

**Welcome to
Our Class!**
PARENT
HANDBOOK

Stephanie Rogers, Alyssa Olesen



Welcome to Our Classroom

Dear Preschool Families:

In the next week, your child will complete one of the most important milestones of his or her life - the first day of school! We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year and helping them to achieve their full potential. Our days and weeks will be filled with many wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn and grow.

We are so excited you will be part of our school family this year! We feel so fortunate that you are entrusting us with your child's first school experience.

We believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year, we will communicate with you through notes, telephone calls, parent square messages, e-mail, and parent teacher conferences. If you would like to volunteer in our classroom throughout the year, please complete the volunteer training through the SAU. Only SAU-approved volunteers will be able to help out in the classroom.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can call us at school (603) 673-4640 Mrs. Olesen ext. 2036 Mrs. Rogers ext. 2034, send us a note, or an e-mail to: stephanie.rogers@sau41.org or alyssa.olesen@sau41.org. We will be outside at pick-up/drop-off times if you need to speak to us quickly. Please note that we want to maintain student confidentiality. With this in mind, we won't be giving daily reports during this time. If you are interested in a daily report, please let your teacher know.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child!

Love,
Mrs. Rogers & Mrs. Olesen



Checklist

Are you ready for the first day of school?

- ☐ Packed snack and labeled Nut Safe
- ☐ Backpack large enough to hold folder and snack and not crush art work (no wheels please)
- ☐ 2 Extra Changes of Clothes - 1 for warm weather, 1 for cooler temps
- ☐ School Supplies
(diapers/wipes if necessary, 2 pictures of your child, a **PLASTIC** 2-pocket folder)
- ☐ Family house project



Philosophy

In our classrooms, we strive to help your WHOLE CHILD develop.

- *Cognitive/Academic skills
- *Motor skills (both fine/gross motor)
- *Social/emotional skills
- *Communication skills
- * Self-help skills

Our “work” is play-based with a focus on learning. During center time, your child will make a choice of “play” from a list of 3-4 centers. An example of centers may be kitchen/dramatic play, a craft, a counting/sorting game, name puzzles.



CURRICULUM

Literacy:

We will be using The Heggerty Program for phonemic awareness. A strong background in phonemic awareness in preschool and kindergarten can set your child up for success when learning to read and write. Phonemic awareness is the knowledge of and ability to manipulate the individual sounds in words. To work on these skills, we'll be rhyming, blending/segmenting spoken words, singing songs, and identifying sounds. We will also read thematic books and base many learning centers off of those books.

Writing:

In preschool, your child will strengthen smaller muscle groups in the hands and fingers, learn how to hold a writing utensil correctly, and practice using his/her hands to fasten, create, and manipulate items. We use components of the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum.



CURRICULUM

Math:

In math, we will practice counting, patterning, and calendar skills daily in morning meeting. We will have a daily math center to work on number recognition, counting, patterning, shapes, sorting and classifying objects.

Science/Writing/Sensory:

Science, writing, and sensory are all centers that may be available throughout the week. The items included in this center area may change based on our theme. For instance, when we learn about bugs, we'll display a beehive, watch caterpillars change to butterflies, and have bugs to examine with magnifying glasses.

Dramatic Play:

The dramatic play center is extremely important for developing social skills. At times, it will simply be a kitchen area. At other times, it may follow our theme such as an apple farm stand.



Contact Information

Phone: (603) 673-4640, ext. 2036 for Mrs. Olesen, ext. 2034 for Mrs. Rogers

E-mail: stephanie.rogers@sau41.org,
alyssa.olesen@sau41.org

If you are calling during class time, please leave a message on the voicemail or speak with the main office.

You are welcome to send a note to school with your child at any time in his or her home/school folder.

If you would like to schedule a conference to discuss your child's progress please feel free to call us or send us an e-mail or note.



