

South Colby Elementary

Kindergarten Parent Handbook

2020-2021



The Family School

South Kitsap School District #402
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South Colby Elementary School
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Welcome South Colby Parents!

On behalf of the Early Childhood Education staff at South Colby Elementary, we would like to welcome you to our Kindergarten/Primary program. Upon enrolling your child at South Colby Elementary School, we know that as parents you have certain expectations. We hope to live up to and exceed those expectations. Our kindergarten program uses developmentally appropriate practices to foster academic growth.

Through the materials we use and expertise of our teachers, your child will progress through several beginning learning activities. Our purpose is to help children develop a sense of awareness of the world around them and to help stimulate their natural curiosity to answer the "why and how" questions they have. We hope you will join us in this continuing effort as we observe children unfold into exciting, curious, and vivacious human beings. Please do not hesitate to call upon us at any time with your questions. Our purpose is to serve your child and you.

Go Bobcats!

Arrival/Dismissal

Children meet in the library before school each day starting at 8:45am. They are then escorted to their classroom at 9:00am. There is no outdoor play time prior to school, as the playground is not supervised at that time.

Kindergarten is in session from 9:05-3:40. Kindergarten children ride the same buses home as the children in grades 1-5.

Wednesdays are late start days. School begins at 9:50 and buses are scheduled to pick your child up 45 minutes later than normal to get them here on time for late start.

Birthdays

Each child's birthday will be celebrated in class. If you wish to bring in birthday treats on your child's birthday, please contact the teacher ahead of time. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in June. **Due to health laws, baked items must come from a bakery.** Please do not send birthday invitations to be distributed at school unless every class member is to be invited.

Bus Information

All Kindergarten children who ride the bus will be bussed both to and from school, either to your home or daycare depending upon the arrangements you made when you enrolled your child.

In the morning, children will be picked up at the regular bus stop near your home, or daycare, and will be riding to school with the older children. All kindergarten children will wear name tags and ID bracelets during the first few days of school to help them arrive to and from school safely with the least amount of confusion. Our district does require that there be an adult waiting at the bus stop to receive your kindergarten student or our bus drivers will not let them off the bus, unless they are accompanied by an older sibling. If a person other than the parent or guardian will be receiving the student, permission must be given in advance in writing. Forms to designate another adult to receive your kindergartener from the bus are available at the school office.

Any change in your child's regular transportation (bus or private car) requires a note from you or a phone call to the office at 443-3000, by 3:15 p.m. if possible. If someone other than you is picking up your child, be sure his/her name is included in the note and/or on your emergency list you have provided to the office. Please be sure the note comes to the office.

Friday Folder

South Colby has a school-wide policy of sending home the week's work in a folder every Friday. All-important notices, including the monthly newsletter will be included in the folder. We encourage you to spend time going through the folder with your child and have him/her return the folder on Monday.

How To Help Your Child Get Off To A Good Start Each Day!

- ♥ Be consistent with bed times and meal times; ten to twelve hours of sleep is recommended for children this age.
- ♥ Have a good, healthy diet, including a good breakfast.
- ♥ Help your child get up in plenty of time for school so he or she does not have to hurry and is wide-awake when school starts.
- ♥ Children are happier when they are wearing neat, clean, comfortable clothes and shoes appropriate for school activities.
- ♥ Get to school at the proper time.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- ♥ READ TO YOUR CHILD ON A DAILY BASIS!
- ♥ Encourage an interest in stories and books. Talk about the story and pictures. Visit the public library with your child.
- ♥ Write out your child's story as he/she dictates it to you.
- ♥ Encourage your child to share in family responsibilities. Provide opportunities to meet and play with other children. Encourage your child to do simple household tasks, put away toys, etc.
- ♥ Take your child on trips to explore the wonders of nature. Encourage your youngster to take interesting items to school.
- ♥ Be enthusiastic about your child's artistic efforts. Display them! Provide materials for art activities at home. Encourage singing and other music experiences.
- ♥ Help your child to write his/her name beginning with a capital letter and using lower case letters to finish. Help him/her to recognize the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. Count objects with your child.
- ♥ Encourage good health habits, pointing out the importance of diet, cleanliness, and proper rest. Suggest safety procedures. Stress the mandatory seat belt law.
- ♥ Encourage participation in family discussions; encourage proper enunciation and correct grammar. Listen when your child talks to you.
- ♥ You can help develop good habits at home that will help your child at school.
- ♥ Please take time to talk to your child about his/her school day and to go through his/her schoolwork together. Share your enthusiasm and excitement by praising his or her efforts and work progress. Your interest and attitude is of concern to your child. Make it known that what happens in the classroom is of the greatest importance.

Illness at School

Parents are encouraged to keep ill children at home. Any child with a cold, earache, toothache, elevated temperature, rash, etc. should be kept home and under the care of a physician.

Some of the typical diseases are:

Chicken Pox—excluded from school for a week or until all blisters/lesions have crusted over.

