Dear Kindergarten Families,

My name is Mrs. Eldred and I'm very excited to be your child's teacher this year! I've been teaching for 26 years here at Harkness, and I've taught kindergarten for a total of 7 years. I can't wait to meet you and your child to begin a fun-filled year together. I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school!

Our adventure begins on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026**…the first day of school! Breakfast starts at 8:30am. Kindergarteners will remain in the cafeteria until the bell rings. **School starts at 9:00am**. Parents can say goodbye to their child at the cafeteria as we head off to class.

We will focus on foundational reading skills and beginning mathematics this year and plan to have a lot of fun while we learn! **Dismissal is at 12:50 everyday at the black gate in the front of the school.**

I love family involvement and strongly encourage parents to sign up as volunteers for chaperoning field trips and helping out with classroom activities. If you would like to sign up as a volunteer, please inquire in the office for a volunteer packet. We can't do this without you!

I am excited to be a part of your child's learning experience and look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Eldred

The best way to reach me is through
the Parent Square App used district wide.

You can sign up for Parent Square Here

You can also reach me by email at:
Dena-Eldred@scusd.edu



GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN



INDEPENDENCE SKILLS

- ❑ Can feed self
- ❑ Uses restroom
- ❑ Washes hands
- ❑ Puts on coat, hat, gloves, etc.
- ❑ Ask questions or for help
- ❑ Cleans up after self

SMALL MOTOR SKILLS

- ❑ Holds pencils and crayons correctly
- ❑ Writes first name
- ❑ Uses scissors to cut lines
- ❑ Turns one page at a time in a book

LARGE MOTOR SKILLS

- ❑ Hops, jumps, walks, and runs
- ❑ Can bounce, catch, kick, and throw a ball
- ❑ Walks in a straight line forward
- ❑ Walks backward
- ❑ Balances on one foot for 10 seconds
- ❑ Can do activities that cross the midline of the body (right hand touching left foot, etc.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

- ❑ Tries new things
- ❑ Shares and take turns
- ❑ Waits & listens while others talk
- ❑ Shows concern for others
- ❑ Plays cooperatively with others
- ❑ Works independently
- ❑ Works in a small group
- ❑ Separates from parent
- ❑ Manages emotions
- ❑ Can say first and last name of self and parent or guardian

MATH SKILLS

- ❑ Counts out loud to 10 correctly
- ❑ Starts counting to 20
- ❑ Counts objects one at a time by touching each one
- ❑ Recognizes and creates groups of 2, 3, or 4 objects
- ❑ Sorts similar items
- ❑ Identifies, names, and draws simple shapes
- ❑ Uses comparative words

LITERACY SKILLS

- ❑ Listens and responds to books
- ❑ Speaks in complete sentences
- ❑ Speaks clearly
- ❑ Identifies rhyming words
- ❑ Knows some of the letters of the alphabet
- ❑ Identifies first sound in words
- ❑ Identifies signs or logos
- ❑ Draws, scribbles, or writes to share ideas

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