

THE KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

Central Lutheran School
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Dear Parents,

Welcome to kindergarten! Kindergarten is an important milestone in your child's education. During this kindergarten year, your child will have many opportunities to; make friends, learn letters, words and numbers, and just be in school all day. These new experiences will make this a special time for you and your child.

I have planned many exciting activities for this school year and am ready to share them with you and your child.

I realize that you may have many questions about the kindergarten program. This Kindergarten Handbook will hopefully answer some of those questions.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of growing and learning!!

Warmly,
Rachel Anderson

A B C's Reading and Phonics

Language Arts is taught by reading to children and through phonics! The special language of the printed word is best introduced to children by reading aloud to them from a variety of sources. The desire to read is nurtured and increased when children see the necessity and joy of reading! Reading should be fun!

Language activities are a priority in kindergarten. Through the use of literature books, class made books, Big Books, songs, poems and an array of other activities, children experience a language-rich environment daily. This setting provides children with the foundation to eventually become emergent readers.

In addition, the kindergarten students will receive instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics. Each day activities are presented that help young children in understanding the relationship between letters and sounds.

Math

Saxon Mathematics is an exciting hands on math program that gives children the chance to experience math concepts. You can look forward to hearing about math patterns, graphs, sets and set comparisons, numeral recognition, numeral writing, sorting, classifying, measuring, estimating, cooking, and beginning addition and subtraction. _

Social Studies

In Social Studies, the children will learn about themselves, others and the world around them. Real objects, pictures, books and field trips are used to help the children understand these topics.

Free Play Time

During "Free play Time", the children do more than just "play". The children choose from a variety of activities that are of interest to them. They will determine where they will spend their time and what they will be doing during this active time period. "Free play Time" helps the children, develop decisions making skills, expand their imaginations, and encourage the development for social skills. _

Art and Music

The children will have many experiences with a variety of art media. Creative art activities include drawing, painting, cutting and coloring. Individual expression and imagination are encouraged.

The children will learn to appreciate music in a variety of ways. They will listen to music, sing songs, participate in rhythmic activities, and use rhythm instruments. Mrs. Libby Wegner will teach music two times per week.

Jesus Time

The Faith Alive Religion Curriculum from Concordia Publishing House is used for Jesus Time.

Through Bible Stories and devotions the children will:

- Know God and His Son Jesus Christ;
- Know that sins are forgiven;
- Know that they are God's children and He loves all;
- Live happily in peace with God, self, and others;
- Know that because of Jesus Christ we have eternal life.

Writing

The writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles, and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces, and eventually sentences. You may hear these "terms" at home during the kindergarten year: pretend writing, sound spelling, and book spelling.

Your child will be encouraged and applauded for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is very important to your children's progress in writing.

If possible, please provide your children with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.

Physical Education

Large and small muscle coordination is developed through movement activities and games. Children learn to throw, bounce, and catch a ball. They will practice skipping, hopping, rhythms and dance.

Science

Science will involve exploring phenomenon relevant to a young child's life. The children will make predictions and observations, collect data, and then draw conclusions. Along with the science lessons, a science table will be available for the children to experience science first hand. *Please let me know if you have any interesting science objects to place on the science table.*

Kindergarten Discipline Policy

My Philosophy:

I believe that all of my students can behave appropriately in my classroom. Activities are planned to allow for active participation. Students are expected to behave in a manner that is appropriate for a five year old child. The following rules are our classroom rules. They are worded in a manner that is easy for children to understand.

My Classroom Rules:

1. We use I care language.
2. Hands are for helping, not hurting.
3. We care about each other's feelings.
4. We are responsible for what we say
5. We listen to each other.



and do.

If a Student Chooses To Break a Rule:

First Time: The child will receive a reminder of what is expected. We all make mistakes.

Second Time: The child will need to move to a different space.

Third Time: The child will take a time out by their chair or the green table.

