

# MKA Kindergarten FAQ Sheet

## CLOTHING

1. What is the school uniform?
  - a. Plain jumpers (solid navy or khaki)
  - b. Slacks, walking shorts and skorts (solid navy, khaki, or sand)
  - c. Collared shirts and turtlenecks (any solid color)
  - d. Sweater – any solid color cardigan, crew or v-neck (optional)
  - e. Socks or tights can be any solid color
  - f. Closed-toe shoes, sneakers preferred
2. What is Friday Spirit Day?
  - a. On Fridays, students are allowed to wear “Spirit Attire,” which consists of any MKA Cougars apparel.
  - b. During Spirit Day, students are also permitted to wear denim, but they must follow the rest of the school dress code.
3. Should my child bring a change of clothes?
  - a. Yes. Please send in a large Ziploc bag filled with school uniform clothing: pants/skirt, leggings, long sleeve shirt, short-sleeved shirt, socks, and underwear.
4. What is concert attire and field trip attire?
  - a. For concerts and field trips both: white short-sleeved, pique polo shirt with navy MKA logo (*See Lands’ End attire order form available at <https://www.mka.org/parents/back2school>*)
  - b. Khaki pants/skirt/skort
5. Does my child need snow clothes/boots?
  - a. For rainy/muddy days, it is very helpful for children to leave a pair of boots in the classroom for the duration of the school year. They will be used all year and especially during the cold weather months when the children still go outside as well as on muddy days for exploring and jumping in puddles. We will send out an email as the winter season approaches, reminding families to send in snow clothes (which we would prefer to stay at school). If you do not have an extra pair, we can certainly send snow clothes home.

## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

6. How can my child celebrate a birthday at school?
  - a. Your child can bring in a birthday snack (which must be approved by the nurse) to share with classmates and teachers.
  - b. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in May.
7. Whom do I notify if my child has allergies?
  - a. Notify your child’s teachers and Candice Carlson (nurse) of any allergies prior to the start of the school year.

## SNACK AND LUNCH

8. What do the children eat for snack?
  - a. Snack is provided by ButterBeans daily. All children have access to a nut/allergy free snack and fruit. Items served include pretzels, goldfish, and crackers/cheese. Fresh fruit is also provided, like grapes, oranges, and melon.
9. What are the procedures for lunch in K?
  - a. School lunch: Lunch is provided through ButterBeans and offers an array of healthy options from which your child can choose. The lunch teacher encourages children to try multiple options before requesting second helpings. Twice weekly, ButterBeans offers desserts.
  - b. Home lunch: Children who bring lunch from home will store lunch boxes in their cubbies.
  - c. Combination of both: On Fridays, some students opt to have pizza served by ButterBeans. If your child normally brings a home lunch but would like to purchase lunch on Fridays, please email Susie Cover at [scover@mka.org](mailto:scover@mka.org).
10. Should my child bring a water bottle to school?
  - a. Children should keep a water bottle (provided by you) in their cubbies. They will have opportunities throughout the day to fill their water bottles at the water station. Water bottles can be sent home on Fridays for cleaning.

## TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

11. Will there be field trips throughout the year?
  - a. Three or four field trips will be planned during the year. Parent SignUpGenius forms will be sent out by the class representatives for chaperones.
12. What are the morning drop-off procedures?
  - a. We understand that some students may have some trouble adjusting to school in the first weeks of school; however, we encourage you to begin using the car drop-off line in the morning sooner than later to help ease this transition. (You are welcome to walk your child to the classroom on the first day of school.) Students are welcome to come into the gym starting at 7:30 a.m.; they will line up as a grade level to head to their respective classrooms at 7:50 a.m. to get right to work on their morning responsibilities and table time activities.
13. If my child takes the bus, where do they go at the end of the day?
  - a. Children will gather in a specified location within the school building and will await their assigned buses. Teachers will escort children to their specified buses.
14. If my child is signed up for Extended Day, where will he/she go?
  - a. At 2:20 p.m., your child will be brought to the Extended Day teachers either outside on the back field or to the Extended Day room downstairs, weather depending.
  - b. At 3:45 p.m., children will be transported via bus to the Middle School for the remainder of their Extended Day time.

