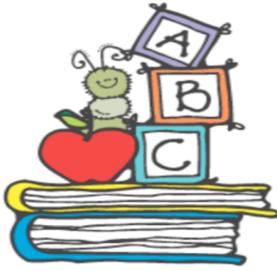


Mrs. Barrows

ABC's of Kindergarten



A

Absences: In order to ensure that all children arrive safely and promptly at school, if you have not contacted the school explaining your child's absence, the school will call your home the morning of the absence. If it is necessary for your child to be absent for any reason, please contact the school. If you know in advance that your child will not be in attendance, please send a note explaining the reason for the absence. A written note should also be sent the day your child returns to school.

Arrival: Pupils should arrive between 7:50 and 8:15 am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:50. Students should not arrive prior to 7:50 am since supervision is not available by the school staff. School begins promptly at 8:20 am and dismissal is at 2:35 pm. Children should go directly to the gym. If eating breakfast, the student should go then to the cafeteria. Attendance will be taken at 8:20. If the children come in later than 8:20, they should stop by the office for a tardy pass before coming to the classroom.

Attendance: A successful school experience involves the cooperation of the child, teacher, and parent. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced by daily participation. Consistent attendance enhances learning. We cover several activities in a short period of time, so regular attendance without tardiness is a key. It is very important that your child attend class unless ill or an emergency arises.

B

Backpacks: Please make sure your child carries a backpack daily to carry their Take Home Folder and behavior folder to and from school. Check your child's book bag daily.

Behavior Folders: A behavior folder will be sent home each day and I expect it to be returned the following day. Each month there will be an attached paper that features a monthly character (apple, ghost, Christmas tree, etc.) that the children will color according to their behavior that day. This will indicate how their day has gone. PLEASE INITIAL BELOW THE SHPAE EACH DAY. Your initial assures me that you have seen the folder.

Behavior Report: Any day that children have their card turned to RED or WHITE they will bring home a behavior report explaining why they had their card turned. Please go over this report with your child, and if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know what they are. Please sign the report and return it the next school day. Having your child explain his/her misbehavior teaches responsibility for actions taken.

Birthdays: Birthdays are special occasions for young children. I will pass out birthday invitations only if everyone is included. I also celebrate birthdays by using a Star of the Week theme. Around your child's birthday, he/she will be Star of the Week. A poster will come home for you and your child to fill out. Pre-packaged snacks are the only snacks allowed.

Book orders: Several times this years I will be sending home book order forms for you and your child to look over. Book purchase is optional. You can either fill out the form and return it to me or you may order on –line. (If you want to purchase any books, please send the money or check in an envelope, along with the slip from each book club you will be ordering from, listing your child's name and the amount enclosed.) Checks should be made out to SCHOLASTIC. These books include excellent selections for children that are reasonably priced.

C

Character Education and Citizenship: My goal as a teacher is to help teach the children to display "Good Character" traits. Having caring, responsible young children is very important at Bethalto East. Each month our school focuses on one character trait. We say that having "Good Character" is doing what is right even when no one is looking.

Clothes: Please label all coats, jackets and sweaters. Many clothes are identical, and various items end up in the lost and found container. If your child's name is on all articles they are more likely to be returned. Many kindergarten activities are messy activities so "dressed-up" clothing is discouraged. We paint, glue, and play actively so comfortable clothing and shoes are appropriate.

Conferences: Parent/Teacher conferences are held in the Fall and Winter. During conferences we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress.

D

Dismissal: Kindergarten children who are not riding a bus will be picked up in the front circle. If you get out of your car, please wait outside the building. It is for your child's safety that adults should remain outside.

E

Emergency Closing: A School Reach call will be sent out. Please make sure your phone number is up to date with Miss Val in the office. Also, if school is closed for any emergency, radio stations KMOX (1120 AM) and WBGZ (1570 AM) and ST. Louis TV stations will make announcements beginning at 5:30 AM. If an emergency occurs during the day, School Reach, the radio and TV stations will announce dismissal procedures and bus schedules.

Envelope: When sending ALL money to school, cash or check, please put it in a sealed envelope with your child's name, my name, and the purpose for the money on the outside of the envelope. This insures that the money is used for the intended purpose.

Extra Clothes: It is suggested that each child have a set of clothes at school in case of a bathroom accident or a messy spill. If the extra clothes are at school we will not have to bother you at work or at home for this "non emergency."

F

Footwear: Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement both on the playground and in PE class. Cowboy boots or dress shoes, for example, are not good choices for school activities because they are slippery and often cause scuff marks on our floors.

G

Got a Question?: Since so many of you are new to Bethalto East and kindergarten, I'm sure that you

may still have unanswered questions or questions may occur throughout the year. Please feel free to call me at (377-7250) between 7:50 – 8:15 AM or between 2:30 – 3:45 PM or email me at mbarrows@bethalto.org. Any question or concern is important!

Guided Reading: Guided reading provides an opportunity for a small group of children to meet with the teacher. I will monitor and evaluate each child's progress on various literacy activities that may include working on alphabet recognition, individual children reading simple stories, and teach the children a variety of reading strategies for those who are ready for this step.

H

Homework: Homework every night is reading! I expect parents to read to your child every school night. Also, skill papers will be sent home as homework and I expect you and your child to work on it together. Homework needs to be returned the next school day.

