

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Merion School! Many of you came for a visit last spring and we had a chance to meet. A few of you are probably new – and we are very excited to meet you in September. This will be a special year for all of us. Here are a few things to think about before the first day of kindergarten:

1. **Learning new names:** We'll be making new friends and names are important. Please let us know what name your child would prefer to be called and to learn to write properly. We will be learning to write names with capital and lowercase letters.
2. **Backpacks:** Your backpack should be large enough to accommodate a two-pocket folder and a large library book. We suggest that you place an index card inside with your home address and bus information on it (when you receive it). There are often substitute bus drivers and sometimes children DO forget their address or bus stop. Please CHECK THE BACKPACKS every day or at least once a week.
3. **Label your clothing:** You would be surprised at how many pieces of clothing we accumulate over the year – and we have a hard time finding the rightful owners! Please write your child's name inside jackets, umbrellas, mittens, etc. We do a variety of projects in Kindergarten – some require painting or outside play. Wear clothing that can easily be washed. (A spare set of LABELED clothing – in case of bathroom accidents – is another good idea.)
4. **Communications from Home:** Please help us by returning all necessary forms in a timely manner. The first days of school will have numerous forms to return. Thursday envelopes are used throughout the year to help get important papers home to you. If you have an urgent message, call the office and the message will be relayed to us. E-mail is available – but not always checked during the course of the school day.
5. **Early Dismissal:** Kindergarten students will not attend on parent conference days. (Students will continue as in the past to attend during the days of evening conferences.) Only the AM Kindergarten sections will attend the half-day in-service days. This takes into consideration the likelihood of a few late openings due to inclement weather in 2017-18. On those late opening days, only PM Kindergarten students will meet. A list of dates will be sent in the Fall.

6. Kindergarten Supplies: If you start your school shopping early, we suggest the following items. Please do not label items unless noted.

- a bottle of hand soap
- 10 glue sticks
- 2 two-pocket folders (plastic, not paper)
- 2 large pink erasers
- 2 black dry erase markers
- a set of headphones (not earbuds) for iPad use [labeled]
- a roll of paper towels
- a box of tissues

7. Field Trips: You will be informed of all trips. Most trips are taken during the regular session (AM or PM). Permission slips are required for your child to come on a field trip.

8. Keep in touch: Kindergarten is a great year! We have lots of fun and learn lots of exciting things. We encourage parents to volunteer to help in our classes and to assist the Home and School in their activities.

AM Kindergarten Orientation – Tuesday, September 4 @ 10:30
PM Kindergarten Orientation – Wednesday, September 5 @ 10:30
(Everyone is encouraged to attend)

First Regular Kindergarten Day – Thursday, September 6, 2018

We hope you are as excited about coming to Merion as we are to have you! Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation. See you soon!

The Merion Kindergarten Team
Mrs. Nicole Wiggins
Ms. Meredith Johnson

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Introducing... YOUR Child

I'd like to know more about your child, through your eyes. The more I know, the better I can design an educational and motivational program to fit his or her particular needs.

Please answer the questions and complete the information below. Remember, this is from *your* point of view. Please send it in with your child as soon as it's completed. **PLEASE RETURN BY 9/6/19.**

Thank you!

Child's Name _____ Homeroom: _____

- List five (5) words that best describe your child's *character* (competitive, cheerful, perfectionist):

- What *motivates* your child?

- What *upsets* your child?

- What are your child's out-of-school *interests* and *activities*?

- What activities do you *share*? What problems/successes do you have working/playing together?

- What *study skills* does your child need to develop? (neatness, timeliness, organization, etc.)

- Which academic subjects are your child's best? Weakest?

- What particular academic areas would you like to see emphasized?

- What *social skills* would you like to see developed?

- Are there any *personal* or *physical problems* I should know (or conference privately) about?

- Other comments or concerns?

Parent

Signature _____