular sized folder and library book. We strongly encourage backpacks without wheels in kindergarten. Prior to the first day, please make sure your child can zip and unzip his/her backpack.

Please check your child's folder and backpack nightly and go over any papers and/or notes with your child. It is very important to empty your child's papers nightly, as the kindergartners, are often confused when they return to school with old papers.

Please have your child keep toys, gum, and candy out of his/her backpack unless it is for a school purpose.

Behavior Management- Northpoint has a school wide discipline plan. Each morning our Knights get their ARRRmor on. The three R's stand for respect, responsible, and ready. We are to respect one another. We value our learning. We are a hands free school. We are accountable for our learning. We expect excellence!

Consequence per day:

1. Warning
2. Teacher consequence
3. Parent call
4. Principal visit

Birthdays- Northpoint Guidelines: Due to the number of food allergies etc., we will no longer be acknowledging birthdays at school with celebrations. Your child's name will be read over the intercom and will be featured on the Northpoint School sign. In addition, we will sing to them in class and your child will receive a pencil from Mr. Weldy. Additional celebrations with friends will need to be done outside of class. Please remember not to send invitations to parties through school. Passing out invitations at school often causes hurt feelings. You will receive a class directory that you can use to find phone numbers and addresses of the students in our class. You will also receive a Northpoint directory later this fall.

Book Boxes- Repetition and confidence are two key factors in developing secure reading skills. Therefore, the books we read in kindergarten will be sent home each week for you to read and reread at home. When

these books are sent home, please keep them in the Book Box you will make on the first day of school. Encourage our child to read at least a few of these books each day so that he/she can continue to experience success when reading!

Book Orders-I will be sending home book orders each month. The orders will be sent in the take home folders at the beginning of the month. If you choose to order, please make checks payable to the book company and return them the following week. If you wish to use an order as a gift for your child and wish for it to be a surprise, please let me know and I would be glad to keep it hidden. Book orders allow me to earn class points that I can use to purchase free books for our class library.

Cc

Classroom Parties- Our classroom needs two parents to volunteer to organize our classroom parties. These two individuals are our "room moms". The room moms decide what games will be played, decide what treats will be served, and ask other parents in the classroom to donate items and help with what is needed. We have a Halloween, a Christmas, and a Valentines Day party. If parents would like to come and share in the fun, you are welcome to attend.

Clothing- Kindergartners are involved in activities that require jumping, running, climbing etc. Tennis shoes with laces or Velcro are required for PE each day. Please also keep in mind that your child will participate in outdoor activities daily. Flip-flops, slip on shoes, clogs and similar style shoes often make these activities difficult. If your child does not wear gym shoes to school, please make sure that he/she can change his/her shoes independently. Velcro shoes work very well if your child is not yet able to tie. However, I encourage you to help your child learn to tie as soon as possible.

Your child's clothing should be easy for him/her to fasten and put on by him/herself. Additionally, as cold weather approached, please help your child practice zipping his/her coat. It is helpful if all outside clothing (mittens, hats, etc...) is clearly labeled with your child's name.

I suggest that students keep a change of clothes in their backpack. Children occasionally have bathroom, painting, or food accidents at school that require a change of clothes at some point during the school day. If you choose to include a change of clothes in our child's backpack, please keep these clothes in a Ziploc bag and change them seasonally.

Communication- I believe that open communication is essential to a successful kindergarten year! Please always feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. The best way to contact me is through my e-mail address: woodarla@unit5.org. You may also reach me by phone at school (663-4669) or home phone (663-6234).

I also encourage you to check our classroom website frequently throughout the year. I make every effort to keep this site updated with events and news!

Conferences- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for October. During this time we will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress in kindergarten. However, if you have concerns about your child's progress at any time during the year, please let me know. I am always more than happy to meet with you to discuss your child's progress!

Dd

Dismissal- Please make sure to fill out the transportation form and leave it at school this evening. It is important to notify me if there are changes in the way your child will be going home from school. Without parental permission, I will send your child home in the usual manner. Kindergartners can be easily confused

and I cannot take their word that they are going home a different way unless I receive notification from you. Please send a note stating any changes from your child's usual schedule. If your plans change during the day and your child needs to go home a different way, please call the office and they will notify me.

