

July 2025

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to John Muir Elementary School! We hope that the following information will be helpful as you plan for the first day of school on Tuesday, July 29th.

1. Daily: All kindergartners will be attending school from 8:45 - 12:25 daily. They will go directly to their classrooms and line up outside the door. Kindergartners may enter the classroom through the kindergarten gate at 8:30 so they can get settled and ready to learn by 8:45. If your child arrives after 8:45 they will need to get a tardy slip from the office. At pickup, please allow time for parking as your child will be eagerly awaiting your return at the end of the school day. Students must be picked up promptly at 12:25, we assist in other classrooms following our day with your students. At orientation or on the first day, please tell us who will be picking up your child regularly. **We will not send your child with anyone that is not listed on your child's emergency card, unless you send a note!**
2. First day of school: Please accompany your child to the classroom and plan to spend a few minutes as we greet each child individually, put on a name tag and take her/him into the classroom. As soon as all the children have arrived, we will ask that parents calmly leave the classroom. This is a crucial time for your child to bond with his/her teacher and classmates. Tears are common, but normally do not last exceptionally long.
3. It is important that your child can write and recognize their name. Please have your child practice printing their name over the next week. This will help them recognize their name for attendance and for their lunch cards. It is also important for you to begin practicing tying shoes with your student. Please practice daily!
4. Please provide a full-size backpack to accommodate a 12" x 15" envelope. Do not forget to check your child's backpack daily for class work and important papers. Due to the extremely limited space in the kindergarten classrooms, **backpacks with wheels are not allowed.**
5. Please label all coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, etc. with your child's name. Children should wear comfortable clothes as we like to be active in our work and play. Sometimes glue or paint does get on clothing. Athletic shoes or closed-toed shoes with straps around the heels and socks must be worn, NO FLIP FLOPS. **Girls, please note that spaghetti straps and halter tops are not allowed.** Please wear green on Fridays to show your John Muir spirit! On Wednesdays, please send your child in their house colors.

All students will be placed in "houses" the second week of school. Spirit Wear will be sold later in the year. The handbook stating our school dress code can be found on the John Muir website.

6. Meals: It is important that your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning before coming to school. The school will provide a free breakfast for all students. The cafeteria opens for breakfast from 8:00-8:30 a.m. Kindergartners will also eat lunch at school. Kindergarten students will eat lunch at 11:05. You may send lunch in a sack or lunch box clearly marked with your child's name. If you provide a lunch from home, please do not send any kind of soda in your child's lunch.

7. Home/School communication: Flyers will be sent home every Tuesday in the Muir Messenger envelope. The envelope needs to be signed and returned the following day. Flyers are also posted in peachjar.

8. Absences/Tardies: When your child is absent, please call the school secretary (953-8106) that morning and tell her the reason for your child's absence. If you are unable to call the school, it is important to send a note the day that your child returns to school explaining the absence. If your child arrives late, please accompany him/her to the office for a tardy slip. More than three days absent your child will need a doctor's note.

9. Supplies: Keep at home, students will need pencils, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and glue sticks to complete homework assignments. At school, please send a pair of headphones labeled in a Ziploc bag with your child's name. **I am also requesting a 4X6 picture of your child and their family.** We will be displaying these in our classroom this year. All other supplies will be provided at school.

10. Homework binders will be sent home every Monday with weekly homework that will be due on Friday. We will not begin sending homework as we will be going over homework in greater detail at Back to School Night on August 14th at 5:15.

11. We rely upon parent volunteers in the classroom each day to make the kindergarten program most successful. All parent volunteers and field trip chaperones will need to be fingerprinted through the district office. Forms can be picked up in the John Muir office.

12. Our goal is to provide experiences that will inspire your child to become a lifelong learner. Please feel free to call your child's teacher at school and leave a message with the office any time you have a question (209-953-8106). You may also reach us by email. We use classroom apps as another form of communication. We will be giving you information to sign up at orientation and at Back to School Night. Effective communication and cooperation help us all!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

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