

A GUIDE TO KINDERGARTEN
At

Elmwood Elementary School

Elmwood Public Schools
Community Unit School District #322

Welcome to Kindergarten!

It has been said that the type of beginning that a child has in school has a bearing on his or her entire life that follows. With this in mind, it is important that your child's first school experiences be happy and enjoyable ones. With your cooperation, we can be assured of success.

This booklet is meant to provide you and your child with important information about our kindergarten program. You will learn:

1. *How you-the parent-can help your child succeed.*
2. *What will be taught.*
3. *When it will be taught.*
4. *Activities that will enhance the school experience.*
5. *School policies that will affect you and your child.*

It is important for your child to know that the lines of communication between home and school are always open, and that parents and teachers are working together to support the student.

Dr. Roger Alvey
Superintendent

Mr. Tony Frost
Elmwood Elementary School Principal
742-4261

Fax 742-8833
www.elmwood322.com

Our Kindergarten Program

Elmwood's Kindergarten Program has long provided a very positive first step for students as they embark on their formal education. Realizing that children come to our Kindergarten with a wide range of skills and backgrounds, our full-day Kindergarten emphasizes developmental skills, social skills, and involves all students with the academic subjects through learning letters and their sounds, phonics, colors, counting, printing, and writing. The children will learn sight words and mathematical calculations. Science and social studies will be introduced. Our goal, by the end of this first important year, is for the children to develop the skills necessary to be accomplished readers, writers, understand math concepts, and use problem solving and critical thinking skills to make good decisions.

Kindergarten Registration

Open House/Pre-Registration April 13, 2010 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Student Registration--August 3, 8:00-12:00 / August 4 & 5, 3:00-7:00

Begin to look for your child's birth certificate. You will need to bring it in when you fill out the paperwork. **Dental, vision, and physical examinations plus the required immunizations must be completed by a physician prior to the first day of school, and be given to the school for verification.** Parents are encouraged to arrange their appointments with their child's physician well in advance of the beginning of the school year. Please make every effort to turn in all immunization information at registration time.

The general immunizations required for school include:

- MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)
- DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis)
- IPV (Inactive Polio Vaccine)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Please note: Evidence of your child having Varicella (Chicken Pox), or having been immunized against Varicella, is now necessary as required by state mandate. If your child has had Varicella, a doctor's notice is required and immunization is not necessary.

The Blood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1994 requires the screening of children (ages 6 months to 6 years of age) for lead poisoning and a statement from a physician or health care provider verifying the screening prior to admission to school.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

The following information is designed to tell parents what we teach in our Kindergarten Program and when the skill is taught.

FIRST SEMESTER

Reading and Writing

- ✓ Recognizes 9 basic colors.
- ✓ Notices that illustrations help tell stories.
- ✓ Learns that books have a title and an author and/or illustrator.
- ✓ Participates in shared writing.
- ✓ Prints first name beginning with a capital letter.
- ✓ Learns how to form the letters of the alphabet.
- ✓ Uses letter formation in his/her writing.
- ✓ Recognizes and names the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.
- ✓ Identifies the sounds of the letters of the alphabet.
- ✓ Dictates words, sentences, or stories.
- ✓ Strings letters together randomly.
- ✓ Writes left to right, top to bottom.
- ✓ Begins to spell phonetically.
- ✓ Can track print left to right.
- ✓ Recognizes punctuation.
- ✓ Responds to riddles.
- ✓ Identifies words that rhyme.

Math

- ✓ Counts backwards 10-0.
- ✓ Understands Calendar facts (days of the week, months of year, seasons, holidays, patterning)
- ✓ Recognizes and writes the numerals 1-25.
- ✓ Rote counts and counts objects to 25.
- ✓ Creates and continues patterns using manipulatives.
- ✓ Recognizes and understands ordinal numbers.
- ✓ Reads and understands basic graphing concepts.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

SECOND SEMESTER

Reading and Writing

- ✓ Prints last name beginning with a capital letter.
- ✓ Writes words phonetically with beginning, middle, and ending sounds.
- ✓ Leaves spaces between words.
- ✓ Includes vowels in words.
- ✓ Spells high frequency words correctly.
- ✓ Experiments with punctuation.
- ✓ Reads common sight words.
- ✓ Is beginning to predict rhyming words.
- ✓ Reads color and number words.
- ✓ Uses knowledge of initial sounds, final sounds, and blending to begin reading simple predictable text.
- ✓ Guided Reading is implemented to reinforce Reading skills at ability level.

