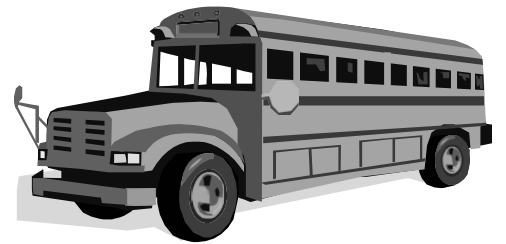


KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION PACKET



Purple Sage
Elementary



First Day/Week of School:

As a transition from home to school, and to allow students to adapt to school in a small group, we have a staggered schedule for the first two days of school only. Your child will be attending school only one day during the first two days. **Kindergartners will attend school full time according to their schedule given out at registration.**

Arrival:

When children arrive at school in the morning, they go directly to the kindergarten playground until the bell rings. Students are not permitted anywhere else in the school without an adult until after the 8:10 bell rings. When the bell rings, the children are to line up and the teacher will pick them up outside. Please remind your child to enter the building quietly when they come inside with his/her teacher. PM students can arrive on the playground at 11:45 and will line up at the 11:50 bell to come inside with their teacher.

Students should not arrive at school before 7:50 A.M. as there is no supervision for them until that time. School starts at 8:10 A.M. and the tardy bell rings at 8:15 A.M.

Breakfast:

All students are offered breakfast at no cost. Beginning at 7:50 A.M. and ending at 8:10 A.M. students are allowed to go to the cafeteria to eat.

Going Home:

It is important for your child's teacher to know where and how he/she will get home or to daycare after school each day. Please make it a point to relay information to your child's kindergarten teacher. WE MUST HAVE A NOTE OR PHONE CALL if your child is to go home any way other than the usual. Please review procedures with your child.

Dismissal Procedure:

- a) Pick Up Students: AM Kindergarteners will walk outside with a staff member at 11:05. PM Kindergarteners will be walked outside with a staff member at 2:50 (2:00 on Wednesday).
- b) Bus students: AM Kindergarteners are led directly to their bus at 11:05. PM Kindergarteners will be excused at 2:50 (2:00 on Wednesday) and escorted to the appropriate bus line by a staff member. If your child is riding a bus and is not home on time for the first week or so, please remember that our buses often run a little late as they are learning new students and new routes. We encourage parents to use the bus system if you have one available.

Restrooms:

Restrooms are located in the Kindergarten classrooms and the Kindergarten hallway. We will assist your child in locating these areas. Remind your child to use the restroom before they come to school and to let the teacher know when he/she needs to use the restroom. Our rule for restroom use is, one person in each restroom at a time and if at all possible not during instruction time. This rule helps us cut down on children playing in the restroom and protects our teaching and learning time. Emergencies are an exception.

Attendance:

It is important for your child to develop a habit of prompt and regular attendance. Good habits acquired now will carry on through life. If your child should be absent from school, please call the office before 8:30 A.M. (455-1148) and let us know when your child will be absent. If you do not contact the school, it is the policy of the office to contact you to confirm your child's absence. We know there may be times when your child may arrive late to school. If this should happen, students must report to the office first and get a tardy pass for your child.

School/Home Connection:

Think of your child's backpack as a mailbox. It is the best way to reach you with information from school. Be sure to check your child's backpack daily. Friday folders will be sent home weekly with your child's work, homework and important notes. Please go over any school papers with your child. This reinforces what he/she has learned. When sending money, please place the money/check in an envelope with your child's name and state your purpose for the money (ie. Susie Smith's book order money). The school will send home a monthly newsletter and you may also utilize our school website for more information: <http://pse.msd134.org/>

Volunteers:

Volunteers are a valuable tool in our Kindergarten classes. We encourage all parents to volunteer at least once during the school year. If you are planning on volunteering in your child's classroom, please make sure to sign in at the office in the volunteer log book and get a volunteer pass before going to the classroom. Visitors are also required to sign in and get a visitor pass before going to a classroom.

Birthday Celebrations:

We love to celebrate your child's birthday. If you wish, you may send a special snack to school near or on your child's birthday. Please contact your child's teacher for arrangements.

Kindergarten Outside Play Areas:

The kindergarten students will have opportunities daily to play outside (recess). Depending on what time they arrive at school in the morning, Kindergarten students would be outside until the 8:10 bell. They are taught to stay in a primary zone area (known as the kindergarten playground) for smaller kids due to all the students outside. They will have another recess in the morning. Depending on what time they arrive at school for the afternoon session, PM Kindergarten students will be outside until the 11:50 bell. They will have another recess in the afternoon. The Kindergarten teachers will review all these zone areas to students during their first day of school.

Lost & Found:

If your child loses something, please check:

- a) Lost & Found box near the cafe doors. Please label jackets, backpacks, etc. with your child's name.
- b) The bus barn 459-0195
- c) Classroom: check cubbies, backpack, and/or ask the teacher.