School hours

AM Class

Time Activity

8:45 Arrival/recess

9:15 Free play/morning
tubs

9:45 Morning Meeting

10:00 Centers

10:30 Snack

10:50 Thematic Circle

11:10 Pack up for dismissal

11:15 Dismissal

PM Class

Time Activity

12:00 Arrival/recess

12:30 Free play/tubs

1:00 Morning Meeting

1:15 Centers

1:45 Snack

2:05 Thematic Circle

2:25 Pack up for
dismissal

2:30 Dismissal



Drop-Off & Pick Up

Drop Off:

Drop off will be in the front Milford St. parking lot at 8:45 for the a.m. and 12:00 for the p.m. We ask that you remain in your car and wait for us to come collect the children in order to maintain a fast and efficient drop-off and the safety of all of our students. Please do not exit the parking lot until all students have been collected and are lined up at the door.

Pick Up:

For the afternoon class ONLY. Pick up is around the back of the building. If you are also picking up an older sibling, please pull into the right-hand lane closest to the school. For families not picking up siblings, you can pull into the lane furthest away from the building (right-hand lane). You are welcome to exit your cars and socialize with parents and/or collect your child at pick-up. For the a.m. class, pick-up will be at the Milford Street door.

At the beginning of the year, please display your last name, children and grade level in your car. Any person picking up your child must have this information and a license available. Only those listed as your emergency contacts or those given written advanced permission by you will be allowed to pick up.

*According to state law, ALL children under the age of 7 and shorter than 57 inches must ride in a booster or harnessed car seat.

Arrival/Dismissal Notes:

All changes to your child's regular dismissal must be in writing. If you email me about an upcoming absence, please CC the office via rmms-office@sau41.org. Please place any daily notes (either for the office or me) in your child's Home-School folder.



SNACK

Please ensure that snacks do not contain nuts, are not listed as being “processed or manufactured on shared equipment” or in a factory that also processes nuts. If the ingredient list isn’t printed on the snack, please check the ingredients at home and write “nut safe” on the item or bag. We encourage healthy snacks like fruit, veggie and dip, yogurt or crackers and cheese. Your child’s individual snack bag should be labeled “NUT SAFE.” All snacks will be checked before entering the classroom. If we are unsure of ingredients and you have not labeled NUT SAFE, we will provide an alternative snack.



daily folder

Home-School Folders

Your child's plastic folder will be labeled with "Return to School" and "Keep at Home." Return important items to school in the "Return to School" pocket. Your child's work will go home in the "Keep at Home" pocket. We will check folders upon arrival to school. If you need to communicate with us, you can put any pressing information in the "Return to School" pocket. Please empty the folder on a daily basis.



Report Card Schedule

Report cards and progress reports will follow the elementary school schedule for December, March, and June.

Students with identified needs will receive IEP progress reports to assess students on progress toward their IEP goals. Other students will receive a preschool report card.



PARENT CONFERENCES

Formal conferences will be offered in November and again in May.

Informal phone check-ins will be scheduled periodically throughout the year.

If you would like a conference at another time, please email us to set one up.



BIRTHDAY POLICY

The district has adopted a NO-SHARED FOOD POLICY.

For birthdays, I will send a note home and ask that parents provide a special nut-safe snack just for your child, something that you may not send at other times.

I will contact you ahead of time to invite you to class to do one of the following activities:

- Read your child's favorite book to the class, books must be selected 3 weeks in advance so that we can publish the name in our newsletter
- Make a poster about your child and come to share it with the class
- Bring your child's baby book to discuss and share with the class



helping My Child

Please work with your child on the following skills at home:

- Sharing
- Cleaning- up
- Recognizing colors
- Recognizing shapes
- Recognizing/ identifying numbers
- Recognizing/ identifying letters
- Cutting with scissors
- Buttoning, snapping, zipping, and tying



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

It is normal for children who are just beginning participation in a group environment to get sick frequently. We will take every precaution to lessen this experience. Eventually, their immune systems will become stronger.

We will practice handwashing upon entering the classroom, before and after snack, and after using the bathroom.

For children who are not toilet-trained, we change diapers if heavily wet or in the case of a bowel movement.

Over the last few years, schools in general, have seen an increase in challenging behaviors from children and an increase in staffing difficulties. Our program is integrated in age (3-5 in each class) and in levels of need. Many preschoolers are learning how to do school, how to listen to adults other than a parent, how to interact positively with peers, and how to communicate their needs. It is very common, especially at the beginning of the year to have some bumps in the road. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any specific concerns you may have.

