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Forward

Welcome to Kindergarten! This booklet was prepared so parents of our students would have some of their questions answered regarding our kindergarten program. I believe that through the cooperation of the home and school, your child will grow and learn in a positive way. I encourage you to be involved in your child's education. By working together as a team your child's academic journey will be successful in the upcoming 2017/2018 school year. As a kindergarten teacher, I believe in nurturing social-emotional skills in each child and creating joyful school memories.

Kindergarten is a magical journey. I value dramatic play, block building, dance and movement, and the many forms of literacy play. I feel children should be active learners and disciplined, creative thinkers, make good choices, work cooperatively, and be kind and responsible. I want your child to look forward to coming to school each day! You are now officially a member of the kindergarten family!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at your convenience. Welcome!

Sincerely,

Kay Senn
Kindergarten Teacher



Staff

Mr. Kurt Lindau, District Administrator
Mr. Adam Zopp, Principal

Mrs. Kay Senn, Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Nicole Crosby, Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Linda Kinsley, Elementary Office 266-3301
Mrs. Randi Bodo, High School Secretary/Registrar 266-3301 ext. 2246

A Message to Parents and Students of the Class of 2030

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the staff, I would like to welcome you and your child to the Winter Elementary School.

Starting school is an exciting time for children. If you have concerns about how those first days will go please let us know. We can work together to create a plan to increase the chance of a smooth start for your child.

During the school year, feel free to contact the teacher or principal if there is something we can help you with. Strong relationships between families and schools greatly increase student success.

We want this school year to be the best ever for children and families in the Winter School District. By working together in the best interests of our children, we can see that it is.

Adam Zopp
K-12 Principal



Bringing Money

Your child will have to bring money to school on many occasions during the kindergarten year. When you send this money, please be sure to send it in a sealed envelope with your child's full name, the teacher's name on it, the amount of money and what it's for, and the date it was sent. Please pin the envelope to your child's shirt.

Clothing

It is important that all sweaters and outdoor clothing such as hats, mittens, boots, scarves, etc. be labeled with your child's full name. This is to reduce losses and mix-ups. The children play outside every morning and noon recess. It is important that they dress appropriately for the weather. They do stay in when it is below zero or raining. Please send one set of extra clothing including underwear to keep at school.

Materials Needed for Kindergarten

During our first week of kindergarten, either have your child or yourself drop off the following items:

1. 2 boxes of crayons with the basic colors only (regular size).
2. 2 big bottles of Elmer's white glue (not gel or glitter).
3. 1 pair of tennis shoes to be kept at school for phy. ed.
4. 1 large box of Kleenex.
5. Lots of pencils.
6. Pencil box.
7. Backpack.
8. 2 rolls of paper towels.
9. Fiskar scissors.
10. 2 – 2 pocket folders.
11. Markers – washable only.
12. 2 lined notebook for printing.
13. Optional-watercolors, colored pencils.

****If there is a need for additional materials, your child's teacher will inform you by note. Label ALL materials with your child's full name please.**

There will be an open house prior to school actually starting. Please feel free to bring in all of your kinder's school materials during our open house.





The School Day

It is the policy of the elementary school system to allow students to enter the building upon arrival when the weather is rainy, stormy or severely cold. Children may enter the building and proceed to their classrooms on any day 15 minutes prior to the time class begins. We are, therefore, asking your cooperation; we would like to have you send the children to school so their arrival time will comply with this request. If this creates any problems for you, please contact the principal.

Your child will have a schedule similar to the following (subject to change):

Morning

Opening, attendance
Counting, planning, calendar
Sharing
Reading readiness/Language arts
Recess
Milk/snack break
Math readiness/Learning Centers
Lunch

Afternoon

Story and rest
Art
Music/Physical Education
Unit work Science & Social Studies
Individual activity time

Academic Demands

It may appear that little academic growth is fostered in kindergarten. This, of course, is not the case. Many valuable skills are achieved even though the typical kindergarten pupil does not read from a textbook. Physical coordination, social behavior, and listening skills are important parts of the child's kindergarten experience.