Special Classes:

In Kindergarten, your child will participate in a music, physical education and library class every week. Please ask your child's teacher for their weekly schedule. It is important for your child to wear tennis shoes on days they participate in P.E.

Clothing:

Whenever possible, we will be going outside to play, so please have your child dress appropriately. Choose coats and boots that your child can put on with the least amount of adult assistance. More information on proper clothing is in the student/parent handbook.

Testing:

The IRI (Idaho Reading Indicator) test is given the first month of school and again in the spring. It will measure what your child has learned at home and at school throughout the year. We encourage you to visit the Idaho State Department of Education website for more information on how to prepare your child for this test.

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/ReadingIndicator>.

Questions:

We welcome your questions anytime. Please call our school office 455-1148 if we can assist you or visit our website <http://pse.msdl34.org>

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN



BEFORE THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

- ⑩ Read stories to your children.
- ⑩ Give them opportunities to use scissors and cut out pictures (magazines, etc.).
- ⑩ Listen for sounds (trains, cars, buses, animals, etc.)
- ⑩ Talk- share stories with them and have them share their own stories.
- ⑩ Draw pictures of things they've seen or done.
- ⑩ Give them jobs that they are responsible for. Teach them tidiness and responsibility.

AFTER THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

- ⑩ Use questions that require more verbal communications (avoid yes/no questions).
- ⑩ Allow time for the child to do things for herself/himself.
- ⑩ Visit the school regularly.
- ⑩ Take time to talk to your child about her/his experience and allow her/him to read and share the books she/he brings home.
- ⑩ Seek help from the teacher or your physician if your child shows signs of unusual behavior.

- ⑩ Give your child clear boundaries and carry through with age and situation appropriate consequences.
- ⑩ Talk about the character qualities learned in school and praise your child when you see examples of character.

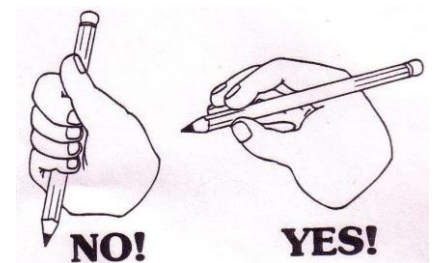
TEACHING HANDWRITING SKILLS

- ⑩ Learning to write begins with letter recognition and pre-writing skills. As your child learns more about letters from singing the ABC song, noticing letters of their name on written signs, looking at ABC books, etc., begin practicing pre-writing skills. Sample pre-writing pages have been included in your kindergarten registration packet.
- ⑩ When your child can hold a pencil correctly and is able to trace the marks on the pre-writing pages they are ready to start tracing letters. From the start, make sure that your child is taught to trace the letters with correct formation. An alphabet handout with correct letter formation arrows has also been included in your packet. First trace and then copy letters, paying close attention to the direction of the arrows.

Recommended Concepts and Skills for When I Go to Kindergarten

Holding a Pencil/Crayon Correctly

Young children naturally tend to hold a crayon or pencil in their fist. Gently show children that they will have more control if they hold the pencil in their fingers, as shown in the illustration (right). You may find that each child holds a pencil in a way that best fits his or her hand naturally. Simply encourage a balanced, relaxed grip. Very young children may tend to use either hand when first drawing. Usually by age 5 the dominant hand is well established. Authorities agree that there is no merit in attempting to make a left-handed child use his or her right hand.



I Need To Be Able To:

- ⑩ be able to recite and recognize the alphabet correctly
- ⑩ be able to recognize and print my name.
- ⑩ point to and count objects from 1-10.
- ⑩ know and say colors (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple).
- ⑩ know, match, and copy shapes (circle, square, rectangle).
- ⑩ know and say my first and last names.
- ⑩ know and say my parents' names.
- ⑩ know and say my home phone number and address.
- ⑩ be able to repeat sounds, numbers, short sentences, and stories.
- ⑩ be able to listen and follow directions.
- ⑩ be able to clap my hands, hop, jump, run, and walk a straight line.
- ⑩ be able to dress myself, button clothes, brush my teeth, tie my shoes, and use a handkerchief or tissue.
- ⑩ be able to take care of my own toilet needs.

- ⑩ be able to print and draw with a pencil and crayon.
- ⑩ be able to cut simple shapes with scissors and use glue.
- ⑩ know that pictures and books tell stories.
- ⑩ be able to listen quietly to a story being read and then answer and ask questions about the story.
- ⑩ know that print reads from left to right.
- ⑩ know and say parts of the body.
- ⑩ understand basic position words (up, down, over, under, beside, top, bottom, etc.)
- ⑩ understand day and night
- ⑩ know and say my age and birthday.
- ⑩ be able to cross a street safely.