

Welcome to Mrs. Mascioni's Kindergarten!



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Welcome to Kindergarten! I am looking forward to working with you and your child for the 2023–2024 school year. In this packet you will find a brief overview of our class and lots of helpful information. If at any time you have questions, concerns, or comments about the class, please feel free to contact me. My e-mail address is kmascioni@alcsny.org, and the school's number is 375–6600. My personal extension is 4103. Thank you in advance for all your support this coming school year.

SCHOOL DAY:

The students must be in the classroom by 8:00 AM, or they will be marked tardy. Dismissal starts at 2:40. If your child leaves school early, it will count as a “tardy” on their report card.

SPECIAL CLASSES:

Monday: Art

Tuesday: Library & Gym

Wednesday: Computers & Gym

Thursday: Music & Gym

Friday: Art

*Please make sure your child is prepared for special area classes. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday your child will need to wear sneakers. Mrs. Reisman, the art teacher, would like students to have an “art shirt” to wear for art on Mondays and Fridays so you’ll need to provide a smock or a parent’s shirt for use. Library books are due back by Tuesday of each week. Check the back of your child’s Gator Folder for our specials schedule.

LUNCH:

Students will have lunch at noon each day in the cafeteria. Breakfast and lunch menus can be found on the district website. Like last year, breakfasts and lunches are free. However, it is encouraged to fill out an application for free and reduced lunches as the information is important in determining state-aid. Ice cream will be available for purchase one day weekly, but ice cream will not be available until after the 1st quarter.

SNACK:

We will be having a daily snack in the morning. Our snack time will take approximately 15–20 minutes and will be eaten in the classroom. Please note that candy, soda, cakes, and greasy foods are not recommended.

Crackers, pretzels, fruit, and string cheese make great snacks! If you send a fruit or yogurt cup, please also provide the utensil necessary for eating it. Finally, if you could please place your child's snack in a specific pocket or container in your child's bookbag, I would appreciate it. Please talk with your child and let him/her know which item(s) are for snack each day. You are welcome to send in a drink, too. I will have extra snacks available if your child forgets his/her snack occasionally. 😊 Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle. He or she will have access to a water bottle filling station as needed.

BIRTHDAYS:

You are welcome to send in birthday treats with your child if you have enough for each student, and they are store bought/prepackaged. We will honor your child's birthday by singing to him/her and making a birthday book keepsake! I will also provide a special birthday bracelet, certificate, pencil, and crown for each child on or near his or her birthday. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate his/her special day at the end of the school year. If you do not celebrate birthdays, your child can be exempt from these practices, but you will need to communicate that with me. Also, if your child has any food allergies, please send in a box or two of a special treat that he or she can have during our birthday celebrations.

HOLIDAYS:

We work very hard throughout the school year, and we like to enjoy some down time together celebrating the seasons/holidays. I will provide information to families prior to our celebrations. If your child does not celebrate any specific holidays, please let me know in advance. If your child needs to be exempt from a celebration, we will determine the best arrangement together depending on the circumstances.

GATOR COMMUNICATOR/ GREEN FOLDER:

The school provides every student with a "Gator Folder." Your child will bring home this green folder each day. In this folder you will find information and papers that either need to stay at home or be returned to school. It is important that you check this folder each evening and return it to school with your child the next day. *Please place all notes, money, and/or papers for

me in the green folder on the "Return to School" side. I will check your child's folder each morning.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES:

Please send in a complete change of clothes for your child in the event that he/she has an accident or spill. If you could place the spare clothes in a Ziploc bag with your child's name written on the bag, we will keep the extras in your child's cubby so that we can find it quickly, if needed. Your child needs: a shirt, pants, socks, and underwear. Dirty clothing will be sent home in a plastic bag, so please be sure to check your child's bookbag each night.

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER:

Every week I will be sending home a newsletter that will provide a brief overview of the week. It will also contain classroom news and/or reminders. It will be sent home in your child's green folder on the last day of school each week. I am considering using photos. Please let me know if you do NOT want your child's photograph included in the newsletter.