Listening is essential to enlarging the vocabulary and reading comprehension. Missing directions or part of a story because of not listening should be used as a learning experience.

Your child will be expected to learn to recognize, identify all letters and produce the appropriate sound for consonants.

The child should learn to recognize the numbers 1 through 20, count 20 or more objects, and learn simple concepts as presented in the mathematics books.

WORK AND PLAY ARE THE SAME TO THE YOUNG CHILD THEY LEARN FROM BOTH!!

Sharing Time and Self-Image Units

Sharing time or “Show and Tell” is a popular activity in kindergarten. This is an organized time when an individual child shows the class something he has brought from home (books, toys, games, etc.) or tells about some event. Parents should help their children so they bring worthwhile things. It might also be helpful to discuss with your child what they plan to talk about.

A very special feature of the kindergarten year is the child’s opportunity to participate in a self-image unit. They will bring things from home about themselves that will help the children better understand them. Such things as baby photos, baby clothes, books, and hobby items are nice. Each child then shows the class the things and talks about themselves. These things are then displayed in the room. Parents often enjoy visiting school during this time to share interesting stories about the child and his family.

Report Card

Report cards are used to inform you of your child’s progress in school. In the report these areas of your child’s growth are considered:

1. How your child is progressing in his attitudes and habits; and
2. Their progress in school subjects such as language, reading readiness, physical education, number work, science, social studies, music and art.

Report cards will be sent home at the end of each quarter.

Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences give the parents and teachers a chance to meet and talk about their child’s strong and weak areas and any areas of concern. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall and again in the spring. These conferences give parents and teachers a chance to meet and discuss each child’s progress. Parents are encouraged to make every effort to attend these conferences. Parents may, at any time, schedule a parent-teacher conference with their child’s teacher. This may be done by calling the school. If, at anytime of the year problems arise, you may call and arrange to have an additional conference.



Absence from School

We encourage regular attendance, but ask that you help us prevent colds and epidemics by keeping your child home whenever there is a sign of illness. For a small child, it is very miserable to become sick at school. *See contagious diseases policy. **A written explanation (or phone call)** of your child's absence, **for any reason**, should be sent to the District Office upon your child's return.

Leaving During the School Day

There are times when a parent needs to take their child out of school for appointments, etc. We would like all parents to use the following procedure when signing your child out:

1. Parent reports to the District Office.
2. Elementary office aide calls child to the office.
3. Parents sign the student out.

Adults Other Than Parent Picking Student Up

1. Parents must either call or write a note than the student is leaving early with an adult other than themselves.
2. Teacher informs the elementary secretary of the note or phone call or she informs the teacher of the note or phone call.
3. The above steps are followed when the adult arrives at school to pick the student up.

**** IMPORTANT: The student does not leave the building until the above steps are followed.**



Suggestions for Home Activities to Prepare for School

Language Activities

1. Make up a story and ask your child to end it or retell it.
2. Play word games in which you say a word and your child says a word that means the opposite or same meaning or that goes together.
3. Ask your child to say a sentence about a picture he or she has drawn. Write the sentence under the picture.
4. Use follow-the-dot books to practice counting and to practice the alphabet.
5. Help your child count toys, beads, fruit, people at the table, etc.

Auditory Activities

1. Ask your child to listen to sounds heard indoors and outdoors and to tell you what makes each sound.
2. Have your child hide their eyes and guess various sounds you make, such as closing a door, ringing a bell, dropping a book, etc.
3. Play rhyming games by giving your child one word and asking your child to give many others. (The Dr. Seuss books are good for this game.)
4. Ask your child to look around the house to name things which begin with the same sound.
5. Say three words and have your child repeat them. Increase the number to four, five, six (words must be repeated in order). Do the same for the following directions, beginning with one and increasing (say once).
6. Use an alphabet book or magnetic letters on your refrigerator to help your child learn the names of letters.

