

## Kindergarten Parents,

### Welcome to the McLean County Unit District No. 5!

This newsletter contains important information for parents/guardians regarding the McLean County Unit District No. 5 kindergarten program. The newsletter includes information about:

- What to do before school starts
- The differences between the half-day and full-day kindergarten program
- The first day of school
- The rest of the school year

#### Before school starts...

To be eligible for admission, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of that school term.

Illinois law requires all students entering kindergarten to have a new physical examination performed within one year of entering school. Kindergarten children must also have the following immunizations:

- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- DTP – Diphtheria – Tetanus – Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Polio
- Mumps
- Measles
- Rubella

Your doctor must sign and date the immunization form (forms are available on the school website or from your doctor's office). The form must be on file at school to complete registration. **Children will not be allowed to start school until completed physical and immunization forms are submitted to and approved by the school nurse.**

All Illinois children in kindergarten are required to have an oral health (dental) examination by a licensed dentist and to submit proof prior to May 15 of the school year. School dental examinations must be completed

within 18 months of the deadline. A **VISION EXAM** at an eye doctor's office is required by the State of Illinois by the first day of school for those students entering **KINDERGARTEN** or an Illinois school for the first time.

A *certified* birth certificate and completed physical **must** be presented on registration day or by the first day of school, August 16, for **all kindergarten children**.

#### The week before school starts...

Please make sure your child has the following equipment:

- Supplies listed on the school's supply list (on our home page)
- Items on the supplementary supply list provided by the classroom teacher
- Please mark your child's name on each article of outside clothing.
- Clothes should be simple, washable, sturdy, not too tight, safe and easy to manage.



Start your morning school routine. This will make the first week of school much easier. We suggest that clothes are laid out the night before. Allow time for breakfast.

#### Open House

Prior to the first day of school, we will host a parent-only Open House. At the Open House, parents will have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten teacher and learn a little bit about the daily routine. Starting the school year off in this manner gives parents a little clearer picture of the kindergarten classroom and all that happens each day. More info to come.

#### The first week of school

- If you bring your child to school, leave him or her cheerfully at the school.
- Make sure your child knows how he/she will get home and who will be there.

#### Half day or full day

The Unit 5 kindergarten program is a full-day instructional program scheduled from 7:45 a.m.

to 2:30 p.m. Parents who believe their child is not ready for a full-day experience may elect to end their child's kindergarten day at their lunch hour.

The focus of the morning instruction will be on helping children develop competencies in reading and mathematics. Efforts will be made to integrate science and social studies concepts into the reading and mathematics instruction.

Kindergarten students who remain at school the full day will have the opportunity to eat lunch at school. Instruction in the areas of reading and mathematics will be extended in the afternoon session with opportunities for review as well as enrichment and extension. Students also will receive instruction in the areas of science, social studies, art, music and library and physical education during the school day.



Parents are encouraged to carefully consider the opportunities provided in the kindergarten curriculum before making their decision about full or half day attendance. We understand that as the school year progresses parents may wish to alter their decision. Requests for changes must be submitted in writing to the building administrator within thirty days of the first day of student attendance.

### **For the rest of the school year**

Please keep the following items in mind for the rest of the school year.

The school board believes a major cause of academic failure is frequent absence from school. Anytime a student cannot attend school, the parent/guardian must report the child's absence to the school prior to 8:30 a.m.

When students are ill, they must stay home. Please call the doctor if necessary. Do not send your child to school if he or she has a fever, has vomited, has diarrhea, inflamed eyes, a rash of

undetermined origin, or obvious signs of a respiratory infection. Call the school attendance line **(557-4469)** before 8:30 am to report the reason for the absence.

It is important to give your child enough time to adjust to school life. Please contact the classroom teacher before any visit. Keep in mind, the days before or after holidays usually don't follow the typical schedule.

Through observations of your child with his or her classmates, you may gain a better understanding of your child's progress.



### **Parent/guardian-teacher**

conferences are scheduled during the year so the teacher and parents can meet as a team, discuss and evaluate your child's educational needs. When additional discussions are needed, parents are encouraged to ask for a conference with the

school principal or teacher by notifying the teacher or the principal.

When the weather permits, the class may spend time outdoors. Please dress your child appropriately for the time of year.

If you give your child money for milk/lunch or other reasons, please put the money in an envelope with your child's name and the purpose for the money written on the envelope.

### **For your child's safety**

Please teach your child the following identification information:

- His or her first and last name
- Parents'/guardians' full name
- Full address
- Phone number

When your child walks to school or to the bus stop, he/she should know about:

- Traffic lights
- Policemen
- School safety patrols
- Walking, not running, across the street
- To cross the street only between white lines

## For you as a parent

We hope you will take an active interest in the parent-teacher organizations of your child's school. As a member of these organizations, you will be working together for quality public education for your child. We are certain you will continue to support these organizations and take advantage of many fine programs. You will be notified of these programs, and we hope you will contribute to the discussions of the organizations.



- ~ To write by dictating stories, letters or invitations to the teacher
- ~ To count
- ~ To play outdoors
- ~ To eat in a group setting
- ~ To think of others
- ~ To protect self



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your school principal or the district office (309) 557-4000.

Please check out the Unit 5 website at [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org).

## Board of Education

The Board of Education and the personnel of McLean County Unit District No. 5 hope the years your child spends in our school system will be a positive experience that will benefit your child throughout life. The McLean County Unit District No. 5 Board of Education meetings are posted on the Unit 5 website and are held at 1809 W. Hovey Ave., Normal, Illinois. You are welcome to attend the meetings.



## In kindergarten your child will learn:

- ~ To get along with others
- ~ To share materials, projects and experiences
- ~ To explore new activities and ideas
- ~ To express him or herself
- ~ To budget their time
- ~ To be a good listener
- ~ To look at books, learn how to like them and talk about words and their meanings
- ~ To use new words
- ~ To spot differences in colors, pictures, sizes, shapes and sounds
- ~ To care for self, bathroom needs, hanging up clothing, and caring for toys and materials