CLASS DOJO:

I will be using Class DoJo this year to share fun moments and keep you up-to-date with information and events. You can find the app at the app store or on Google Play. I will provide you a QR code for easy connection. This app will also allow us to contact each other regarding your child as needed. If you need any help downloading the app or figuring out how it works, I will be more than happy to help!

GRADING POLICY & HOMEWORK:

In Kindergarten, we do not provide percentage grades. When an assessment is given, it will be assessed using a three-point rubric (3= Met Standard, 2=Partially Met Standard, 1=Does Not Meet Standard). Your child will have homework this year, but it will not begin right away.

CLASSROOM RULES:

Rules will be discussed extensively during the first several weeks of school and then at appropriate times throughout the school year. A list of classroom rules will be posted in the classroom.

Our classroom rules are from Whole Brain Teaching and are as follows:

1) Follow directions quickly.

- 2) Raise your hand for permission to speak
- 3) Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
- 4) Make smart choices.

MONITORING BEHAVIOR:

Our classroom management plan is centered on three things: relationships, expectations, and procedures. Relationships are the foundation of classroom management. When our students know we love and respect them, they will be more likely to do what we ask. I plan to invest time bonding with students & building relationships. We will also spend lots of time going over expectations and procedures. Your child will NOT be bringing home a behavior chart each day—at least not at the beginning of the year. I like to spend time getting to know your child & learning about what he/she can do. Therefore, if you do not hear from me, you can assume your child had a “good/thumbs up” day. If your child does have difficulty with some of our rules, I will let you know by sending home a note, email, or message on DoJo—and I ask that you speak to your child about his/her day. Additionally, if your child continues to have regular difficulty following our rules, he/she may need to have a more specific behavior plan, and I will contact you individually.

Individual Rewards/Consequences

I will give positive reinforcement in a variety of ways: “hole punches” on their punch cards, stickers, notes, positive comments, prizes, etc. On the other hand, if your child needs some ‘time away’ from an activity, we will have a ‘cool off’ space for him/her to use to think about making better choices. If you ever have any questions about our behavior plan, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can work together.

Classroom Rewards

The class will also have the opportunity to earn whole group rewards. We will be working to fill a small vase with cotton balls based on impressive behavior or achievement by the group. The following rewards will be given after the vase has been filled: 1. A Prize 2. Movie 3. Popcorn party 4. Additional free time (30 minutes) 5. Ice cream party 6. Class game
The class will vote on which reward they would prefer to be working toward. Again, cotton balls can be earned by special area teachers, too.

HANDLE WITH CARE:

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details, and that's okay! If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please message or e-mail me, "Handle with Care." Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers MUST be "Board Approved" prior to volunteering in any capacity. If you would like the option of volunteering, please submit the proper paperwork. Volunteer opportunities include helping on field trips and/or with centers. Please do not put off filling out and submitting the paperwork as it can take weeks to get board approval!

FIELD TRIPS:

Volunteers are welcome; however, a parent or grandparent must be board approved to attend. Volunteers will be asked to meet us at the location of the field trip or follow the bus from the school. We also ask that you do not bring siblings along. And finally, if your child consistently struggles with following directions and/or making good choices, you may be asked to volunteer specifically to accompany your child for safety purposes. Information regarding field trips will be sent home as one approaches.

TOYS/ELECTRONICS:

I will provide a variety of toys, games, etc. for students to play with during their free time. Please do not send in any of your child's personal toys and/or electronics. If you choose to allow your child to take a toy or electronic device on the bus with them to keep them busy during the ride, please ask him or her to keep it in their bookbag once they arrive at school. If it does not fit in the bookbag, it should not accompany your child. I will not be held responsible for lost, broken, or stolen electronics/toys.

DISMISSAL:

Please let me know your child's dismissal routine ASAP. The school is asking that you do not change this routine throughout the year. If a change is necessary, please send a note in your child's folder. *You will also need to call the office!* Thank you for understanding.

My Promise to You

I promise you every day your child will learn something.
Some days they will bring it home in their hands.
Some days they will bring it home in their heads,
And some days they will bring it home in their hearts.

-Valerie Welk

