





Kindergarten Information 2023-2024

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking forward to a fun and successful year in kindergarten. This is an exciting time for you and your child because so many incredible things happen in these next ten short months. You'll be amazed at the things your little one will accomplish this year!

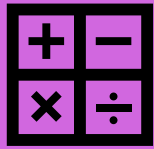
 Transportation	<p>Your child has been assigned a bus to take to and from school each day. You may also drop off and/or pick up your child from school. Please fill out and sign the Dismissal Procedures form you received at your Gradual Entry conference on 8/28. Anytime there is a change in this routine please send a note with your child in his or her red folder. If something changes during the school day, please call the school office with dismissal changes. Do not email your child's teacher to let her know of any dismissal changes. It is possible that email isn't checked or that your child's teacher is unable to access email that day. <u>We are unable to let your child go home with a friend or change the usual dismissal procedure without written permission from you.</u></p> <p>If your child is in a club or after school activity, please send a note each day or one note listing the dates your child is to attend the club/activity. This will help to ensure the safety of your child, which is our priority. Students may only ride home on their assigned bus. Please note that dismissal instructions are most important. It is not necessary to let me know if your child's morning routine changes.</p>
 School Work	<p>It is important that you look in your child's backpack each evening. All school news, notes and assignments come home with your child in their red, "Take Home Folder". This folder will come home daily and is to be sent back to school each morning. Each night, please review all items and check for any items that need to be returned to school. All other items should be removed from the red folder. This is our best line of communication. Please place all notes and other important items in this folder, it will be checked each morning. Your child will be responsible for unpacking his or her red folder every day.</p> <p>Most of the work your child has done will be sent home in their red folder (also be on the lookout for awesome work displayed around our classroom and in the hallways outside our room). Take some time and go over the work your child has done. Be positive and value the hard work your child has done at school.</p>
 Weekly Updates	<p>We will send a weekly update via email every Friday afternoon to parents/caregivers. The email will communicate classroom events, schedule updates, and what we learned in comprehension, phonics, math, and content. We encourage you to discuss with your child what they learned during the week.</p>
 Lunch	<p>Lunch will be in the cafeteria each day from 12:30-1:00. Cafeteria helpers will be there to assist the children with anything they may need. Your child may bring his/her lunch or they can get a lunch from the cafeteria. Please label lunch boxes or sacks with your child's first and last name.</p>



Snack and Water Bottles

There will be a small snack each morning. Please make sure that your child has something **small and simple** to eat (granola bar, cut up apple, small bag of crackers) and drink. Students can keep water bottles in their cubby. This should be separate from what they will eat for lunch. We ask that you send something nutritious for your child to eat in order to "power" them through the day. To save time and clean up, yogurts, applesauce and snacks which require spoons, lids, straws etc should not be sent as snack. Please be mindful of allergies and send a snack that will keep everyone in the room safe.

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day. Label your child's water bottle with their first and last name.



Curriculum

Each day your child will participate in Phonics, Comprehension, Literacy Centers, Writers Workshop, and Math. Along with the core subjects, students will also take part in Science, Health, and Social Studies activities throughout the week as well as classroom guidance lessons. Our days are packed full of great things, please ask your child about their school day.

High frequency words and decodable books are part of our phonics program. Decodable books are small paper books which will come home most weeks in your child's folder. These simple stories utilize the high frequency word(s) learned during the lessons that week. Please read the decodable books with your child when they come home and practice the high frequency words as often as possible. These books are to be kept at home for children to continue rereading.



Class Meeting, Independent Reading, Quiet Time

In addition to a Morning Meeting each day, our class will meet, read independently, or rest quietly at some point each afternoon, especially during the first quarter. This is a great time for the students to get to know each other and discuss their feelings about school.

Please send a small (child sized) towel to be kept at school for your child to sit on while reading. The towels will be sent home periodically to be washed and will come home permanently after conferences in November.



Specials

This year your child will be participating in Library, Physical Education, Music and Art with the special area teachers. Specials are every day from 10:05-10:55.

****Tennis shoes are required on Physical Education days.**









Homework

Homework will not begin until October.

Homework will be sent home on Tuesdays and is due back to school by the following Monday (it may be returned sooner if your child completes the work). Homework will be sent home in your child's green folder. Homework will typically include skills that we are learning or practicing during the week.

Reviewing high frequency words and rereading decodable books is an important part of your child's weekly homework.

 <p>Appropriate Clothing</p>	<p>We get messy in kindergarten and go outside everyday (weather permitting). Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that can get a little dirty and send in jackets, gloves, hats etc when the weather begins to change.</p> <p>Tennis shoes are absolutely the best shoes to wear. Flip flops are not allowed on the playground equipment. Please no Crocs.</p> <p>It is also important to note that the temperature in our classroom is unpredictable and fluctuates often. Dress your child in layers. You may consider leaving a jacket/sweater in your child's cubby.</p>
 <p>Progress Reports & Conferences</p>	<p>Kindergarten report cards are called Progress Reports and are distributed at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters. Teachers also schedule kindergarten conferences to share progress with parents/caregivers during the year. These conferences will take place twice during the year, once in the Fall (Tuesday, November 21, 2023) and again in the Spring (Monday, April 29, 2024). A sign-up will be sent through Sign-up Genius in October for November conferences.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress at any time, please do not hesitate to contact their teacher.</p>
 <p>Birthdays & Treats</p>	<p>Birthdays are wonderful! You may send in birthday prizes (no food items) with your child to be distributed at the end of the day or you may come into our room as a "Guest Reader" to read one of your child's favorite stories. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to be a guest reader so that we can schedule your time.</p> <p>Summer birthdays will be celebrated in June.</p>
 <p>Behavior & Discipline</p>	<p>During the first week of school our class will discuss our classroom rules. We expect that all children can follow classroom rules and understand the reasons behind these rules. For all students to have the best chance at success, our classroom needs to be a safe place to learn, make mistakes, and explore. We strive to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment in which we all work together as a team. This includes following our student pledge, which we will learn together during the first week of school.</p>
 <p>CMES HOUSES</p>	<p>Every child at CMES is part of a HOUSE. This is a group/team made up of other students and faculty members throughout the school. Students can earn points for their HOUSE and will participate in activities with the members of their HOUSE on HOUSE Days through the year. More information about this program will be forthcoming.</p>
 <p>Star Student</p>	<p>Your child will be recognized as our 'Star Student' at some point during the school year. You will receive more information about this when it is your child's turn to be the Star Student.</p>



Room Parents

Interested in the position? Room parents will have the responsibility of planning and contacting parents to help with parties, asking for donations of items for the classroom and helping with PTA events. You will act as the class representative to the PTA. Several parents may wish to work together as a team for this very important job.

We appreciate your support!



Donations

We will be doing lots of fun projects this year! If you are interested in donating any of the following items to our classrooms, please send them to school with your child at any time. Thank you!

- Sand toys
- Glue sticks
- Paper towels
- Play-Doh
- Baby wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Tissues
- Dry erase markers- black, rounded tip
- Cardstock
- Stickers



Correspondence

Feel free to contact your child's teacher if there are situations that need to be discussed. You are always welcome to email us or put a note in your child's red folder. The most reliable way to connect with us is through email. We spend most of our day engaged in activities with the class so please be aware that it may take up to 24 hours for a response.

Please do not email with time sensitive information, such as dismissal changes, instead call the Main Office. The school's phone number is (443) 809-5947.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Mrs. Dana Gregory, dgregory@bcps.org

Mrs. Heather Sferlazza, hsferlazza@bcps.org

Mrs. Lauren Miller, lmiller18@bcps.org