**WELCOME!**

Kindergarten

Class Orientation Packet

Mrs. Weiss & Mrs. Everett

August 5, 2021

Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome! I am looking forward to an exciting year of working with your child. Kindergarten is an extra special year in your child’s life because it is the foundation on which the rest of his/her school years will be built. It is important that we learn during this time, but also that we have fun and enjoy ourselves.

We will be learning many new and exciting things this year, but we will also be reviewing things that your child may know or at least has been exposed to. Repetition is extremely important in the learning process, and we will begin with simple concepts and work up to more complex ones. This also helps students feel confident and successful from the very start.

We will be fostering the goal of independence as the year progresses. Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self –confidence. Your child will be learning to do many things on his/her own this year. Please work on the following self-help skills at home with your child: zipping, tying, restroom etiquette, dressing, etc.

In our classroom, we will participate in many activities everyday. Sometimes, we will be doing “messy” artwork, or we will be going outside to the playground. Try to keep this in mind when helping your child dress for school. Comfortable, weather appropriate clothing is best. It is also important that your child wear shoes, in which he/she can run, jump and play. Physical Education is included regularly. Athletic shoes are best for taking part in these types of activities. No flip-flops are allowed.

Your Child should bring a backpack to school everyday. We send many important papers and notes that can be easily lost if carried by hand. **Please check your child’s backpack and folder daily**! Not only will this help you be aware of what we are doing at school, it will also show your child that you care. If you care, then he/she will care.

Communication is vital! If you need to get in touch with me, you can call and leave a message in the school office (229-931-8667), send a note with your child, or e-mail me at bweiss@furlowcharter.org. E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. I will get back to you as soon as possible. My conference period is every day 11:00-11:40.

**Classroom Rules**

Listen and follow directions the first time given.

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Speak in a quiet, indoor voice.

Be where you should be.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on during a lesson.

Work during work time

Treat others with respect.

**Hallway Rules**

Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.

Walk in a quiet line.

**Playground Rules**

Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.

Use equipment safely.

Line up quickly when teacher calls

**Consequences**

2 verbal warnings (Beginning of year), 1 verbal warning (Second Semester)

Fill out a sad choice slip and speak to Mrs. Weiss about choices and consequence.

**Rewards**

Happy Slip

Verbal praise

Stickers and stamps

Notes and phone calls to parents

Treats (popcorn, popsicles, etc)

Special choice board

**Homework**

You will need to read with your child 20 minutes nightly. I will send home additional assignments periodically to practice various skills as well.

**Library**

The kindergarten classes will participate in a library lesson each week. This will consist of a short story with the librarian and a weekly book check out. The students will be allowed to take one book per week and may check out a new book upon the return of the previously checked out book. Our Library Day is **Wednesday**. Please have all books returned the following Tuesday.

**Daily Folder**

Your child will bring home a folder every day. Please initial the behavior chart each day. This folder is important, as it will contain notes and information that will be helpful to you. It will also have your student’s daily work in it, plus any homework that may have been assigned. Please return the folder each day. It will be your child’s responsibility to take it out of his/her backpack and put it in the folder basket each morning.

**Weekly Newsletter**

The weekly newsletter will be sent home each weekend via **e-mail**. This is to keep you informed of some special activities for the coming week and to remind you of extra supplies that may be needed. Be sure to always read your newsletter. Periodically, I will also send links for forms via Google Docs for us to keep track of supplies needed for the class, parties, etc.

**Snack**

We will eat a morning snack every day. We will maintain a snack bin with several options for students to choose from. Each student will bring snack for the entire class about once a month. Snack should be **individually wrapped**, please do not send any snacks requiring forks/spoons. Snacks should be healthy options for students. Fruit snacks, Little Debbie’s, cookies, and other sugary snacks are not allowed, except for birthdays. **Snack ideas**: pretzels, popcorn, cheese nips,

**Birthdays**

If your child would like to celebrate their birthday with the class, please send single snacks that are easy to serve, such as cupcakes, cookies, ice cream sandwiches or doughnuts. No cakes please. Juice boxes can be included but are not necessary. Please do not send drinks that have to be poured in a cup. If your child has a summer birthday, I will let him/her choose a day in to celebrate. We will celebrate birthdays the last 15 minutes of the day in our classroom. I am happy to help pass out invitations to birthday celebrations if everyone in the class, or all boys or all girls are invited. Otherwise, invitations will need to be mailed. Thank you for understanding these policies.

**Bridges**

We have PE, Art, and Music as well as Foreign Language. Foreign Language is two days per week on Tuesday’s and Friday’s at 9:55. We will have each activity for a week. For example: PE: Aug 9-13, Art: Aug 16-20, and Music: Aug 23-28. Please send your scholar in tennis shoes the weeks that we have PE. We do not have time to change shoes before we go. Our bridges time is 11:00-11:45.

**Breakfast & Lunch**

Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:00 in the classroom. Our lunch time is scheduled for **12:15-12:50**. A school menu can be viewed on the Furlow homepage. All students are required to get a lunch tray every day. Kindergarten students may also bring a lunch from home. If you would like to join your child for lunch occasionally, you can meet our class in the cafeteria at the designated guest table. Please no lunch visitors for the first 2 weeks of school, unless you are a lunch shift volunteer.

**Dismissal**

Your child will only be dismissed from school the way you have informed the teacher. If you need to pick your child up early, please go to the office and sign them out. Please try not to sign your child out of school after 2:45.

 If your child is to go home a different way, **I must have a written note from you.** If there is no written confirmation, the student will be sent home the usual way. If there is a last-minute change, please call the office and email me.

**Bathroom**

Your child is given the opportunity to use the bathroom when needed. He/she will visit the bathroom alone. Please discuss appropriate bathroom behaviors with your child.

**Toys**

Our days are packed with many fun-filled activities. Your child is given hands-on opportunities all throughout the day. Please keep any toys, gadgets, and special mementoes at home to prevent distractions and loss.

**Volunteering**

We are always excited to have an extra set of hands in kindergarten!!! Please let me know when you would like to volunteer here at school via e-mail and I will be sure to have a project ready for when you arrive. Often, parents assist in pulling small groups to complete projects, cutting, etc. If you are unable to volunteer at school, but wish to help from home with cutting, stapling, etc., simply let me know and I will send home various projects throughout the year home in your child’s backpack. With your help, I can do more fun activities with the students throughout the year!!! Thank you!

**Your child is sick!**

Your child **needs to stay home** if he/she has:

**\*a fever of 100 or more**

**\*Vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours!**

**\*Coughing, congestion or purulent nasal drainage**

Please be considerate of the other children.

School policy requires a written note within 2 days following any absence!

**I appreciate you and all your support!!!**

**I cannot wait to get to know you and your Kindergartener this year!!!**