

Mrs. Jenkins' Kindergarten Disclosure

Welcome to kindergarten! I am excited to get to know you and your child this year. Please read the following to better understand how our classroom is run.

Communication

I believe that open communication between myself and the parents of my class is crucial. Weekly newsletters will be sent home to let you know the topics we are covering in class, as well as special dates coming up in the school year. Please check your child's folder nightly, as any additional notes home from me or the office will be sent in their folder. I will also check your child's folder every morning for notes from home. If you would prefer to email me, I check my email daily as well. njenkins@cosgriff.org Please note that although I check my email daily, I may not be able to check it before school begins.

Problems and Concerns

A nonnegotiable at Cosgriff is to address and discuss parent concerns either by telephone or in person. Please email if you have a concern and would like to discuss it with me. Also in your email, please indicate the best time for a telephone call or a meeting.

Homework Policy

There will be homework in kindergarten that is meant to reinforce what we are doing in the classroom. Book baggies go home every Monday which come from the reading room to help with literacy. They need to be returned the following Monday, as they are collected Monday mornings. Weekly homework packets will be sent home Mondays and will be due that Friday. Students should also read 20 minutes each day, or be read to if they are not yet reading.

Nightly Folders

Please check your child's folder nightly for notes, homework, and completed work. Folders need to be emptied and returned the following day. In doing so, we are able to communicate more effectively.

Friday Folders

Each child will have a special "Friday Folder" as well. These folders will have a short note from me about your child that week, and there will be a space for you to write a note for me as well if you would like. Please read and sign these each weekend.

Monthly Skills Chart

A chart will be sent home each month with some of the academic and life skills that your child will be learning throughout the month. There are two boxes after each skill. The first should be marked once the student starts working on that skill, the second should be marked once the student has mastered that skill. Please return these charts at the end of the month.

Student Expectations

Each student is expected to adhere to the school wide behavior policies outlined by Mrs. Hunt in the school handbook, as well as individual classroom rules. The most important goals for this year are for all students to learn and practice respect, kindness, cooperation, and love of God, and to show this respect through their words and actions.

Snack Policy

Your child needs to bring his or her own snack on a daily basis for morning snack. Since we do not have a water fountain in our room it is suggested that you also send a closable water bottle with them as well. Other drinks are not permitted. Please keep in mind that snacks should be healthy and that we are a peanut/nut free school. Afternoon snack is provided by a student in our room on a weekly rotation. I will send home a calendar

indicating who will provide afternoon snack for an entire week. All snacks should be simple and easy to serve. You may send the weekly snacks at the beginning of your week, and they will be stored in the classroom. If your child has any allergies or other food restrictions, please provide alternate snacks for the afternoon. I will provide snack the first week of school.

Birthdays

If your child is celebrating a birthday we would like to make it a special day in school. A child's birthday will be celebrated with a song, a crown, and a special birthday pencil. Feel free to send in a simple snack to share with the whole class, which will be eaten at lunchtime. If your child has a summer birthday, we would love to celebrate on their half birthday.

Labeling Items

Label all items that your child brings to school (backpacks, sweaters, hats, books...etc.). Many of the students have similar things, and a label might save you a search in the lost and found pile.

Show and Teach

We will have show and teach once a week in school. I believe the purpose of show and teach is to promote public speaking skills, share information, and build self-esteem. Each week will have a theme, please help your child make sure whatever they are teaching about fits the theme of the week. The theme for show and teach each week will be included in the weekly newsletter.

School Mass

Our school will attend weekly masses each Friday morning at 8:30am, and students should be in formal dress uniform. I have attached a copy the school uniform policy later in this packet.

Emergency Bags

Every student in our school is required to have an emergency kit that includes the following items in a Ziploc bag:

2 granola bars

bottle of water

flashlight

family picture

telephone contact numbers (include 1 out of state number if possible)

These bags are due by August 24th

Volunteers

We will need volunteers in our classroom at center time and I look forward to having you in my room. Our room parents will be organizing this for me along with other events that will take place during the year. Please know that when you are working in the classroom you will need to balance being a parent to your child and someone who has to work with everyone. All volunteers need to take the Safe Environment certification in the computer lab or at home.

