

Welcome to

Transitional

Kindergarten



MEET the..... TEACHER

Hello! My name is Mrs. Vandermeyde. I have been teaching within the district for over 20 years, the past 10 years in TK and Kindergarten. I have extensive experience in child development and am excited to work with your incoming TK students this year! I am passionate about building foundational skills through exploring the world around us. I can't wait to share this magical year with you and your children. ♥



Mrs. Vandermeyde

Contact me:
nvandermeyde@fcusd.org

MEET the..... TEACHER

Hello! My name is Tara Koelzer. I have been teaching within the district for 18 years. I can truly say TK is the most joyful and exciting place to be. I love watching young minds discover, play, and grow. I am passionate about math and promoting curiosity. I am thrilled to partner with you for an amazing school year ahead. ♥



Mrs. Koelzer

Contact me:
tkoelzer@fcusd.org

Classroom Expectations

Every child has the right to learn in a safe and comfortable environment. Our expectations for all children reflect this belief.



The first few weeks of school we focus on teaching, modeling, and practicing good manners, listening skills, classroom routines and school rules. All students are expected to be polite, respectful, and kind to others.

- We utilize positive behavior supports and restorative practices
- We explicitly teach rules, limits and boundaries in our classroom
- We provide natural consequences in the classroom
- We have individual/whole group classroom behavior goals.
- We celebrate together as we attain personal and class goals.

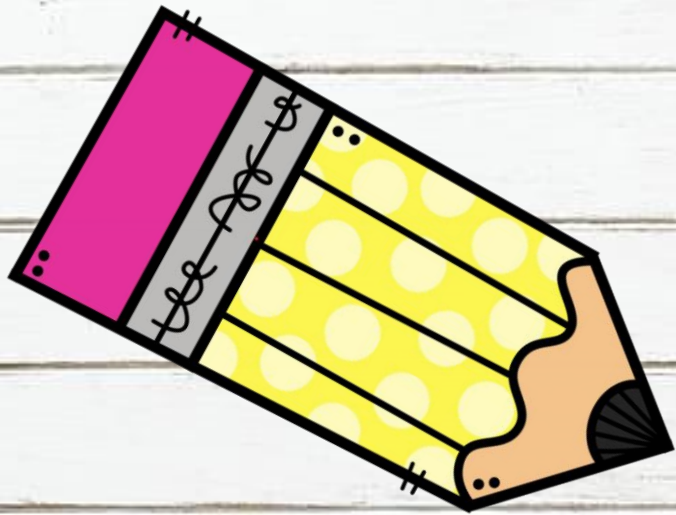
**We will use parentsquare to communicate any private messages concerning behavior so that we can work on together as a team towards student success. ♥*

Components of our Day



Our day will include:

- Opening - Greeting, attendance, flag, calendar, weather, music and movement
- Learning Centers - small group learning with an academic focus of the day
 - Language Arts-phonemic awareness, phonics, rhyming, letters, sounds
 - Mathematics- Number Awareness, Counting, Shapes
 - Science: Life-Cycles, Weather, Earth Science
 - Social Science: Calendar skills, Holidays, Community, World history
 - Fine motor skills development throughout
- Choice Time- child-initiated play with a social emotional and social skills focus
- Snack and Recess- building our social skills and large motor growth
- Literacy Time - Reading to build a love of literature, poetry, and non-fiction text
- P.E. and Library - once each week (with P.E. teacher and Librarian)
- Closing - remembering our learning for the day, passing out papers, good-byes



Daily Schedule

AM Transitional Kindergarten Schedule

8:00am-11:21am M-F

PM Transitional Kindergarten Schedule

11:24 am-2:45 pm M.T,W,F

9:54 am-1:15 pm TH

**Consistent attendance is essential for student success.*

Please have your child at school and on time each day. Late arrivals and early departures are especially disruptive for young learners.

If your child is late, please head directly to the front office to check them in.

If you need to take your child out of school early for the day, please stop by the office to sign him/her out.

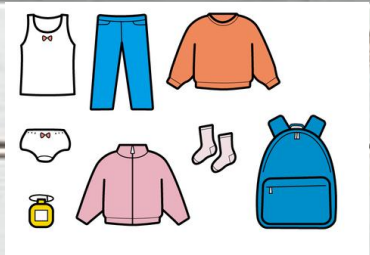
Please notify your child's teacher (in writing) if your child will be going home with someone else for the day.

