

Parents and Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! This is a very exciting and important year for your child and we are thrilled to be a part of it! We're so excited to get the school year started, and hope your son or daughter is as well! We also assume some of the children (and parents) are a little nervous about the first day of kindergarten. All of the worries will soon disappear and we will all be having a great time as we start learning our routines and making friends this year. We're sure you have many questions, and hopefully this letter can answer most of them. If you still have questions, please feel free to send an email to your child's teacher (address at the bottom) or give us a call at school at 517-676-6506.

What to bring to school:

- Your child will need a bag or backpack every day to bring home papers, artwork and projects. Please check the contents of their backpack daily! We will give each child a folder to keep any school work, as well as important notes from the classroom or office. This folder needs to be sent back to school every day.
- We have a stock of school supplies that we will be using this year. If you would like to donate anything to the classroom, we've attached a supply list at the bottom of the letter. Please do not feel obligated, but it is much appreciated at any time of the year, as we will be going through a lot of materials.
- Your child will also need sneakers or athletic shoes on gym days. If your child cannot tie shoes, it would be helpful (but not necessary) if he/she has slip on or Velcro shoes for these days. There is no need to buy a separate pair of gym shoes, just please make sure to send them with sneakers on gym days. Please write your child's name on shoes, jackets, backpacks, etc. as they do go missing occasionally throughout the year.
- Accidents happen, especially towards the beginning of the year. Please send a set of spare clothing (pants, shirt, underwear and socks) to keep in their cubby for the duration of the year. If an accident happens, we will put the soiled clothes in the bag and send them home to be washed.
- Please dress your child in "play clothes". We will get dirty! We will be going outside, painting, gluing, coloring and creating. Kindergarten tends to be messy! ☺

Snack

- We will have snack around 10:00 every morning. Each child is asked to bring a *healthy* snack from home that they can open and eat independently within the 7-10 minute snack time. Some examples of good snacks are a cheese stick, a small Ziploc of goldfish, pretzels, a piece of fruit or a granola bar.

Flexible Seating

- Three classrooms (Spearman, Girardin, Brubaker) have flexible seating materials to support all learners. The goal of implementing flexible seating is to allow students to have choice in where they learn and to be able to wiggle while they work! Some of the flexible seating options we have are floor seating with cushions, lap desks or clipboards, stability balls, stability disks, standing tables, wobble stools and couches!. Each classroom saw immense benefits after implementation in the spring of last year, so we are excited to teach your child how to properly use the materials while they work as well. At the beginning of the year, we will spend quite a bit of time explaining how the seating options should be used and go over the expectations for flexible seating. Your child will sign a contract agreeing to use the materials the right way. If you have any questions regarding flexible seating, please feel free to email your child's teacher!

Birthdays

- Birthdays in kindergarten are always fun and exciting! As a class, we will celebrate and make each child feel important on their special day! Due to food allergies, **we request that snacks are not sent into the classroom for birthdays**. We will have many fun activities to help your child feel special! If you would like to send in a birthday toy or gift, that would be fine! Some examples of birthday toys or gifts are pencils, a book for the classroom, goody bags (with no food) etc. If you would like more clarification, please contact your child's teacher.
- Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the child's half birthday or before the school year is over to make sure every child gets a kindergarten birthday celebration!

Helping Your Child Feel Independent

- Coming to kindergarten is an important milestone in your child's life. We will encounter many new experiences. If you bring your child to kindergarten or if you pick up at the end of the day, I am asking that you say your good-byes outside of the classroom door. One of our goals is to help your child become a responsible and independent learner. Each child needs to be able to hang up his/her jacket and backpack by themselves as well as take care of other classroom duties. PLEASE do not worry if your child needs help...we will be there. We are sure you will agree that hearing your child say, "I can do it all by myself!" is a good feeling! Thank you very much for helping your child grow in this matter. On the first day of school, you are welcome to come in the classroom with your child to share the first experience. Although it may be an emotional time for some of you, to make the transition more smoothly for your child, it is important that you say your good-byes in a timely manner as your child will begin to grow wings and explore on their own as we begin their first day of kindergarten.

Communication

- As stated above, your child's folder is a great method of communication between home and school. Please check this folder daily for notes. Children will be asked to also check the folder daily at school to turn notes back into their teacher if necessary.
- **If there is a change in transportation for your child than what is typical, a note must be sent to school or the office must be contacted prior to 3:00. If we do not have written or oral consent from a parent, we cannot follow your request.**
- Email is a primary way to contact your child's teacher. Please make sure the email you supply to your teacher is updated, as we will use it frequently to send home notes, newsletters and information. If email won't work to contact you, please let your child's teacher know so we can send home paper copies.
- Each Kindergarten teacher uses Remind 101 as a way to communicate with parents. This awesome service gives the teachers a code for parents to subscribe to, and then we can easily send reminders for things such as library books due, field trips, picture day and important events. These will be sent to parents in the form of a text message.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any questions!
Welcome to Kindergarten, we are so excited to have you!

Best,

Danielle Spearman - spearmand@masonk12.net

Shelby Brubaker - brubakers@masonk12.net

Angela Girardin- girardina@masonk12.net

Nadeen Mills- millsn@masonk12.net

Supplies we can always use:

- Ticonderoga pencils
- Papermate pink erasers
- crayons
- colored pencils
- expo markers (black)
- glue sticks
- glue bottles
- ziplocks (sandwich and quart size)
- lysol wipes
- hand sanitizer wipes (we are no longer allowed to use pump bottles of hand sanitizer at school.)
- paper towel
- baby wipes
- kleenex
- bandaids