Math

- ✓ Recognizes and writes the numerals 1-100.
- ✓ Rote counts and counts objects to 100.
- ✓ Continues a rhythmic pattern such as clap, snap for 15 seconds.
- ✓ Counts to 10 by 2's.
- ✓ Counts to 50 by 5's.
- ✓ Counts to 100 by 10's.
- ✓ Measures using various types of tools, such as measuring cups, rulers, scales, and manipulatives.
- ✓ Knows spatial positioning and directional words.
- ✓ Uses the processes of addition and subtraction.
- ✓ Tells a number story.
- ✓ Makes a number sentence.
- ✓ Creates a number story using addition and subtraction.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

Parents are a child's first teacher. You can help your child feel secure in school by your attitudes and reactions. The following list can be used as a guide in directing your child's learning experiences at home.

- ✓ Teach your child to dress himself/herself and to button, zip and tie, to put on mittens/gloves and boots.
- ✓ Read books to your child and encourage him/her to retell the stories in sequence.
- ✓ Help your child feel important. You can do this by showing a sincere interest in the things your child brings home from school.
- ✓ Teach common courtesies, such as listening when others speak and by saying please, thank you, and excuse me.
- ✓ Encourage your child to perform simple tasks at home. When tasks have been accomplished, praise your child.
- ✓ Listen to your child when he/she speaks to you. Always encourage him/her to speak distinctly and in complete sentences.
- ✓ Provide experiences that help the child establish a sensitivity toward all living things, a concern for others and the ability to get along with others.
- ✓ Help him/her with large muscle development: Hopping, skipping, climbing, sliding, and stair climbing. Help him/her with small muscle development: cutting, pasting and finger play.
- ✓ Provide many learning opportunities. For example, use road signs for number and letter identification; a downtown shopping trip for help with colors; a rainy afternoon for drawing shapes; counting the silverware as it is put around the table and a game of picking words that start or end the same.
- ✓ Good conduct originates in the home. It is the obligation of parents, through their teaching and by their example, to help their child develop attitudes of respect for himself/herself, for the school, for the teachers and staff and for other children.

SCHOOL POLICIES

PHYSICAL, DENTAL, & VISION EXAMS—You will need to present a copy of your child's physical examination, appropriate immunizations, dental, and vision exam before he/she is allowed to enter school. It is very important that the school office and the teacher be informed if your child has allergies of any kind or any other health issues.

ABSENCES—Parents should contact the school before 8:30 a.m. when the student will not be in school. The student will receive an unexcused absence if the parent does not contact the school office the morning of the absence or the student fails to bring a note from the parent when he/she returns to school.

MONEY—Any money that is sent to school should be sent in a sealed envelope that has your child's name, the amount of money enclosed and the purpose for which the money is intended. Lunch will be \$1.85 per day. Money will be credited to your child's lunch account. Please pay by the week, month, or semester.

SNACKS—The children will have a classroom snack each day. All snacks should be store bought. Please do not send snacks that need microwaved.

FIELD TRIPS—Whenever a trip is planned, the teacher will send a note home informing you of the date, time and nature of the field trip.

REPORT CARDS & PARENT CONFERENCES—Kindergarten children receive report cards four times each year, once every nine weeks. Progress reports are not issued to Kindergarten students, but parents or the teacher may request a conference whenever it is believed to be necessary. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for October and March.

CLOTHING/SUPPLIES—Please put your child's name on all items for easy identification.

BUSES—Walk your child to the bus stop several times so he/she will know the route. The first few days of school make sure your child wears a tag with his/her name, address, and telephone number on it. Always send a note to the teacher whenever you will be picking up your child from school.

PARENTS' CLUB—All parents are invited to take an active part in our parents' club. This group provides an excellent way for parents to become actively involved in their child's school. Different events and programs are scheduled throughout the school year.

HANDBOOK—A Student Handbook of all school policies, important dates and other vital information is available on the school's website.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL—The front doors open at 7:45 a.m. School starts at 8:10 and dismisses at 3:05 for bus students and town students. There is early out every Wednesday—2:05 dismissal for bus students and town students. Kindergarten students will be dismissed at the front doors outside the office. Please inform the classroom teacher who will be picking up your child after school or any special circumstances or changes with a note.

A Message for Kindergarten Parents

- K** Kindle excitement about Kindergarten. Visit your school and meet your child's teacher.
- I** Invite new school friends home to play and help your child build strong friendships.
- N** Never forget safety. Teach your child safety rules—whether walking or taking the bus.
- D** Discuss what your child will be learning in school—colors, numbers, shapes, and letters.
- E** Encourage, expect and help your child learn to tie shoes.
- R** Review the good behavior expected of your child, such as following rules and taking turns.
- G** Get involved at your child's school. Join Parents' Club. Volunteer in the classroom.
- A** Answer your child's questions about school. Reassure your child that school is fun.
- R** Read to your child daily. Visit the library together.
- T** Turn every day into a learning experience. Let your child help with everyday chores.
- E** Encourage your child to eat well, get enough sleep, bathe daily, and brush teeth twice a day.
- N** Notice new things your child is learning to do. Reinforce your child's progress with praise.