What to Bring Every Day

Students should bring the following, labeled with their name:



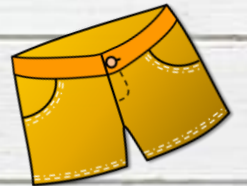
- A standard size backpack. Please make sure it can comfortably zip closed around a 9x12 Wednesday Folder. *Please do not send in mini-backpacks or backpacks with wheels.*
- Water Bottle filled with water only (labeled with name).
- Snack: Students will need to have a (labeled with name) nutritious and easy-to-eat snack sent to school each day. (*Snack is NOT part of the state sponsored free breakfast/lunch program.*)
- Snack ideas include fruits/veggies, applesauce, yogurts, cheese and crackers, trail mix, etc. Please send any utensils needed for your child to eat his/her snack (disposable spoons, etc.)
 - If your child has ANY food allergies, please see your child's teacher ASAP. For the safety of all students, please refrain from nut products for snack. *Candy and gum are not allowed.*
- Extra Clothes: Students should have a (labeled with name) ziploc bag of spare clothing in case of spills or bathroom accidents.



Dress to Learn

It's fun to get crafty in TK, so remember that we paint, glue, and play **ACTIVELY** each day in whatever we're wearing to school.

- Tennis shoes are preferable footwear each day, for safety reasons. All shoes must be worn with socks, and sandals **MUST** have a strap around the heel. (We never wear shoes with heels to school.)
- Please label all coats, jackets, backpacks, and sweaters with your child's name. *If it comes off their body, please label it.*
- Encourage students to wear “playground shorts” under dresses or skirts for active play and sitting on the carpet.
- Every Friday is SPIRIT DAY. Students may want to wear blue or gold, our school colors, or a Gold Ridge t-shirt. (Look for online orders to open soon.)



Restrooms

****Students need to be *independent* while using the bathroom****

To encourage success at school, please practice toilet skills at home and in public spaces to build confidence/skills

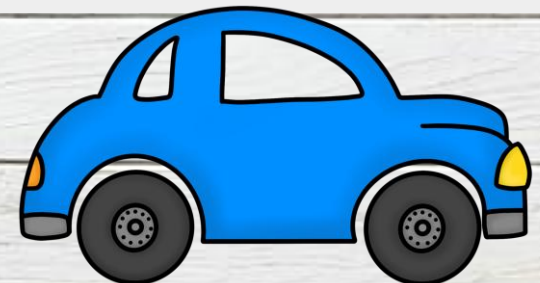


- Please ensure that your child is able to undress, wipe, flush, dress, and wash their hands independently. (**Teachers are not allowed to assist students with toileting, dressing, or undressing*)
- Pull-ups are allowed in TK, as long as students can manage independently. Soiled pull ups may require parent/guardian to assist with change in health office.
- Restrooms are located inside our TK classroom.
- Accidents happen. We appreciate students having an extra set of clothes in their backpack for emergencies. (shirt, underwear, shorts/pants, socks in a ziploc bag)
- PLEASE HELP US BY MAKING SURE YOUR CHILD USES THE RESTROOM BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL. Thank you!

Drop off & Pick-up

- Please park your car in the parking lot closest to the multi-purpose room or along the streets closest to the school. *(The parking lot closest to our line is unavailable for parent parking)*
- Walk your child to and from their line up spot.
- Please direct your child to line up in their dedicated line and wait respectfully for the teacher to welcome them.
- We kindly ask for parents to say goodbye at the line.
- At dismissal, please look for your child to come to our line up spot. Teachers will make eye contact with adults to make sure you see your child coming before dismissal.
- If there is a change in pick-up plans, please notify us in writing to avoid any confusion. (Add frequent members to your student's emergency card)
- For safety, and in consideration of others, please make sure children are not running around the sidewalk before and after class. Thank you!

***Please allow plenty of extra time and patience for parking.
Many students and families will be entering at the same time.**



Physical Education



- Students will participate in P.E. for one half-hour session each week with our school's PE teacher (day to be determined)
- Please be sure your child wears clothing and shoes that are appropriate for P.E. on those days.
- Water bottles and sunscreen are important, especially while it is still hot at the beginning of the year.
- If health concerns require your child to be excused for a session, please send a note to the teacher that day.
- If your child will need extended time off from P.E., please send a doctor's note indicating the request.



Student Absences

If your child will be absent, please report the absence via the front office attendance line or the google form on the Gold Ridge website.

Illness Absence-

For the health and safety of all, please ***keep your child home*** when they are ill.

Some questions to ask if you are not sure if your student should attend school are:

- Can they manage their symptoms? ie: Can they wipe their nose with a tissue and then wash their hands?
- Are they fever/symptom free ***without*** medication?

*We want to maximize attendance for all, so please ***keep illness at home*** and out of the classroom.

Planned Absence-

If your student will be absent for 3 or more days, we can arrange for Independent Study work to be sent home with your child.

- Please notify the office and your child's teacher ***a minimum of 10 Days*** in advance.
- Your child's teacher will prepare an Independent Study and your student will receive credit for the days absent.
- All work assigned must be turned in upon arrival back at school for attendance credit.