I will dismiss all students from the fire exit door in my classroom. We will dismiss at 3:30 each day.

Ee

E-mail- the easiest way to communicate with me during the school day is through e-mail. If you have an e-mail address that you check frequently, please fill out the form at the end of this packet and return it to school as soon as possible.

Ff

Field Trips- Our class will take field trips periodically throughout the school year. I will inform you of the trip and you can let me know if you would like to attend at that time.

Gg

Gym- Kindergartners attend PE each day. Please make sure your child has appropriate shoes.

Hh

Homework- Each week your child will bring home books to practice reading from our reading series. You will also need to help your child practice letter recognition, letter sounds, and high frequency words we are learning in kindergarten. I will also send home math links to be completed at home. We also participate in the Pizza Hut Book It program from the months of October to March.

If a student misses one or two days of school, he/she will receive make up work upon return to school, and an appropriate due date will be determined. For extended emergencies/illness, a parent may call the office in the morning of the third day of absence to request make-up work. The following morning, make-up work will be available for parent pick-up in the main office. Extended illness may require homebound tutoring.

Every effort should be made to schedule vacations that do not conflict with school attendance. Due to the dynamic nature of the teaching/learning process, lesson plans and classroom focus may shift, therefore, assignments cannot accurately be determined in advance. Upon return to school, students will receive make-up work and an appropriate due date.

Ii

Illness- While regular attendance is important, please do not send your child to school if he/she is ill. If your child is sick, please call the office before 8 a.m. that day. We ask that you do not send your child back to school until he/she has been fever/vomit free for 24 hours.

Jj

Journals- Each day your child will write in his/her journal. These journals begin with a simple word and picture. As your child masters the letters and sounds, he/she will begin writing words and sentences independently. These journals will be sent home with your child at the end of the school year.

Kk

Kindergarten Star of the Week- Every week a child will be selected to the "Star of the Week" for the upcoming week. I will send home a piece of construction paper for you to use to put family pictures on, baby pictures, special events, and vacation pictures... whatever your child would like to share with the class. Another sheet will also come home for you to fill out with your child. Return both the information sheet and pictures by Monday. This is your child's week to bring in things for show and tell also. He/she can bring in something each day.

Ll

Library- Our class visits the library, or IMC on _____ and _____. Your child will bring home a book that he/she has checked out on _____ of each week. Please read these books with your child and return them to school by _____ the following week. If you have questions about your child's library book, please contact the librarians Mrs. Tindall or Mrs. Mroz.

Lunch & Recess- The kindergartners eat lunch at 11:25. Please make sure your child knows each day whether he/she is to eat hot or cold lunch. The cost of hot lunch is \$1.55 per student. The lunch menu is sent home monthly and posted on the Unit 5 website. If your child brings his/her lunch and would like to get milk, they will use their lunch card to purchase each \$0.35 milk. Please do not send change in your child's lunch for milk.

Northpoint does not use lunch tickets. Instead, each child has a lunch card with his/her individual code. When you send money to school, it is deposited into your family's account, and money is debited for each lunch and /or milk your child purchases with their card. You can login to the Family Access portion of Skyward to see your family's balance. You can also add money to this account on-line.

All students will go outside for a 25 minute recess, weather permitting. If the weather does not permit the students to go outside (air temperature or wind chill below 20 degrees) the students will enjoy inside activities in the classroom.

Mm

Money- Periodically, your child will bring money to school for lunch, field trips, book orders, etc...When sending money to school, please always enclose it in an envelope or Ziploc bag. Please clearly mark the envelope or bag with your child's name, what the money is for, and the amount enclosed. It is always helpful if you can send exact change when sending cash.

Music- Our class will go to music three days a week for 25 minutes.

Nn

Each week I will send home a newsletter outlining the skills we covered for the week as well as upcoming events and classroom announcements. I will send this newsletter to the e-mail address provided to me on the first day of school.

Oo

Office- If you visit the school during the school day, please always check in at the office. They will issue you a Visitor Pass. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please check in at the office as well. They will notify me in the classroom and I will send your child down. This helps reduce distractions in the classroom.

Pp

PTO- I strongly encourage you to become involved in the Northpoint PTO. They meet monthly. Please talk to a PTO board member or me if you are interested in becoming a part of the PTO!

