

The ABC's of Kindergarten

A is for Attendance, Absences, Arrival and Allergies

Attendance - A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parents, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance, without tardiness, is critical.

Absences – Excessive absences hinder a child's progress. If your child is going to be absent, you must call the school at 485-8259 the day of the absence and send your child with a written note upon return to school stating the reason for the absence. Please plan family trips during our scheduled breaks. It is hard for your child to make up learning missed in kindergarten since much learning is hands-on and is done in class.

Arrival – Students go to class at 8:50 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 9:05 a.m. which is the time your child will need to be in their seat ready for the day. Give them plenty of time to get to their classroom. Your child may be dropped off in the car rider line between 8:30 and 8:50.

Allergies – If your child has any allergies, please make sure we are aware of them. We especially need to know about food allergies and insect bite reactions.

B is for Birthdays, Books, Book Orders and Backpacks

Birthdays – Birthdays are very important to children. In class, we celebrate your child's birthday in a special way: song, birthday balloon and with special privileges. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate their birthday in May as not to miss out on this fun school experience. The child's birthday will be on our calendar of events. You may purchase a PTA directory if you are considering inviting classmates to parties or having play dates. We will not send out invitations from school.

Books – We would like for each child to carry a book in their backpack everyday. When students are allowed to check out library books, it may be this book or a book from home. When students are dropped off at school before 8:50 they will be expected to take out their book and read quietly.

Book Orders – We will send home Scholastic book orders throughout the year. If you want to place an order you may use our online classroom code: LB4Z4 or send in ONLY checks or Money orders made payable to Scholastic Books.

Backpacks – Backpacks help your child carry folders, notes, projects, and books to and from school. Please check your child's backpack and take-home folder DAILY. Build responsibility in your child by having your child pack it and put it in your home's "backpack spot" ready for the next school day so it will be easy to find. Of course that's AFTER a parent has checked through everything.

C is for Clothing and Communication

Clothing – We play outside every day possible so comfortable shoes are important. If your child ever has an accident in school we will make sure they change into clean clothes, if available. We will send your child's clothes home that day. If you wash the change of clothes and send them back when convenient, we will be able to keep our clothes closet well stocked for other children. You might start out with an extra pair of pants and undies in your child's backpack during the kindergarten adjustment period.

Communication - A daily folder will be going home with your child and coming back to school. It will be used for homework and all notes from school and our classroom. Please check it daily. If you need to communicate any concerns or quick questions, the best way is to put a note in the child's folder. It is checked every morning. Mrs. Wilson or Ms. Jaclyn will reply back to address your concern.

D is for Discipline, Differences and Dismissal

Discipline – Our class is a nurturing environment where good choice-making by students is the goal. We want students to behave and we will help give them many opportunities for success. We will use our Ready to Learn clip chart where each student has a clothespin with his or her name on it. Students will be asked to move their clothespin up or down the chart during the day depending on their choices made. All students come to school in the Ready to Learn Zone (Green). When there are reminders given to correct a wrong choice/choices and they are not corrected, the child's name will be moved down to the Think About It Zone (Yellow) as a warning. When choice(s) still do not improve, the child's name is moved to the Teacher Choice Zone (orange) and privileges/timeouts may occur depending on circumstances. When choice(s) continue the child's name is moved to the Note to Parent/Principal Visit Zone (red). If your child is going above and beyond in their daily choices, they have the opportunity to move their clip up to the Good Choices Zone (Blue), and if they continue they can move to the Awesome Behavior (Purple) and then the Super Student Zone (pink). These are special recognition zones to celebrate those students making good choices independently.

Differences - We will celebrate differences and we work hard to help your child learn in many different ways as we address many different learning styles and abilities! We will learn individually, in small groups and in large groups. We will have practice activities so everyone feels comfortable and we will set high expectations, challenge our brains and take risks, too.

Dismissal – Dismissal is at 3:45 p.m. If your child changes his/her regular dismissal routine, please let us know by writing a note and putting it in your child's take home folder so it does not get lost/dropped. If it is a last minute change, please contact the office prior to 3:15. We will send each child their usual way home unless we have this information from you. Please keep the schedule as consistent as possible.

E is for Email and Early Dismissal

Email - I can be reached by email at Kathryn.wilson@jefferson.kyschools.us. This is checked daily, but may not be at the same time each day. If you have a quick question that you may want answered, send a note in your child's folder or call during my planning at 12:20-1:10 PM.

Early Dismissal – Early dismissals are counted as tardies. The district adds up the number of minutes from the school day.

F is for Field Trips and Folders

Field Trips – Throughout the year, we will schedule field trips to enhance our curriculum. Permission slips and requests for fees will be sent home prior to each trip. Please complete and return by the due date, otherwise your child will be unable to attend. Interested parent chaperones will be asked to send a note of interest. We will draw names of parent's for each trip that will be taking chaperones. Please plan on leaving siblings behind so we can count on you as a chaperone and you can give quality time to your kindergartener and their friends.