*Not available the first/last two weeks of the school year.



Extended Schedule: School Breakfast & Lunch AM TK Students



- *Breakfast and Lunch are not required/included components of the TK day. However, all students are eligible to participate in free school meals for breakfast and lunch.*
- **Tentative times are below. Please plan to give your child breakfast and lunch at home while your child is adjusting to the new daily schedule of TK. More information will be sent home from your teacher in the coming weeks.*

Breakfast 7:40-8:00 Lunch 11:20-11:30





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We love Birthdays!



- We love celebrating students turning 5!
- If you would like to send something special in to honor your child's birthday with his/her class, please consider a non-food treat (erasers, stickers, pencils) or a whole-class treat that is individually prepackaged and NUT-FREE like fruit snacks, goldfish, rice crispy treats, etc. (no cupcakes or cakes, please)
- When sending in individual treats, please plan for 20 children.
- Birthday invitations for private parties are never distributed at school. Please handle invitations via the class roster. Thank you!

Parent-Teacher Communication

Communication is KEY to the success of your student, and we love to keep you in the loop. We make a great team, working together!



Please plan on the following for communication:

- EMAIL: We will use email as a primary source of individual communication.
- To Contact: nvandermejde@fcusd.org / tkoelzer@fcusd.org
- PARENTSQUARE: Please sign up for our communication portal- ParentSquare. It is the primary source of schoolwide updates.
- WEDNESDAY FOLDERS: All paper school announcements and student work will come home on Wednesdays. Please empty the folder, read communication, and have your child return any forms as needed.
- IN PERSON: Arrival and dismissal are typically very busy, so if you need to speak with us at school, please email in advance to schedule a conversation.
- ONLINE: Gold Ridge Elementary School website hosts all school-wide information. Check it out for calendar of events, volunteer info, etc. Gold Ridge PTO is on Facebook and Instagram. We recommend joining their page for school reminders and information.



Volunteers

We love having parent/grandparent volunteers in the classroom! They are a critical part of our school and student success. Many of our programs are built around volunteer participation.

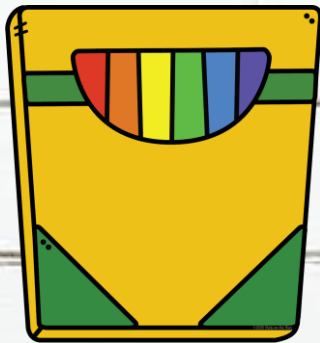
You can volunteer weekly, monthly, quarterly, in the classroom or at home.

We have many different opportunities to support our classroom.

**If every family volunteered 1 hour a month, we could have extra support for our students every day (ie: small group time, Wednesday Folder stuffing, craft time, art docent, project prep, etc.)*

- If you think you might want to volunteer in the classroom at any point of the year, please stop by the Gold Ridge office to collect paperwork to begin the process. (FYI- you will need a completed category 2 volunteer clearance to come into the classroom. TB test and fingerprints can take some time to clear, so plan accordingly if you would like to come in)
- If you are interested in being a classroom volunteer, please email your teacher.

Thank you in advance!



Wish List

We are ever so grateful for items you are able to contribute to our classroom!

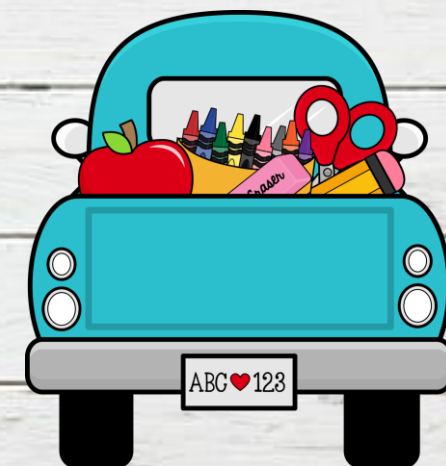
Thank you♥

Items we would love to have:

- Kleenex Tissues
- Baby wipes for messy clean up
- Crayola crayons
- Crayola Washable Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Gift card to replenish supplies throughout the year (Target, WalMart, Amazon)

WE HAVE CREATED AN AMAZON WISH LIST IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS ♥

***TK AMAZON WISH LIST**
We might also occasionally send a donations sign-up for specific items needed for parties or special projects.



Welcome again to this wonderful year in TK. We are so happy to share in the journey with you and your student. We believe that a parent is the first and most important teacher in a child's life. We will look to you as the expert on your student and work alongside you to create a positive and enriching year together. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Warmly-
Mrs. Koelzer
Mrs. Vandermeide



Contact:

tkoelzer@fcusd.org
nvandermeide@fcusd.org