German Measles—excluded three days

Measles—excluded for one week

Mumps—excluded for a week until swelling of salivary glands has subsided

- ♥ **Medications:** it is an administrative policy that the district nurse or any member of the faculty must not administer medication at school. In special cases where medication must be taken at school, only oral medication is permissible with the proper school district form (Administration of Medication at School, Form 157A). No ear, eye, or nose drops will be administered. Medications must be provided with the exact dosage in the original container with a doctor signed Medication at School Form. Any medication that needs to be cut into pieces (i.e. tablets cut in half or quarters) must be pre-cut by the parent.

- ♥ **Illness/Accidents:** Parents are responsible to provide transportation for injured or ill children. Be sure you have provided the school office with an emergency contact list in the event you are unable to come pick your child due to illness or accident. School insurance is available to students at school. The policy insures a student at school, coming or going to school, and school-sponsored activities. The form will come in all Friday Folders at the beginning of the school year.

Requirements for Entering Kindergarten

All children Kindergarten must be five years old on or before midnight August 31. A birth certificate must be shown to the school office when a child is registered. Children entering kindergarten in the fall must have all required vaccinations during the summer. These include booster shots for DTP, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B, and Varicella. The state requires that each child entering have immunizations up to date.

Sharing

We provide opportunities for children to speak to the class by sharing ideas and thoughts. Speaking to the group is a valuable tool in developing oral language and listening skills. We do not have a formal "Show and Tell" time. Students do not bring toys to school. Pets may only be brought after making prior arrangements with the teacher.

Snacks

We have found that the children function better with a small nutritious snack, especially for those children who have a long bus ride or who had breakfast quite early in the morning. You will need to send a snack with your child each day. **Please avoid juice and messy snacks.**

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FOOD ALLERGY PLEASE LET US KNOW.

PE/Dress code

Students are asked to wear clothes that are neat, clean and suitable for school. Personal appearance can have a positive effect on children. Physical Education is part of our educational program and children need to be dressed so that they may actively participate in the activities. Clothing which interferes with or distracts from the educational process or depicts something illegal is not acceptable. This might include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Extremely tight or excessive form-fitted clothing
2. Excessively short or revealing clothing to include midriffs
3. Sagging or extremely baggy clothing which may allow the underwear to be exposed
4. Clothing, backpacks, jewelry, or insignia with drug/alcohol/tobacco related pictures messages
5. Any garment/footwear which could be considered unsafe (such as open-toed shoes, sandals, and platform shoes)
6. Students may not wear hats in the building
7. Chains (wallet type) of any kind or size
8. Any clothing that may be perceived as gang related
9. Spaghetti strap shirts or dresses
10. Tennis shoes with the rollers in the soles. It can be a real hazard for students as well as other students and adults within the vicinity.
11. No makeup. If a staff member observes a student with makeup (which includes eye liner, mascara, blush and lipstick), they will direct them to the bathroom to wash it off.

Tips for Parents

Here are some suggestions:

1. Please pin your child's name and address with bus number on his/her person for at least the first three days.
2. Learn the school and bus schedule in advance so that everything will go smoothly that first day.
3. Know the school calendar—which days your child will be in or out of school.
4. Label all articles of clothing and any other school item with your child's name.
5. Return all forms requested by the teacher or school. Send a written absentee notice to the school office when your child has been absent or tardy. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!**
6. If your child brings money to school, place it in a sealed envelope with his or her name, the teacher's name and room number on it.
7. Feel free to consult with the teacher at all times.
8. We are looking forward to working your child—and with you. We can all contribute to this most important endeavor!

Volunteers

Our kindergarten program has been very successful, and we feel that our faithful volunteer parents have contributed greatly to its success. If you wish to volunteer your time, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher or our Volunteer Coordinator, Mae Hawkins, in the office at 443-3005. All volunteers must have the volunteer application filled out which also includes a background check. Please stop in the office during those times to fill out the form. If you become

a volunteer, then we ask that you make arrangements for younger siblings on your volunteer day in the classroom. Please call and leave a message for the teacher if you are unable to attend your scheduled time. This enables the teacher to find other help or change the plans accordingly.

Last, But Not Least...

Welcome to South Colby Elementary!

Your "little one" is not so little anymore. The years fly by, and before we realize it, your "toddler" is ready for that tremendously important first year of school.

The learning that takes place, while it doesn't show up as books read, sentences written, or number problems worked out, is nevertheless a real and necessary part of the continuing experience of education.

Mutual understanding and close cooperation between parent and school are important, of course, at every grade level. This cooperation and understanding is absolutely essential to the success of the kindergarten year—and could have a profound influence on the youngster's attitude and achievement in future years.

We want you to know that we share your interest and concerns. Your child's success is the school's purpose and goal, just as it is yours. Kindergarten helps the child to become well adjusted and to be prepared to learn and achieve up to his or her capabilities. With your help, we are confident that this can be accomplished.

**HAVE A GREAT FIRST SCHOOL YEAR
AT SOUTH COLBY ELEMENTARY!**