



## Welcome to Kindergarten!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Coyote Ridge Elementary School. We are looking forward to working with you throughout this year to make your child's beginning in elementary school a success. Kindergarten is a time of excitement, wonder, exploration and discovery. Through fun hands-on activities, your child will work hard to academically prepare for first grade. We hope this information packet will provide you with a helpful overview of our Kindergarten procedures and expectations.

Kindergarten Teachers

## Supplies

Many of our school supplies are pooled together to be shared by the class. Throughout the year, we may request donations of materials that are needed for special activities and projects.

Please encourage your child to bring a backpack to school daily. Backpacks are invaluable for transporting library books and important papers to and from school.

## Discipline

Our philosophy is that a child needs and deserves positive reinforcement for displaying acceptable behavior in a nurturing environment. We strive to create an environment that is both emotionally and physically safe for students. We respect the rights of everyone in the classroom. This is an important year for each child to learn to develop self-discipline, good work habits, resolve conflicts peacefully and think independently.

Our classroom rules include:

- Raise your hand when you need to share something with the class.
- No talking when someone else is sharing.
- Take care of classroom materials and clean up when done.
- Always do your best work.
- "Play nice" with everyone.
- Follow directions the first time you are asked.
- Use a soft voice in the classroom, save your big voice for the playground.
- Always use good manners.
- Have fun!

We like to praise the children for their efforts in following the rules. When we catch a child "being good", we may give him/her a "Coyote Coupon" or mark a chart and later allow the child to trade in these "points" for a prize from a treasure box. Each classroom will also

have a system to remind students to make good choices and help them become accountable for their behavior.

We involve logical consequences when classroom rules are broken. The consequences are related to the misbehavior and children are asked to think about and verbalize better choices. Parents will be notified by a note, phone call, email or at parent/teacher conference if rules are continually broken or misbehavior severe. The goal is to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students as well as a sense of community in our classrooms.

## Communication

Friday Folders will come home weekly usually on the last school day of the week and they are to be returned on the next school day. This is a GREAT way for your child to practice responsibility. Please review and remove your child's work and any other informational papers each week. Papers may not come home on a regular basis initially since many of our activities involve concrete manipulation of objects. Some work will remain at school all year, such as your child's writing journal. Some papers may stay at school on display. Our weekly class newsletter and other informational letters for parents will also be sent home regularly in the Friday Folder. There is also a table set up near the office that has informational items. Also please check your child's backpack daily because occasionally something of importance needs to go home during the week.

We believe that frequent communication between home and school is important. If questions or concerns arise, please feel free to contact your child's teacher at school by phone, email, or by sending a note with your child. Please know that it is challenging to speak with parents we are teaching. Also, the start and end of the kindergarten day when students are arriving or leaving, is often a very hectic time. **If there is a change in plans of how your child will get home after school, please let the teacher know in a note, and call the**

**office.** Children riding the bus will need to wear a bracelet (which will be provided) for the first two weeks of school.

Parent visitation is always welcome. Please contact your child's teacher to make sure we will be in the classroom. Irregular schedules occur due to school assemblies and other special activities. It is imperative to check in at the office and get a pass whenever visiting the school.

A parent volunteer schedule will be set up in October for those interested in coming in to help in the classroom. We welcome and encourage everyone to spend some time helping in the classroom. There will also be opportunities to take things home to work on if you cannot come into the classroom to volunteer.

## **Snacks**

Please make sure your child eats a healthy, hearty meal prior to the start of his/her school day. If your child has food allergies, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. Due to the fact that the Kindergarten half-day session is so brief and because many children have severe allergic reactions to foods, snacks will not be permitted. We do celebrate birthdays with treats so again, please inform your child's teacher if certain foods are to be avoided for your child.

Please **do not** send a water bottle to school with your child. We do have a drinking fountain in the classroom as well as a bathroom, which students are able to access anytime.

## **Birthdays**

We love birthdays! We have a simple, routine celebration for students whose birthday falls during the school year. If your child has a summer birthday, you may want to plan an "unbirthday" while school is in session. Please contact the teacher to set a date. On your child's birthday or unbirthday, you may provide simple birthday treats for the class. Cookies, wrapped treats, juice boxes, treat bags with favors

work best. Please abstain from sending treats that contain peanuts. Contact your child's teacher for specific classroom information about treats. You may send birthday treats at the beginning of the day and they will be enjoyed near the end of the Kindergarten day.

## **Show and Tell**

Routinely, children should leave toys at home. Kindergartners become very unhappy when treasured items get lost, stolen or broken. Your child will have an opportunity for sharing from home on a scheduled basis and a reminder note will be sent home. Every child in the class will have a turn sharing before a random rotation begins again.

Sharing books from home is always encouraged, especially when the books relate to what we have been studying at school.

## **Recess**

We will be playing outside almost every day at the beginning of the school year and intermittently throughout the year. We strongly believe that all young children need the opportunity to move throughout the day. Time to run and play outside helps children to stay on task while they are in the classroom. Please help your child to dress for the weather.

Due to safety and liability reasons children cannot play on the playground immediately before or after school. Children are allowed to play after 4:00p.m.

## **Homework**

Homework provides an opportunity to deepen understanding and enhance skills because it extends learning opportunities beyond the school day. The child with some parent support should complete

homework. The goal for each Kindergartner is to become an independent worker.

Friday Family Activity- This homework will be sent weekly in your child's Friday Folder. These family activities relate to what we have been studying in school. They are designed to give you an opportunity to be actively involved with your child's learning as you help reinforce concept and skill development at home. The homework may involve reading, language arts and/or math practice. "Homelinks" from our Everyday Math program will also be sent home on a regular basis. Homework should be completed and returned to school in the Friday Folder. Completion of homework will impact a child's Eight-Trait scores on the report card.

## **Report Cards**

Kindergarten report cards are sent home twice a year. The first report card will come home at the end of the first semester, which is near the end of January. The final report card will come home the last day of school in June.

## **Conferences**

Kindergarten conferences will take place two times a year. During the first conference, the teacher will show you examples of your child's work and talk about strengths and any areas of concern. The second conference will be student-led. Each child will discuss their portfolio work and share his/her progress.

## **Daily Schedule**

### **Opening**

This whole group activity focuses on the development of math concepts, phonics and sight word recognition and includes the following:

Attendance, calendar, weather, graphing, counting the days in school and sharing news.

### Literacy

The district has implemented a Comprehensive Approach to Language and Literacy. The components include:

Interactive Read Aloud (by the teacher)

Shared Reading (Big Books, memorized language such as poems, songs and rhymes)

Oral Language Development

Phonics and Phonemic Awareness Instruction

Guided Reading Groups

Interactive Writing and Independent Journal Writing

Listening Center (books on tape followed by a writing activity)

Independent Reading (picture reading books, memorized print in Big Books or on posters)

Handwriting (including proper body posture, grip and letter formation)

Word Learning

Writing Workshop

### Math

Our district has adapted the Everyday Math series from the Everyday Learning Corporation. Repeated exposure to key mathematical ideas over time is built into the Kindergarten program.

Some of the mathematical strands include:

Numeration

Measurement

Geometry

Operations (including number stories)

Patterns

Money

Clocks and Calendars

Graphing

Problem Solving

Specials

Music

P.E.

Art

Centers

Centers involve Math, Science, listening, blocks and game activities that thematically relate to the current Social Studies or Science theme.

Choice time and recess

Closing Activities (including clean-up and goodbye story)

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