Folders – Please check your child's take home folder DAILY and return anything requiring a signature as soon as possible. Please help your child build responsibility by making it their job to put it in their backpacks once checked by you. It also helps us if you clean out the folder daily and return only what is needed for the next day.

G is for Good behavior and Grading

Good Behavior – Our kindergarten is a safe and happy place where lots of learning happens. We are a classroom family where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior so everyone can learn.

Grading – Grading codes in kindergarten are O=Outstanding/Excellent progress made toward standards and/or progress may be above grade expectations with independent work taking place, S=Satisfactory Progress made toward standards, NI=Needs Improvement, slow or little progress made toward standard, and U=Unsatisfactory progress is below expectations and student is having extreme difficulty meeting the standard. Many kindergarten grades will be placed on Infinite Campus for you to view this year. Please make sure you can access the Parent Portal.

H is Hands-On Learning, Healthy and Homework

Hands-on Learning – The best way to help children learn is to make activities fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on learning activities. There are times when seatwork at tables is required and necessary, but much of our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Healthy – Keep your child healthy, smart, and alert by feeding them good food at mealtimes. Sugary breakfasts can affect behavior and learning at school.

Homework – Homework will be given on Mondays and will be due every Friday. It is meant to be practice of something learned in class. Homework in kindergarten is a good habit that when started early and supported by you, will last throughout your child's academic career. Your child's homework experience will be a positive one if you try to stick to a routine time – preferably before your child becomes too tired –

and a regular place to do it. Also supply your child with basic homework supplies: crayons, scissors, pencils and a glue stick. Have these on hand soon so your child will be ready when something is needed.

I is for Instructional Assistant

Instructional Assistant – Ms. Jaclyn is the full-time instructional assistant in our classroom. She is there to provide extra support to the students throughout the day. She is with your child during lunchtime and all of their special area times. She will help students in small groups, whole group and with individualized instruction as well. She is a HUGE ASSET in our classroom!

J is for Joyful Learning

Joyful Learning – Children learn best when they are feeling loved and encouraged to try new things. Our classroom builds a feeling of mutual respect, being risk-takers, and supporting each other even when we make mistakes. Happy faces are important!

K is for Kindness

Kindness – Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others in society, with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying or mistreating others, and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

L is for Library and Lunch

Library – E day is Library Day. Once checking out of books begins, please make sure you help your child find their library book and return it to school after reading it.

Lunch – Our lunchtime is 11:10 – 11:35 a.m. We welcome you to visit and eat lunch with your child. Children love it and we love touching base with you. Please wait until the emotional first few weeks are over and always leave us with a smile and a wave as we head back to our classroom. Prolonged visits can sometimes create distress.

M is for Money, Meetings, Morning Meetings, and Mystery Reader

Money – Money for anything is best sent in an envelope or baggie with a label of what it is for AND your child's name on it. Put the envelope or baggie in your child's folder for us to find. Our little ones get confused easily and money gets lost, so please stock up on envelopes/baggies.

Meetings – Please respect that teachers are not available before or after school unless you have a scheduled appointment. As you can imagine, our schedules are quite full with staff and team meetings,

committee work, and school and personal obligations. It is difficult to meet with you unless you schedule an appointment, which we are more than happy to do.

Morning Meetings – One component of character education is that we will begin each day with a Morning Meeting as we greet each other in special ways and show every child their importance and connection to our classroom community. We know your child will look forward to this special time each day.

Mystery Reader – We are looking for parents, guardians, siblings, grandparents, etc. to surprise their child by being a Mystery Reader in our classroom. Mystery readers bring a special story from home to read aloud to the class. Be on the look out for sign ups. Mystery readers will visit us on Fridays at 9:15 am.

N is for Newsletter and Nightly Reading

Newsletter – Be on the lookout for our weekly newsletter. It will include glimpses of what we have been up to during the week, as well as reminders, special student information, and upcoming events. Please read it and stay updated on your child's life in our classroom.

Nightly Reading – Nightly reading is one of the best habits you can get your child into and it's easiest to start in kindergarten! Your reading aloud to your child is just as important as your child practicing their independent reading when they are ready. Try to spend at least ten to twenty minutes before bedtime each night together reading. It's a great way to wind down before bed and quality time for you and your child. Believe me – experience shows that successful learners and readers are those that do this regularly!

O is for Office Staff and Open Communication

Office Staff – Our office staff are here to help. Ms. Barnett, principal; Mr. Dulaney, assistant principal; Mr. Hall, counselor; Ms. Farmer, goal clarity coach, Mrs. Schmidt, secretary; Ms. Young, bookkeeper; Mrs. Balcolm; attendance clerk.

Open Lines of Communication – Please let us know if you have ANY questions or concerns regarding your child throughout the year. We feel that it is our job to work together as partners to help your child have a successful first year. Please feel free to email me anytime or call the school at 485-8267. I can be reached during my planning period from 12:20 – 1:10.

