



Pathways to College TK-8

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# KINDER

## Welcome Packet

*Welcome to Pathways to College:*

We welcome you to our kindergarten community. We are very excited to have your child in our class and we look forward to having a great year.

Kindergarten is the first and one of the most important steps in your child's journey to college. This year will begin to set the foundation for their academics and will help shape your child's attitude about learning for the rest of their academic career. Our staff's goal is to help your child realize a positive and energized attitude about learning.

The first week of school will be spent learning about what to expect in this new place called kindergarten. After all, this is a new environment for students. In addition to academics, your child will learn social skills, like how to communicate properly with adults and peers, how to share, apologize, encourage others, and ask for help. Students will learn procedures such as working in groups or independently, emergency procedures and drills, entering and exiting the classrooms, appropriate behavior during lunch and recess, waiting and walking in line. Problem solving skills and taking responsibility will be emphasized.

Our kindergarten staff also believe in the power of play. Play is a significant way that children develop language, express creativity, develop social skills, solve problems and learn about their world in general. As required by law, we teach students the common core academic standards for kindergarten; however, avenues such as art, music, movement, and drama are also taught in our classrooms so that each individual can experience learning in a way that excites and inspires their curiosity to learn even more.

It is important to check the plastic folder daily! We will place important messages and your child's homework inside! Your folder will go home daily and must be returned daily. If you have any questions, please call us or schedule a meeting with us. We are always happy to help you.

Thank you for taking an interest in our school,

*Pathways to College Kindergarten Team*

# Prepare your child

## for school

### **1. Read daily to your child**

- a. This develops language skills, increases vocabulary, teaches children to sit and listen for an extended period of time, stimulates creativity, and gives them a good feeling about reading.

### **2. Provide constructive play opportunities**

- a. Children need to interact with real materials. They need opportunities to socialize with other children and adults. They need to be creative in their play.
- b. Constructive play means children are allowed unstructured playtime with real materials to encourage building, problem solving, and learning through doing.

### **3. Limit visual stimulation**

- a. Too much television viewing, video game playing, and computer use may cause obesity, lack of effort in schoolwork, and poor social skills.
- b. Can cause difficulty focusing, and lowers attention spans.

### **4. Teach basic manners**

- a. Children should know how to respect adults and other children, take turns, share, and follow simple directions.

### **5. Provide opportunities for active play outside**

- a. Encourage movement activities such as running, jumping, skipping, swinging, climbing, twirling, sliding, and hanging. Hike, bike, swim, ski-whatever! What better way to learn about our environment?

### **6. Teach proper restroom etiquette**

- a. Teach your child to wipe independently, clean his/her mess, wash hands with soap, and throw waste in proper place.

### **7. Keep your child on a regular schedule**

- a. Have a proper bedtime, a child needs 10-12 hours of sleep per night, this helps them stay engaged and focused during the day.





## FIELD TRIPS

FUN! We plan to have a few academically relevant field trips throughout the year. These trips are kept at a minimum expense and are very memorable to the students.

## COMMUNICATION

As a parent, you are a large part of this learning team. Teachers are here to see that your child succeeds and is treated fairly and respectfully at our school. In turn, you are responsible for communicating with your teacher. We are a small family-oriented school and pride ourselves in building positive relationships with our students and their families. If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to come talk to us.

## HOMEWORK AND PROJECTS

Homework should take about 10 minutes a day and is given to your child in a plastic folder on Monday. Please return the homework in the same folder by Friday. **\*NOTE: The teacher may send important notes and flyers to you each week in that same folder throughout the week, so please check the folder every day!!!!**

Be sure to sit with your child as homework is completed. This will inform you of what your child is learning and in what areas your child may need help. More importantly, it shows that you care about what your child learns in school.

10 to 15 minutes of reading should also be done daily to you. Reading time may include he/she look at you reading to your child or your child reading the pictures and re-tell the story to you. As reading skills increase their overall academic performance is enhanced.

