

Kindergarten Handbook



Mrs. Himes
Room 117
2023-2024

Absence: When your child is ill, please make sure to send in a **written excuse** upon returning to school. If your child must leave school early for an appointment, he/she must come to school that day with a **written note**. You will need to go to the Main Office to sign your child out, and the secretary will call the classroom to have them sent to the office.

Arrival and Dismissal: The first bell rings at 9:15 a.m. If you arrive early to school, you must wait outside the main door. Breakfast will be at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. School begins at 9:25a.m. The school day ends at 3:50 p.m. We begin dismissing kindergarten students at 3:45p.m. Students who ride the bus or attend the Boys and Girls Club after school program will be escorted to their bus line/Club by adult helpers. Walkers will be escorted outside through the Kindergarten doors by their teacher. Should there be any change in your child's dismissal, a written note **MUST** be sent to school.



Reader's Workshop by October. After initial assessments are completed, we will begin mastering important early literacy skills. When students are working regularly with books, they need to read **often**. This is an important part of your child's reading development. Books they borrow and snap words will be sent home Monday-Thursday in their Reading Bag. There is **no homework on Fridays**. Provide a container to keep their printed books and snap words they have mastered safe and accessible. **Note:** New books will come home as they are read. Emergent Readers need to revisit books **often** to build their sight word vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Birthdays: Birthdays are very exciting for young children. You may send a special treat for your child to share with the class for snack that day. Birthday treats must be store bought. Don't forget to send in napkins and plates or utensils if needed. Summer birthdays can bring their treat on a day they choose in June. Please let me know what day you plan on sending the treat. Your child will receive a special birthday book made by their classmates.

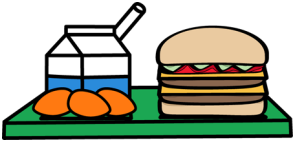


Book Orders: Book orders will be sent home monthly for you and your child to browse. You can order online (preferred) or send the form back to school.



Seesaw Messages and Teacher Website: We are using the Seesaw App for communicating with parents on a regular basis. Seesaw is an app that can be used on a computer or handheld device. You will receive an invitation from me. I suggest you install the app on your phone. Your child will use the app on their School iPad. Here, I share class stories by adding pictures and video with informational posts. You can send messages to me. There are also school wide announcements. My teacher website features general information, printable forms, and websites used in class to promote learning. It can be found at: <http://www.ntschoools.org/Domain/344> .

Conferences: We will schedule at least one parent/teacher conference in late fall to discuss your child's progress. You will be able to choose an in person, or phone conference. In addition, a parent or teacher can choose to request another conference if needed. Spring conferences are scheduled as needed.



Lunch: Our lunch is 11:35-12:15 p.m. Please label your child's lunch bag. If your child is purchasing snacks, please send their money in a bag/envelope or wallet with their name on it. You can monitor their lunch account by signing up online. Go to the district website for details: <https://www.ntschoools.org/Page/7259>. If your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, forms are available here: <https://www.ntschoools.org/Page/148>. Lunch Menus are available here: <https://www.ntschoools.org/Page/215>

Open House: We will be having Open House in the evening in late September or early October. This is a chance for your child to show you their classroom, and some of the things they do every day. The SPT0 usually has some fun outside too.

Parties and Celebrations: We will be celebrating holidays and special events in Kindergarten. If you are interested in donating supplies or treats, you may sign up on Sign Up Genius via a link I share in Seesaw about 2 weeks before each celebration.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued three times per year in Kindergarten (November, March, and June). Your parent conference will be additional time for you to hear about your child's progress.

Snacks: Each afternoon, we will have a small healthy snack and drink. Each student must **bring their own** snack and drink. Be sure they understand it is separate from their lunch. They may bring a special snack on their birthday. Water bottles are encouraged this year. We are not able to use our in class drinking fountain at this time.

Special Classes: Our special classes are: Gym (days 2, 4, and 6), Music on day 2, STEM(a) on Day 3, Art on Day 5, and Library on day 1. Social/Emotional Learning will be once per cycle. These are listed on my website and the back of your child's take home

folder for your convenience. Sneakers are the best choice every day. We may go outside or do brief kid movement/yoga or music between lessons in the classroom. Specials will follow the district activities calendar.

High Frequency Words: These are words that your child must **read and write automatically**, before leaving kindergarten. These words are added to our word wall. We will work on them in school, and word cards will be added to your child's reading bag to practice at home. They are called **snap words** in the program we use. Your child will tell you they need to know them in a snap. If you lose them, they are on my website.

Seesaw App: Students will use the Seesaw App for your child to complete some independent work in our learning management system. This works on phones, tablets, and laptop/desktop devices. This this app will be on your child's iPad.



Take Home Folders: Each student will receive this plastic green folder. All informational papers and schoolwork will be placed in the folders **by students** before leaving school. Please place any notes for me in this folder. Please check and empty this folder each school night. Folders are checked every day, but backpacks are not. Be sure your child is placing things in their folder. This is something we become independent with in Kindergarten, as it is an expected skill in first grade.