Qq

Questions- If at any point during the year you have questions about our classroom, procedures, or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rr

Rest Time- Kindergartners are busy people during the school day. We are very busy learning all morning. As a result, we need time to rest and re-energize! Our class will have a short 20 – 30 minute rest period each day. Your child will rest on his/her own mat each day during this time. At the beginning of the school year we use this time to simply rest and relax. The full-day program is a big adjustment for children, even those who are used to a daycare environment. As the students progress during the year, rest time activities will change. Students will have the opportunity to look at books, color and read independently as well as with buddies. Although the activities change, rest time always remains a relaxed and quiet time that provides a necessary transition for the kindergartners. Please do not send in blackest or stuffed animals for your child to have at rest.

Report Cards- Unit 5 elementary students will follow a trimester schedule. Your child's first trimester report card will be sent home in November.

Ss

Second Step- Our class will participate in the Second Step program this year. This program helps teach students about social skills. You will receive notes throughout the year that detail the lessons your child has participated in.

Show & Tell- Each of the children will have an opportunity to bring in items for show and tell the week he/she is "Star of the Week". After everyone has had a turn, I will send the "Surprise Box" home with one child each night to bring something to share.

Snacks- Each afternoon we will take a 10- minute break for an afternoon snack. I am asking each child to bring his/her own individual snack each day. Individually wrapped cereal bars, cereal, granola bars, animal crackers, cheese crackers, rice Krispie treats, plain crackers, and fruit are great snacks. All items must be prepackaged and cannot contain any peanuts or be manufactured in a factory where there are peanuts.

Spelling- As children learn their letters and sounds, we will begin writing words and sentences in kindergarten. We encourage “developmental spelling” in our classroom. Children are encouraged to write using the sounds they hear, not necessarily using correct conventional spelling.

Standards- Kindergartners are special, and our curriculum reflects this unique classroom atmosphere. Therefore, a separate set of state standards has been created for kindergartners. I encourage you to review these standards (a link is provided on our classroom website) to learn about specific concepts and skills your child will learn in kindergarten.

Supplies-A supply list, including extra supplies for our classroom, is included in your handbook. When sending new supplies to school with your child, please remember to clearly label each and every one. Our supplies are often dropped or confused with other students’, and by labeling them it is easy to return them to their owner.

Tt

Tardies- Please make every effort to ensure that your child arrives to school on time each morning. Students who arrive after 8:25 must check in at the office and receive a tardy slip. When students are tardy, it makes it difficult for them to begin their day, as their routine is thrown off in the classroom. We greatly appreciate your help with this matter.

Uu

Unique-Every child in our class is a unique individual. We try very hard to respect everyone for who they are and we do not allow unkind words or behaviors in our classroom. It is important that we make everyone feel as special and valuable as they truly are.

Vv

Visitors & Volunteers- I love to have visitors and volunteers in kindergarten. Sign-up sheets are posted tonight; please take a look and see if there are any areas in which you would be willing and able to help our class! We have various opportunities throughout the year for parents to help both in and out of the classroom. I will contact interested parents about coming into the classroom in the next few weeks. I have found that it is best to let the children adjust to the routine of kindergarten before volunteers begin in our classroom.

Ww

Website- Our classroom website is www.unti5.org/woodardl. I make every attempt to keep this site updated with current information so that it can be a helpful resource for our families. Due to privacy and security concerns, children’s names and initials will not be published on the website. Occasionally, I will publish pictures to our website. You can access these pictures through the following link: <http://mrswoodardskindergarten.shutterfly.com/> only parents of our classroom have access to this site. Through this site you can choose to order pictures of our activities and events throughout the year.

Xx

Explore-Kindergarten provides an opportunity for your child to learn through “doing”. You will find that many of our learning activities occur through activities, not paper-pencil worksheets.

Yy

Younger Siblings- We have many events throughout the year for families, and we encourage family involvement in kindergarten. However, during our class parties, and when you volunteer in the classroom, I ask that you do not bring younger siblings.

Zz

ZZZ's- The kindergartners are busy people at Northpoint! It is so important that your child has a consistent bedtime and bedtime routine. Even those children who are accustomed to a full day of daycare, preschool, etc...experience quite a transition when coming to kindergarten. Please make sure your child has enough sleep each night!