## KINDERGARTEN PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' REMEMBER TO-DO LIST:

If you choose to pack a cold lunch, include two nutritious snacks and a drink (during hot weather, two drinks). Please note that nothing that needs to be micro-waved or heated is allowed; for example, Cup of Noodles is not allowed. Good snack ideas are fruit, celery w/ peanut butter, raisins, cheese w/crackers, yogurt, string cheese and granola bars. Blue ice or other ice packs will help keep your child's lunch cold. If you choose **hot lunch** from our school lunch program, you will still need to pack your child two snacks and a drink.

Use permanent markers to write child's name on all personal items (lunches, jackets, gloves, Back Packs, etc.)

Send a note to the teacher or office staff if your child CANNOT go outside that day. Any child without a note goes outside to play at least twice a day, weather permitting, of course.

Buy shoes with Velcro if child cannot tie his/her shoes. Remember if your child's shoelaces become untied, he/she can trip and get hurt. Believe it or not, this is the number one safety issue.



## DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES

School (class) starts at 8:00 a.m. Please drop off your child in the kindergarten building area. For safety reason, you will need to park in the front parking lot and carefully walk your child up. A proctor will be there to greet you. You may stay with your child at the drop-off area if you wish. Teachers pick up the students at 7:50 a.m. from the side of the building (between the quad & in front of the kinder classrooms). During the first week, parents/guardians may walk up to the classrooms with us, but we ask that you please part with your child at this point. A goodbye and a smile are great; more than that makes it very difficult to your child to develop the independence they need. Sometimes there will be a tear, which is natural and OK! Sometimes the parents cry, and that is OK too! Know that if there is ever a problem, we will call you.

If you should arrive after 8:00 a.m. and there is no proctor in the fenced area, please take your child to the Front Office and they will be escorted to their classroom. **IMPORTANT: DO not drop off your child unattended at any time, whether it's before or after 7:50 a.m.**

Be involved and participate in our many family events and fundraisers. We will be in touch through our newsletters. Communication is a must! Please feel free to volunteer in our class room; Ones you complete a volunteering packet you just have to let your teacher know when you are available!

Follow traffic proctors' directions for drop off and pick up. And be cautious to the proctors looking out for the safety of our students.

## TK and Kindergarten Supply List



We would greatly appreciate it if you could purchase these supplies for your child to begin school with. We ask that you purchase the supplies that are being specifically asked for, including brands.

	
1 box of Crayola Crayons (24 ct.)	1 Paper Mate Pink Pearl Erasers (3 ct.)
	
2 boxes of Crayola Jumbo Crayons (8 ct.)	2 Expo Dry Erase Markers Fine Tip-black (6 ct.)
	
5 Elmer's School Glue sticks -purple (4 ct.)	1 Fiskers Blunt Tip Scissors
	
1 Kleenex Tissues Boxes (4 ct.)	1 Ticonderoga Beginners Pencils (12 ct.)

## Donations

We appreciate any supplies that you may donate for our students and we thank you in advance for your support and generosity. All supplies donated will go towards our classroom supplies and are shared within our school community.

- 1 Ziploc Gallon size bags
- 2 pkg. of small paper cup (5-7oz.)
- 1 pkg. of paper napkins and paper plates
- 2 pkg. of absorbent paper towels
- 1 pkg. of plastic forks
- Ribbon, lace, or yarn
- Old magazines
- Construction paper
- Bags of cotton balls
- Elmer's school glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Tongue depressors
- Tissue paper
- Case of water bottles for emergencies

 <p>1 Ticonderoga Pencils (12 ct.)</p>	 <p>1 Crayola Markers – Classic (10 ct.)</p>
 <p>5 Lysol Wipes</p>	 <p>5 Baby Wipes (brand does NOT matter)</p>
 <p>1 Purell Hand Sanitizer Pump Bottle</p>	 <p>1 Ziploc Sandwich Bags Snap lock (40 ct.)</p>
 <p>4 Reams of white copy paper (any brand)</p>	 <p>1 Reusable Spill Proof Water Bottle (any brand) with their name written in black sharpie</p>