P is for Parent Involvement, PTA, Parties, PE and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent Involvement – We appreciate parent involvement! Please be involved in your child's kindergarten year when you can. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! Watch the classroom newsletter for special opportunities to help out, notes from our parent liaison and special sign ups.

PTA – All parents are encouraged to join the school's PTA. This is a great way to meet other parents and get involved in all the great things that support our school. Come to meetings and find out more about community outreach, enrichment activities, fundraisers, student achievement support, and of course all the fun events like the Back to School Picnic. Check the School calendar for the next meeting and committee meetings, too.

P.E. – Please remember tennis shoes on B days when we have P.E. Running shoes are the best choice every day, as we will enjoy recess every day possible.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Conferences are scheduled on the JCPS calendar. We will get a chance to discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress at these conferences. If you feel the need to have a conference at any other time, please feel free to email or send in a note to make arrangements.

Q is for Questions and Quick goodbyes

Questions – Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education. I will make every effort to meet with you and/or discuss your concerns.

Quick Goodbyes

..... Leave dry eyes!

R is for Report Cards, Reading and Restrooms

Report Cards – We will send home a report card four times throughout the year. Check the JCPS schedule for the dates they will come home. Always sign the envelope and quickly send it back to school. You keep the report.

Reading – Read to your child daily and let your children see you reading daily. Reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do. It encourages them to become good readers.

Restrooms – Children are allowed to use the restrooms as needed (and must learn to ask), although not encouraged during a directed instructed time. Unfortunately, accidents will happen as they adjust to a big schedule of things to do. We will make sure that your child is changed into clean clothes from our clothes closet when available. Please send these clothes back clean for others. You make keep an extra pair of undies, socks, and shorts in their backpack if this is a concern.

S is for Safety, Special Area Schedule and Snacks

Safety – Your child's safety is top priority. We take every precaution when your child is in our care. Please be sure the office has your updated emergency contact numbers (work, cell, home) and the numbers of your emergency contacts in an event you cannot be reached.

Special Area Schedule – We have a five-day rotation for our special areas. Please find our schedule: A – Music; B – PE; C – Chinese; D – Computer; E – Library
Please make sure that your child wears tennis shoes on B days since we will have PE.

Snacks – We will allow a snack time each day for a portion of the year. You may send your child to school with a snack to be eaten at snack time. Please send the snack in a closed or Ziploc bag with their name on it.

T is for Tardies and Toys

Tardies – Students late in the building (after 9:05) are considered tardy. The school keeps a record of these tardies and they are documented on your child's report card. Students arriving late, and not in their seat ready for class (after 9:05 am) are disruptive to the class as well as their own learning. Parents must sign students in after 9:00 when car rider line closes.

Toys – No toys are to be brought to school unless requested for special parties or special learning times.

U is for Unique and Understanding

Unique – Each child in our class is unique and wonderful. In kindergarten, we learn about how we are unique and special, and we celebrate our differences and similarities. We also learn about different cultures within our class and in our world.

Understanding – Please understand that your child is one of many in our class and the classroom operates in a different way than home. Each child, though very special, is not the center of the universe and will get to learn how to work in a group of friends.

V is for Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors – All guests (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office and wear a visitor's pass. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is a goal and the responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

Volunteers – There are many ways to volunteer in our classroom and school. Look for PTA newsletters and classroom newsletters to find out ways you can contribute.

W is for Water breaks and Web site

Water breaks – Water is the best drink for your child and we will give opportunities for trips to the water fountain.

Web site – The Jefferson County Public School website is www.jefferson.kyschools.us and has lots of useful information for parents. It's frequently updated, so check it out if you haven't already! Our

classroom website is <http://katieskinders.weebly.com>. Check it out and you will find a lot of important information and updates for our classroom throughout the year.

X is for X-tra Special and eXciting!

X-tra Special and eXciting – Kindergarten is such an exciting and magical year! Each child is extremely special to us and we will guide them gently and consistently all year long. Thank you for sharing them!

Y is for YOU!

You! – Please remember that YOU are your child's first and most important teacher. No one can influence your child's life in the way you can! You can help to make your child feel successful this year by discussing your child's school day. Ask questions like "What did you learn today?", "What did you work the hardest on?", "What was the best part of your day?", or "What are you getting better at?" These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information. Don't let them tell you "nothing." Ask your child about science, story time, morning meeting, reading, or math work. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will have a direct effect on how he/she feels about them. Show enthusiasm for learning. It is contagious!

Z is for Zzzzzz's

Zzzzz's – It is SO IMPORTANT for your child to be alert and ready to learn each day. Set a bedtime and be consistent. Children this age need about 11-12 hours of sleep each night. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child. It will help them be attentive and prepared to learn each day! Don't forget to read a book before bedtime!