

Welcome to Kindergarten



We are looking forward to a fun and exciting school year! The children will grow emotionally, physically, socially, and intellectually in kindergarten. Following is some important information that will help you become familiar with our classroom.

ATTENDANCE: Consistent attendance is essential in order for your child to get the maximum benefit from our instruction. Please make every attempt to have your child to school on time daily! We begin Language Arts instruction promptly at 7:50am! I do not want your child to miss any critical instructional time. Should your child be late, you must sign them in at the front office. **DO NOT** just send the student to the classroom. If your child is absent, you must send a written excuse or Dr excuse to school upon their return, or they will have an unexcused absence. Please follow the handbook policy.

BUSES: If your child needs to ride a different bus home, you **MUST** send a written notice. You may do this by sending a note in the child's folder, faxing the office, sending an email, or a message through Clasdojo. Without written permission, your child will be placed on their regular bus. Also, no one will be allowed to pick up your child if you have not given the office permission.

DRESS: Please follow the school uniform policy found in the handbook. **PLEASE SEND YOUR CHILD AN EXTRA SET OF CLOTHING LABELED IN A ZIPLOC BAG TO STAY IN THE CLASSROOM IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT!!!** Make sure that all coats, sweaters, and jackets are labeled with your child's name.

Binders: I will not be sending home a lot of homework throughout the year unless I see that students need extra practice with a skill. If your child does not know how to write their name or alphabet yet, they will need to practice this for homework. Once your child begins reading, they will have some type of reading homework. Please check your child's folder located inside their binder for any assignments/notes. It is expected that you go over sight words nightly! Part of their language arts test grades will be knowledge of their weekly sight words.

PLEASE RETURN THEIR BINDERS DAILY! Please help keep the binders cleaned out! Student behavior logs should always remain in the front of the binder. There will be a folder located behind the log. This folder will be used to send home any daily work that we have done that needs to stay at home, important letters/newsletters, homework, or forms that need to be signed and returned. You will also send any excuses or notes back in the folder. Study material that needs to stay in the binders for the week will be located behind the folder.

SNACKS: You may send your child with snack money to purchase a snack from the office. If you send your child with money, please put the money inside their folder. The prices range from 50- 75 cents. Please do not let your child put the money in their pocket. This is to ensure that their money does not fall out of their pocket on the bus or in the hallway. You may also send your child a snack. I will send an update should there be any allergies within our friends.

BOOK ORDERS: Periodically throughout the year, you will see a Scholastic Book Order in your child's folder. Scholastic Book Club offers great children's books at a low cost to you. Many times, they have a book for \$2. This is a great way to begin building a library at home for your child! If you wish to make an order, please complete the order form, and send it back with payment in a sealed envelope in your child's folder. You may also order online using our class code which will be on the fliers.

GRADES: Grades will be taken in all subject areas for Kindergarten. Grades will be posted each Friday. You will need to check your child's grades through Active Parent. Grades are usually updated by the end of the day on Fridays. You will need to contact Miss Hall should you need assistance with Active Parent. I do not have access to set it up. **Students must pass both Language Arts and Math for promotion to first grade.** Should you have questions or concerns about something, please contact me! I promise to do my best to help find any resources that I can for you to use with your child at home to help them. Do not wait until the end of the 9 weeks or school year when it is too late.

The grading scale is as follows:

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: below 60

The following was taken directly from the 2022-2023 Student Parent Handbook regarding the weighting of grades for K-5th grades:

-A minimum of 9 daily grades – meaning approximately one (1) daily grade per week for the nine-week grading period;

- A minimum of 4 assessment grades – meaning approximately every two (2) weeks, a student will be given a summative assessment and a grade will be recorded; and

- Elementary School (Kindergarten – 5th Grade): Daily Grades will be equal to 55% of the total average each nine weeks and summative assessments will be equal to 45% of the total average each nine weeks.

COMMUNICATION: Good two-way communication between families and schools is necessary for your students' success. Not surprisingly, research shows that the more parents and teachers share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped both will be to help that student achieve academically. Most of my communication will come through ClassDojo. You will find the information on how to join classdojo in this packet. Some were already given their invite during Meet the Teacher. I will also be sending home a weekly newsletter with important information and dates. You may also reach me through email and phone. Please be reminded that I can not answer or return calls until my planning period each day. I also do not check my emails except for first thing in the morning before students arrive, and once during my planning period. I do my best to make myself available as often as I possibly can, but please be reminded to send communication during my working hours. Should you send a message or email after 4pm, I will not respond until the next day unless I just happen to be on my computer at that time.

April.Ketchum@yazoo.k12.ms.us

662-673-9191

I am expecting my third child in October. I will update you all once I am placed on maternity leave. Once that time comes, please refer any concerns or questions to Dr Shaffer, Mrs Ware, or Miss Hall. They will contact me should it need to involve me. I will stay in close contact with my assistant/substitute/administration during this time to make sure that the students are receiving quality instruction. Let's make this the best year yet!!

CLASSROOM RULES and BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- 1. Be Responsible!** (1. Being accountable for what you do, for your actions and behavior. 2. Doing the right thing at the right time, so others can trust and depend on you.)
- 2. Be Obedient!** (Obedience is behavior that's respectful and mindful of rules and laws.)
- 3. Be Alert (Safe)!** (We should monitor our own and others' behaviors with safety in mind.)
- 4. Be Respectful!** (Use a respectful tone of voice. Do not tease others or call them names. Follow adult requests quickly and without complaint. Pay attention in class and get our assigned work done.)
- 5. Always do your very best!** (Pay attention and work hard. It's okay if you get it wrong as long as you try your very best!)

We will be using a behavior clip chart for students to monitor their behavior in the classroom. Each day we will begin on green. The clips are moved up for good behavior and down for inappropriate behavior. If your child remained on Green, Blue, or Purple throughout the day, they will be given a sticker on their behavior chart located in their binder. At the end of the week, if they have 5 stickers, they will be given a trip to the treasure box.

Purple: Excellent! (Teacher's Choice)

Blue: Good Job! (Teacher's Choice)

GREEN- Ready to Learn (I had a good day.)

YELLOW- Warning (I have already been given several verbal warnings, now I will pull my color.)

ORANGE- I am still making poor choices (I may miss out on something fun.)

RED- I'm out of chances! (Now, a phone call will be made to my parents! Depending on the severity, I may have to visit the Principal's office!)

****Some behaviors, such as hitting or throwing items that can cause physical harm to others, will not be tolerated, and will result in your child going straight to red with a write up!**

REWARDS: The children will receive rewards throughout the day. Some of the rewards will include verbal praise, stickers, or treats. The students will also receive Linwood Dollars for good behavior. These dollars can then be used to buy items in the Linwood Store at the end of the nine weeks.

You will be able to keep track of your child's behavior through their daily log inside of their binder. A sticker means that your child had a good day. If your child's color was pulled for any reason, I will mark it with a number code found at the top of the chart. Depending on the behavior, I may also place a note in their folder. Students are able to go back to green if they correct themselves once on yellow. Please feel free to contact me at the school or through email or Class Dojo if you have any questions throughout the year. You may also drop a note in your child's folder if that would be best for you. We are looking forward to an awesome school year!

Sincerely,

April Ketchum
and
Mary Alice Williams

Student Name: _____

*** Please sign and return

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I have read and understand the classroom rules and behavior management plan.

Parent Signature: _____