15. If my child participates in carline, where and when do I need to pick up?
  - a. Please plan to arrive no earlier than 2:30 p.m. Parents arriving before this time will not be allowed on campus (as we need the buses in place before parent cars can be allowed in the car line); security will ask them to leave the line and return after 2:30 p.m.
  - b. A visible sign with your last name must be placed on your front dash so that your child can be called and ready for pick-up.
  - c. The first spot in car line is awarded to the auction winner.
  - d. Due to the limited carline space, we will not be able to offer a separate carpool line, but we encourage parents to consider carpooling using the car line.
  - e. Please respect our neighbors and do not block driveways or intersections when waiting in the car line.
16. If we walk to and from school, where can I pick up at the end of the day?
  - a. If you plan to walk home with your child, please come to the front desk for pick-up - your child will come down and wait for you in the entryway.
17. Whom I do email or call if there is a change in my child's dismissal plan?
  - a. If there is a change to after-school plans for your child, please email [psnotifications@mka.org](mailto:psnotifications@mka.org) AND your child's two teachers no later than 1:30 p.m.

### **KINDERGARTEN LOGISTICS**

18. What is the six-day cycle and what does it look like? (see attached image)
19. Will my child study a world language?
  - a. Students will take French this year with Madame Roure. Half the students will go down to the French room while the other half stay in the room for Reading Workshop. French will happen four days out of the six-day cycle.
20. What is the Cougar of the Week?
  - a. Cougar of the Week allows fellow classmates as well as teachers to learn more about your child, family, and culture.
  - b. Each day has a specific theme for which your child will bring in an object of importance to them and share with the class.
  - c. You will be notified when it is your child's turn to be Cougar of the Week by a sign-up sheet at the beginning of the year.
21. What are Mystery Readers?

Using SignUpGenius, class parents will help coordinate days when parents can come read a special book from their child's home library to the class. Students love being surprised by parents and enjoying this very special opportunity. Typically, Mystery Readers visit each week on Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m.
22. When are the Writing Celebrations?
  - a. The first celebration follows the winter concert, and the second follows the spring concert.
  - b. Please join us in the classroom after the winter concert and spring concert to celebrate the process of writing and growth throughout the year.

23. When is the Class Play?

- a. In late May, your child will perform in our Kindergarten Play. The play is written with child input and sent home about a month before it takes place so that children can begin to learn their lines. Two weeks prior to the play, on-stage rehearsals begin. Notification will go home about costumes. Recordings of the play can be purchased at that time.

24. When will recess occur during the day?

- a. Recess takes place twice a day from 10:45 to 11:15 am and again from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- b. Recess will be outside each day, weather permitting. In the event of snow, students will need snow clothes, snow boots, gloves, and a winter hat in order to participate. Please mark all items with your child's first and last name.
- c. If the temperature goes below 25° F, recess will be held indoors.

25. If I want to be a class parent, whom do I contact?

- a. The Kindergarten Representative will reach out via email to see if anyone is interested in being a class parent. Class parents help organize parties, field trips, and send reminder notifications throughout the year.

### **PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

26. Will I receive monthly contact?

- a. One of your child's classroom teachers will contact you individually at least once a month by phone or email, whichever is easiest and most convenient for you, to discuss your child's progress and social/emotional well-being. In months where progress reports go home or we have a conference day, progress reports and/or conferences count as your monthly contact; however, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time!

27. How should I contact my child's teachers?

- a. While you may hear from one teacher in particular for monthly contacts, please address all emails and inquiries to both classroom teachers; one will certainly always get back to you. We try and check our email at various times/breaks during the day and will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours.

28. What does the Kindergarten Orientation Day for students and parents look like?

- a. There is an opportunity for you and your child to come into the classroom, engage in an activity together, and begin to feel a bit more comfortable before the first day of school.