Fourth Time: A note will go home. This note is to be signed and returned to the teacher.

Fifth Time: .The parents will be called.

Several Disruption and Continued Failure to Follow Rules: The child will be sent to the office or sent to another teacher's room for time out.

During the year the children will receive many positive comments about appropriate behavior. The true goal is for the children to feel good about their behavior and to behave because of their inward motivation.

If at any time you would like to discuss behavior concerns with me, please feel free to contact me. When the teacher and the parents work together, positive results are achieved. Please help your child to learn appropriate school behavior by supporting our attempts to instill positive behavior in your child.

The Beginning of the Year

The first day of school can be exciting and/or scary for your child. Any emotion your child is feeling is normal. It takes many days for the children to feel comfortable in school.

For the first few days of the school year your child may be very tired and even grouchy. This is completely normal. After those first few days, your child will become more and more accustomed to being in school all day.

I want you to know that I am very aware of the struggles children have at the start of school and my lesson plans for each day will have activities designed so each child will feel relaxed, happy, and successful.

The first day of kindergarten is Thursday, September 6.

The school day begins at 9:05am and ends at 3:35pm.

Field Trips and Activity Fee

New for this school year, each parent is required to pay a \$100 "Activity Fee". This activity fee will be used to cover the cost of in school assemblies and class field trips. During the school year there will be several kindergarten field trips.

The \$100 will cover the field trip fee and the bus charge. If the cost of these field trips exceeds the \$100, then I will request addition funds to cover the tour and bus cost. Field trips that are in the planning process include: apple orchard, Zoo, Children's Museum, Kare 11, and another trip yet to be determined. Field trips may change as we progress through the year.

Chaperones will still need to pay for the bus and tour.

100th Day of School

Now is the time to get ready for the 100th day of school! You and your child need to begin a collection and accumulate a single type of item (100 pennies, 100 acorns, 100 beads, 100 paper clips, 100 rocks, 100 shells, 100 napkins, 100 buttons, etc.). If you start now, your child will be able to see the accumulation of the 100 items. Have fun with this, and let your imagination run wild!!

The children will display their collections on the 100th day of school. The 100th day in school will be in the middle of February.

Parent Volunteers

Many times throughout the school year I am in need of extra help for field trips and special projects. I will let you know when I need help through the daily "mail" that comes home with your child. If you would like to help at any other time during the school year, please let me know, and I will make arrangements for you to be a part of the kindergarten day. Please note that you are welcome to stop in and visit the kindergarten classroom at any time during the day! Volunteer hours can be counted towards the 25 hours required in the Cougar Volunteer Program.

Communication

If you ever have a question or concern about anything that is happening in your child's life, please feel free to contact me. I will also contact you if I have any questions or concerns. Let's work together to make this a wonderful year of learning and growing together. _

Folders

If you have any notes or correspondence for me, please put it in your child's folder. If you need anything to go the school office, please place that in your child's folder as well. Folders will be checked daily.

Absenteeism

Please call the school office by 9:05AM if your child will not attend school. If the office has not heard from you by 9:20AM, you will receive a phone call to confirm the reason for the absence. When your child returns to school, please send a note confirming the reason for the absence.

Lunch

The children will eat lunch in the kindergarten classroom with the teacher.

Your child may bring a cold lunch with a drink or purchase milk for 50¢.

There will **not** be a microwave available for heating any lunches.

Hot lunch will be available for \$2.60. A hot lunch will include a regular child size portion and milk.

Rest Time

Every afternoon the children will have about 15-20 minutes to relax, listen to music and look at books. The lights will be off, but the window blinds will be open. The children will not sleep, but have a chance to cool down and take a little breath in the middle of the kindergarten day.

Chapel - Make a Joyful Noise

Every Wednesday, the kindergarten children will participate in the Early Childhood Chapel, *Make a Joyful Noise!* This Chapel Service is on Wednesday mornings at 10:15AM.