I

Illness: The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. Keeping them at home helps to make them more comfortable and prevents their classmates from becoming ill, also. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy.

J

K

Kindness: All children in my room are encouraged and expected to treat everyone at our school with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted without a consequence.

L

Lunch: Our class lunchtime is from 11:55 - 12:40. Children may bring lunch from home or purchase a school lunch. A monthly lunch menu will be sent home with each day's meal choices listed for you

to discuss with your child. Any child who qualifies for free or reduced lunch will have a plastic card with their numbered and named account exactly like those who add money to lunch accounts. You will receive notification when the account becomes low.

M

Memory Book: I will take numerous pictures of the children doing various activities this year. I will keep these pictures and other school projects in a binder. At the end of the year the children will have a book of Kindergarten memories.

Music: We are scheduled for two twenty-five minute periods per week.

N

Newsletter: I will send a newsletter each Friday in the children's Take Home Folder. I will expect you to read the newsletter to keep informed our daily happenings, class news, special activities, homework and upcoming events.

Notes to/from Home: I encourage communication. I realize sometimes it is hard to reach someone on the phone, so please feel free to write me a note. I will try to contact you the same day I receive your note. I will also write you notes individually on occasion. Oftentimes, especially concerning behavior issues, I will expect you to sign and return the note the next day. I check the children's Take Home Folder first thing in the AM, so please send notes back in the folder.

Nurse: Mrs. Sherri Verdin is our School Nurse. Please make sure we have current contact numbers on file in case Mrs. Sherri needs to get in touch with you.

O

Outside Recess: The children will have an AM 15-minute recess and a 20-minute lunch recess each day. Please keep this in mind when helping your child select clothing for the day. We have district criteria concerning winter wind-chill on whether the children go out or stay in – wind chill of 15 in AM, 20 at lunch.

P

Principal: Our school's principal is Mrs. Rachael LeCkrone.

Parent/Teacher Club: We have an active parent/teacher organization that welcomes new members. Dues are \$1.00 and this membership allows you to vote on issues. Our Parents' Club has bought many things to benefit our school and has also provided many fun activities. Come be a part of decision – making this year!

Parties and Celebrations: We celebrate Christmas and Valentine's Day. The room parents usually organize these events, coordinate volunteers, and ask for donations. All are welcome to participate in our celebrations!

PE: Mr. David Page is our PE teacher. The children will learn many skills and new games. We have two twenty-five minute classes each week. The children are asked to wear tennis shoes on PE days.

Q

Quiet Time: In the beginning of the school year when the children are getting used to a busy schedule they rest for a 20 – 30 minute period each day. The children must lie quietly and rest. They are not expected to go to sleep, but oftentimes they do. Small towels are perfect resting mats because they are easy for the children to fold and fit well in the small lockers.

R

Rainbow Math: We will begin this math incentive program in December. We have four tests for each level. We will send information before we begin the program.

Report Cards/Assessment Booklets: Report cards are issued four times per year. The first report card will be shared during Parent/Teacher conferences in the fall.

Restrooms: The children are encouraged to go to the bathroom before school begins, before lunch, and again after lunch recess. At other times they are free to go to the bathroom as the need arises.

S

Snack: When your child is the Star Student, I ask that you send a snack for the entire class. This snack should be an easy one, and something they all can manipulate and open. I will also have Star of the Week later, and I will ask again for a special snack.

Star Student: (Not to be confused with Star of the Week.) We will begin the year by focusing on learning each other's names. We will cheer the Star Student's name, interview them, and make a picture for their Star Student book to be taken home.

Secretary: Our school's secretary is Mrs. Val Smith and Mrs. Shannon Peterson.

T

Toys: Bringing toys to school is discouraged and not allowed on the playground. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings will be hurt.

Transportation: At the beginning of the year, most of you filled out a bus transportation form. This form will be the normal routine. Every once in a while changes need to be made for going home. If this happens, please send in a note, do not rely on your child to tell us this information, because children often become confused and relay information incorrectly. **If a written note is not received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.**

U

V

Visitors: Our school has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the office to receive and wear a badge. We welcome and encourage family involvement, and the presence of a guest badge will help identify you to all faculty and staff. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is our goal and responsibility of our school to create a safe learning environment.

W

X

eXperiences: Kindergarten is such an exciting time! We are learning about the magic of books, letters, numbers poetry, songs, science, social studies, art, music, P.E., computers, and oh yes, school rules! Enjoy this year and let your kindergartner know how important school is to you.

Y

Young Authors: Our district participates in this writing program that encourages children to enter their best book writing efforts. This effort will require cooperation between the children, teacher, and parents. This is an optional program. Each participant receives an award and is recognized. I will send information when we get closer to beginning this project.

Z

ZZZZZZZZZs: Make sure your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime schedule is a wonderful gift you can give your child. Plenty of sleep will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day.

ABC Parent Summary

- **Check your child's Take Home Folder daily**
- **Read ALL school notices**
- **Read the newsletter**

- **Send money in a sealed, labeled envelope**
- **Volunteer to be a Room Helper**
- **Donate supplies when asked**
- **Make sure your child is well-rested.**
- **Attend Parent's Club meetings**
- **Call, write, or come in if you ever have a question or concern**
- **Provide a good reading and writing environment for your child**
- **Read aloud to your child daily**
- **Listen to your child read**
- **Be Patient! They each learn at their own rate**