Medications/Allergies

Please inform me of any medications that are being taken by your child and any allergies that your child suffers from. This helps me to avoid any accidents or scary situation that might arise. Any medication that is to be administered during school hours must be kept in the school office.

Book Orders

Book orders will be sent home every month or two. This gives students a chance to find some great books to read at home at a discounted price. Points received from the book orders also help me stock our classroom library. If you choose to purchase something, orders will be processed online. Information for online ordering will go home with the first book order.

Lunch and Recess

Lunch is at 11:45 and students will return to the classroom at 12:20.

Morning recess is from 10:00 to 10:15. All students are expected to go outside each day. Students need exercise and playtime, and should enjoy the fresh air. Please make sure your child is wearing or has brought with them the appropriate clothing for going outside (For example, snow boots during the winter).

Absence/Tardy Policy

Kindergarten has a very high percentage of direct instruction and hands on learning, so it is essential that your student attend school every day.

Arrange family trips and such during school breaks so that your student does not have to miss school. It is also very important that your student arrive at school each day before the 8:15 bell, ready to line up and walk in with the teacher, because we start our learning as soon as our day starts. If a student has two or more tardies, you will be receiving a phone call from Mrs. Hunt.

Core Standards

Language Arts:

- With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text
- With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details
- With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text
- Recognize common types of texts (e.g. storybooks, poems)
- With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story

- With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g. what moment in a story an illustration depicts)
- With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures
- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding
- With prompting and support, ask and answer details about key details in a text
- With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text
- With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text
- Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book
- With prompting and support, identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g. in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures)
- Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)
- Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding
- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood
- Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood
- Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail
- Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and speaking when writing
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content
- With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts

Math:

- Know number names and the count sequence
- Count to tell the number of objects
- Compare numbers
- Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value
- Describe and compare measurable attributes
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category
- Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres)
- Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes

Social Studies:

- Students will recognize how individuals and families are both similar and different
- Students will recognize their roles and responsibilities of being a good citizen
- Students will use geographic terms and tools
- Students can explain how humans meet their needs in many ways

Science:

- Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object

- Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull
- Make observations to determine the effect of sunlight on Earth's surface
- Use tools and materials to design and build a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area
- Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive
- Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time
- Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs
- Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live
- Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather
- Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment
- Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool
- Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem
- Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs

Religion (taught by Mrs. Walz):

Religion is lovingly integrated in many ways throughout our day. We will have fun exploring and learning about God's love through stories, prayers, songs, role playing and fun crafts! In kindergarten we will learn about morality (right from wrong), bible stories, the miracles of Jesus, family,

showing respect for all of those who live in our community, creation of the world, baptism and the holy days.

Throughout the year we will learn about many saints and holy people. The children do an excellent job of memorizing 6 prayers!

- Sign of the Cross
- Angel of God
- Meal time prayer
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be

We will use the We Believe curriculum. This program is wonderfully rooted in scripture and is faithful to the tradition of the Catholic church. Some of the saints we will focus on are:

- St. Ambrose
- St. Frances of Rome
- St. Francis of Assisi
- St. Gianna
- St. John Bosco
- St. Joseph
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- St. Katherine Drexel
- St. Martin de Porres
- Mary, Mother of God
- St. Nicholas
- St. Patrick
- St. Peter
- St. Rose of Lima
- St. Therese of Lisieux
- St. Theresa of Calcutta

The children will also learn about Pope Francis and our Bishop Solis. I am so excited to be with your precious children on their faith journey.

Grace and peace,

Beth Walz

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Final Thoughts

Kindergarten is a wonderful time to see your child progress both academically and socially. Their enthusiasm for school at this age is exciting and contagious, and Mrs. Walz and I will work hard with you and your child to provide a safe, caring, and challenging environment each day for your child. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.