Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to welcome your child to kindergarten. Starting school is an important transition, and our staff are committed to helping every child feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

An important part of kindergarten readiness is using the restroom independently. Unless a child has a medical, developmental, or disability-related need, kindergarten learners are expected to:

- Recognize and communicate when they need to use the restroom
- Manage their clothing independently
- Use the toilet and clean themselves appropriately
- Flush the toilet and wash their hands
- Change into clean clothing with minimal assistance if an accident occurs

We understand that occasional accidents may happen, especially during times of stress or transition. However, school staff cannot provide routine toileting, wiping, or clothing-change assistance for children who do not have a documented need for this support. Per the district's policy on toilet independence, the parent/guardian of learners without a documented need shall be contacted to complete the cleaning and changing of their child when an accident occurs.

If your child is not yet toilet independent, we encourage you to work with your child's healthcare providers as soon as possible. Families may consider:

- Talking with your child's doctor to rule out medical factors
- Asking whether a referral to a pediatric physical therapist, occupational therapist, or other specialist may be appropriate
- Consulting with your child's preschool, childcare provider, or early childhood teacher about successful strategies
- Establishing consistent bathroom routines across settings
- Practicing school-related skills such as managing clothing, wiping, handwashing, and changing into clean clothes

If your child requires toileting assistance due to a medical, developmental, or disability-related need, please notify the school before the first day of attendance. The school will work with you and appropriate staff to understand your child's needs and determine what supports may be necessary. This may include requesting information from your child's healthcare provider or considering whether an evaluation or individualized plan is appropriate. Depending on your child's needs, supports may be provided through an individualized education program (IEP), Section 504 plan, individualized health plan, or another appropriate school process.

Our goal is to partner with families so that each child can begin kindergarten with confidence, dignity, and the greatest possible level of independence. Please contact me with questions or to discuss your child's individual needs.

Sincerely,
Elementary Principal