Visual Activities

1. Put three objects on a tray. Let your child look at them for a few seconds. Cover them up and have your child name the objects.
2. Help your child to recognize and identify letters in various signs when traveling or at the grocery store.
3. Make designs using beads, blocks, or tinker toys to help your child sort according to color, size, or shape. Also have them sort things into categories such as furniture, clothing, fruit, vegetables, meat, etc.

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.
“Becoming a Nation of Readers”

School Health Services

Teacher Observation: Teachers observe their children daily for physical, mental, or emotional problems. Suspected deviations from good health are brought to the attention of the parents.

Screening Procedures: Screening for hearing and vision impairments will be done in kindergarten, first, third and fifth grades. Parent notification and referral will be sent out when an impairment is noted. Height and weight monitoring will be done each year through fifth grade. Scoliosis (spine) screening will be done in fifth and eighth grades.

Contagious Diseases: Parents should notify the school of any communicable disease (i.e. chicken pox, head lice, mononucleosis, pink eye, scabies, strep throat, etc.) Winter School District has a *no nit policy for head lice*. *Please examine student's hair and scalp weekly*. "Mono", pink eye, scabies, and strep throat must be confirmed by a physician and treatment prescribed. Antibiotics must have been taken for 24 hours, no fever and physician instructions must accompany the student when returning to school.

First Aid and Care for Emergency Illness at School: Parents are notified of accidents or illness at school and are then expected to assume the responsibility for the care of their children. The school must always have the information needed to get in touch with the parents or other responsible persons (with whom you have made previous arrangements) should an emergency arise. Be sure to notify the school if changes are made. You will be asked to complete an emergency medical card which will provide this information.

Health Examinations: A physical examination by a physician is required for every child entering kindergarten. Each student entering kindergarten is required to provide evidence that he/she has had their eyes examined by an optometrist or physician (WI Act 16-2201).





Immunizations: There is a Wisconsin State Law (State Statute No. 140.05) requiring that ALL students have their immunization program completed before they enter school. This may be done at the time the child gets their physical or the monthly clinic provided by the county nursing services. The only exceptions are for those with a statement from their doctors exempting them for health reasons or from their pastor for religious reasons or personal waiver. The number of doses required are:

4 DTP/DT/Td - - 4 Polio - - 2 MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
3 Hepatitis B - -2 Varicella (chicken pox)

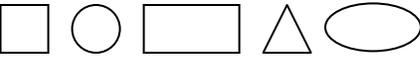
One dose Of DTP/DT/Td and polio must be after the 4th birthday. Two Chicken Pox (Varicella) immunizations or date of disease is required before the start of school in the fall. A Sawyer County Public Health nurse comes to Winter for WIC and will administer vaccines. A \$2.00 donation is requested for each immunization. Please call 1-800-569-4162 ext. 2404.

Health Records: A pupil health record is kept for each child in school. It shows the results of examinations, screening tests, referrals, and observations of pupil health. Please make the school aware of all special conditions.



Skills Helpful for Functioning At School

We would like your child to be able to:

1. Dress self for indoors and outdoors.
2. Zip clothing and tie shoes.
3. Blow his/her nose.
4. Print name (in lower case) except for first letter.
5. Know 8 basic colors
6. Identify shapes: 
7. Count to 20.
8. Hold a pencil comfortably.
9. Use a scissors comfortably.
10. Know 5-10 nursery rhymes.
11. Recite the alphabet and recognize most letters.

Messages

Important messages from school are sent home with your child in the form of a written note. It is your child's responsibility to deliver this note to you. If your child is to ride a different bus or leave with someone other than the parent, a daily note sent with the child is required.

Please advise the school if your address/phone number/email address changes during the school year.

Visitation by Children

Occasionally, we have requests by pupils to bring other children to school. We discourage this type of visit by other children and ask that parents cooperate.

School Visitation by Parents

Parents are invited to visit kindergarten anytime after the first month of school. Parents should call the school before coming as there might be special activities planned. The teachers would like you to come often and stay for a short time or arrange a visit to become a parent or grandparent helper at a specific time each week.