29. Whom do I contact if my child will be absent?

- a. When your child is ill and will be absent, please call the Primary School receptionist, Colleen Helsel, at 973-783-8805 or email [psnotifications@mka.org](mailto:psnotifications@mka.org) between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

BK	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
8:00 - 8:30						
8:30 - 9:00						
9:00 - 9:20 French/Read Split	*9:00 - 9:20 French Grp 1		*9:00 - 9:20 French Grp 1			*9:00 - 9:20 French Grp 1
	Read - Grp 2		Read - Grp 2			Read - Grp 2
9:15 - 9:35	*9:25 - 9:45 French Grp 2		*9:25 - 9:45 French Grp 2			*9:25 - 9:45 French Grp 2
	Read Grp 1		Read Grp 1	9:50 - 10:10 French Grp 1		Read Grp 1
9:45 - 10:00				Read Grp 2		
				10:15 - 10:35 French Grp 2		
10:00 - 10:15		9:50-10:35 Art Grp 1		Read Grp 1	9:50-10:35 Art Grp 1	
		9:50-10:35 Lib. Grp 2			9:50-10:35 Lib. Grp 2	
10:20 - 10:35						
10:35 - 10:45				Read - grp 1		
10:45 - 11:00	<b>RECESS</b>					
11:00 - 11:15	<b>RECESS</b>					
11:15 - 11:30						
11:30 - 11:45						
11:45 - 12:00						
12:00 - 12:15	<b>LUNCH</b>					
12:15 - 12:30	<b>LUNCH</b>					
12:30 - 12:45		Dance Grp 1		12:30 - 1:00 Music	Dance Grp 2	
12:45 - 1:00	PE	Science Grp 2	PE		Science Grp 1	PE
1:00 - 1:15						All school common time and Pre-K 3rd Buddies
1:15 - 1:30						
1:30 - 1:45	<b>RECESS</b>					
1:45 - 2:00	<b>RECESS</b>					
2:00 - 2:20	Contact Time: 27.75 Hours per 6 days			*On Fridays French will begin after the assembly.		

GK	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
8:00 - 8:15						
8:15 - 8:30						
8:30 - 8:45						
8:45 - 9:00						
9:00 - 9:15						
<del>9:15 - 9:30</del> French/Read Split		*9:00 - 9:20 Fren Read - grp 2		*9:00 - 9:20 Fren Read - grp 2	*9:00 - 9:20 Fren Read - grp 2	
9:50 - 10:10 French/Read Split	9:50 - 10:10 Fren Read Grp 2	9:35- 9:55 Fren Read - grp 1	9:50 - 10:35 Art C	9:35- 9:55 Fren Read - grp 1	9:35- 9:55 Fren Read - grp 1	9:50 - 10:35 Art C
10:00 - 10:15	10:15 - 10:35 French Grp 2					
10:15 - 10:30	Read Grp 1		9:50 - 10:35 Lib.			9:50 - 10:35 Lib.
10:30 - 10:45						
10:45 - 11:00	<b>RECESS</b>					
11:00 - 11:15						
11:15 - 11:30						
11:30 - 11:45						
11:45 - 12:00						
12:00 - 12:15	<b>LUNCH</b>					
12:15 - 12:30						
12:30 - 12:45	Dance Grp 1		Dance Grp 2			
12:55 - 1:00	Read Grp 2	PE	Read Grp 1	PE	PE	12:30 - 1:00 Mus
1:00 - 1:15	1:05 -1:25 Science Grp 2		1:05 -1:25 Science Grp 1			
1:15 - 1:30	1:05 -1:25 Read Grp 1		1:05 -1:25 Read Grp 2			
1:30 - 1:45						
1:45 - 2:00	RECESS					All school comm
2:00 - 2:20	Contact Time: 27.75 Hours per 6 days			*On Fridays French will begin after the assembly.		



# Cougar of the Week!



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\_\_\_\_\_ has been selected to be our Cougar of the Week  
during the week of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Monday**

Wear a Cougar Crown provided by the teachers and  
share their Cougar poster.

## **Tuesday**

Wear their favorite outfit to school.  
(Dress code is NOT required)

## **Wednesday**

Bring in their favorite toy to share with the class.

## **Thursday**

Bring their favorite book to share with the class.

## **Friday**

Bring in a favorite snack (NUT free) to share with the class.

We look forward to learning more  
about your child this week!