Mrs. Barrows

ABC’s of

Kindergarten

A

Absences: 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 8:00 and 8:30 am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00. Students should not arrive prior to 8:00 am since supervision is not available by the school staff. School begins promptly at 8:30 am and dismissal is at 3:00 pm. Children should go directly to the gym. If eating breakfast, the student should go then to the cafeteria. Attendance will be taken at 8:35. If the children come in later than 8:30, 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.

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 year, I will be sending home book order forms for you and your child to look over. Book purchase is optional. You can order on–line.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.

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 of clothing, 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 back of the school. Mrs. Leckrone will be sending out dismissal procedures.

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

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 ensures 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) 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. 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: 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: Our Music Teacher is Mr. Raymond.

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. 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 one 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.

PE: Mr. Christian Burnet is our PE teacher.

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. Small towels are perfect resting mats because they are easy for the children to fold and fit well in the cubbies.

R

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.

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. Children can also bring a snack for recess. Recess snack should be something that can easily open and can eat within a few minutes.

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. Occasionally, changes need to be made for going home. If this happens, please contact the office. **If you forget to call the office and let them know of the change, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.**

U

V

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., tablests, 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

• Donate supplies when asked

• Make sure your child is well-rested.

• 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