Speech and Language Services

The Winter School District is able to provide speech and language development services for those children who may benefit from them. Children who qualify for the elementary program are those in kindergarten through fifth grade (K-5), and who exhibit need for speech and language development services. Recently, the emphasis has been in the area of language.

Those children who are enrolled in speech therapy are seen several times a week for 20 to 30 minute periods. Usually they are seen individually in order to deal with their specific needs – sometimes small groups are needed.

1. Language – A child may be weak in the number of words he knows (vocabulary), the order of his words in sentences, or in general grammar skills. Kindergarten children are at an early language development level and may have difficulties with some skills that come later developmentally.

2. Articulation – Children learn speech sounds in a developmental order just as they acquire other skills. When articulation of speech sounds is below the child’s age expectations, articulation therapy is recommended if a language problem is also present. All of the sounds should be developed by seven and a half or eight years of age.

3. Hearing – Your child may have a hearing loss if he exhibits one or more of the following characteristics; does not respond when spoken to; responds inappropriately when spoken to; watches other people’s mouth movements closely (a form of lip-reading); and talks exceptionally loud or softly.

If you suspect a hearing loss in your child, speak either to the classroom teacher, the school nurse, or the speech and language clinician.



School Psychological Services

The Winter School District has a school psychologist to provide psychological services to all school district pupils. Each year, several kindergarten children are assisted by the availability of the following services:

- Ⓜ **Evaluation** of your child's educational strengths and needs when necessary.
- Ⓜ **Counseling** with your child about personal and social concerns that may be bothering them.
- Ⓜ **Consultation** with you and the teacher about matters related to your child's learning.
- Ⓜ **Behavior Management** to assist your child in learning more appropriate ways of behaving.
- Ⓜ **Social Skills Training** to help your child acquire greater social competence.
- Ⓜ **Crisis Intervention** for traumatic emotional situations that may affect your child.
- Ⓜ **Coordination** of the overall psychological and special education programs.
- Ⓜ **Advocacy** for appropriate educational experiences for all children.
- Ⓜ **Liaison** with outside clinics and agencies on behalf of your child.

*Joel Johnson
School Psychologist
266-3301 ext. 2248*



**A Parent's Checklist on Helping
Children Get Ready to Read**

I sing and recite nursery songs and rhymes to my child, and have done so since he/she was an infant. I read something (newspaper, magazine, book) every day. Every day my child sees me getting pleasure and information from READING.

- I have a library card, the best of all credit cards.
- I take my child to the library frequently.
- Together we look at children's books and select some to borrow for reading aloud at home.
- I read aloud to my child at least fifteen minutes every day.
- I often ask my child to tell me a story or describe something he/she has seen or done.
- Sometimes I write down what he/she tells me and read back his/her "story" to him.
- I am on the lookout for story telling and Read-Aloud hours at the public library, a church, or elsewhere and I arrange to take my child or have him/her taken to them.
- I take my child on brief excursions (walks, bus or car rides, shopping trips, visits to firehouse, farm, park, zoo, and so on) to increase his/her stock of experiences and words.
- I devise sorting games and tasks to help him/her see the differences and likenesses in shape, size, color and texture.
- We play word games and listening games so he/she will learn to listen attentively.
- I encourage my child to draw and scribble.
- Books are at the top of my list for my child's birthday and Christmas gifts.
- My child has his/her own bookshelf) what if it's only a carton from the grocery store?) for his/her own books.
- My child watches Sesame Street and other selected TV programs.
- We talk about these programs and often peruse through books the interests they have stimulated.
- When a question arises in our family, we have a habit of looking for information or checking facts in a dictionary, almanac, encyclopedia or online.
- I invite other children to play with my child, so that when he/she starts school, social experiences will not be too new and distracting.
- I praise his/her efforts and accomplishments so that he/she will have self-confidence and zest for new adventures in learning.
- I have my child's health checked by a physician at regular intervals.
- I am on the lookout for signs of defective sight or hearing.
- I am sensitive to my children's shifting book interests and stay out of his/her way when he seems to want to explore the world of books on his/her own.
- I attend parent/teacher conferences.
- I volunteer at my child's school or visit school when invited.