Every week your child is encouraged to bring an offering to Chapel. An offering envelope will come home every Tuesday. Each month, the offerings are designated for a specific charity. Please prayerfully consider sending an offering every Wednesday.

Star of the Week

Every child will have a turn to be recognized as "Star of the Week." A bulletin board has been designated as the place to display pictures and/or special items the "Star of the Week" wants to share. I will send a note home the week before your child is to be "Star of the Week."

Birthday Party Invitations

A birthday is a special time for young children to share with friends, and birthday parties can be even more fun. Handing birthday party invitations out in school creates hurt feelings, so if you plan a birthday party, please use the US Mail to send the invitations to the invited children.

Birthday Treats

Celebrating birthdays in school is great fun! Although parties are not permitted, parents may send cupcakes, candies, cookies, donuts, etc. (Please no drinks or cake.) State law requires all treats to be store bought. Please let me know a day in advance of your plans for the birthday treat. _

Label Personal Items

All clothing, backpacks, and lunch boxes should be labeled clearly with your child's name. Many children do not remember what they brought to school. Please help them (and me) by labeling everything! _

Bus Riders

Please let me know if your child is not to ride the bus home on any given day. You can send a note or call the school office with the change in plans. I will send your child on the bus unless I am otherwise notified. Your child telling me of a ride home is not sufficient notification.

Daily Dismissal

Dismissal will be from the south kindergarten door. (The door next to the ESC/Preschool Playroom.) The teachers will excuse the children from the classroom door. If you take your child from the kindergarten classroom, please tell one of the teachers.

If any children take the bus home, I personally take them to their bus and watch them board. I will do this every day until the last day of school.

Homework

Homework in kindergarten is designed to be done under the supervision of an adult. **The kindergarten child should do the work.** It is helpful to have a pencil, scissors, crayons, markers and glue to complete the homework assignments. A picture dictionary is a great resource. **Homework will need to be promptly returned to school.** It will be recorded and returned. It is essential to establish the importance of doing your own work to the best of your ability right away. Please have your child do their own work, you may help them, but it is their work to do.

Portfolios

Each child will have a portfolio that will hold an accumulation of items from the entire kindergarten year. This portfolio will contain items that will show the growth and development of each child. Handwriting samples, drawings, books, Name Tickets, photographs and journal pages will be placed in the portfolio. All of the items placed in the portfolio will be sent home on the last day of school. The contents will also be reviewed at each parent-teacher conference.

Photographs

During the school year, I will take pictures of your child. This is done to show you school activities, friends and projects made in school. To help defray the cost, I am asking parents to donate \$5.00. You will receive photos on a CD at the end of the school year.

Dress Code

Please review the school dress code policy in the student handbook. One addition to that is that Kindergarten students will not be allowed to wear flip-flops to school. Flip-flops are not a safe shoe for our classroom, and wearing them requires scheduling additional time to change shoes before gym or going outside.

Toys and Sharing

Our class will not have the typical "Show and Tell" day where children are allowed to bring items to school. Due to the possibility of loss and damage, toys should not be brought to school unless teacher permission is given.

Dear Parent,

Central Lutheran School needs to have a record that you have read

and understand the Kindergarten Discipline Policy. Please sign this note and send it back to school with your child.

I have read and understand the Kindergarten Discipline Policy for the 2008-2009 school year.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Dear Parent,

Many times throughout the year your child will have the opportunity to bring activities home. These activities are part of our school and classroom and will need to be returned in a timely manner. Most activities will need to be returned to school the next morning. It is important that everything be brought back so that each student will have the opportunity to do the activity.

Activities include, but are not limited to: take home bags, scissor and glue box, alphabet box, and library books.

If items are lost or damaged it will be your responsibility to replace them.

I give my permission for my child to participate in these activities and accept responsibility for all classroom items that are brought home and will need to be returned to school.

I do not want my child participating in these activities.

Parent or Guardian Signature