



Handbook for Kindergarten Parents

Plainville Elementary School
2014-2015

Mrs. Jennie Hovis



Sharing/Show and Tell

You will receive a schedule showing your child's show and tell day. Each week your child may bring one item to share with the class. This activity is used to enhance students' speaking and listening skills. Please help your child pick an item that he/she will be able to give some information about (ex. where they got it/why it is important to them).

Bringing and Picking Up Your Child

We will begin school at 8:00 am. If your child arrives at school before 8:00, he/she will sit in the hallway and read a book or magazine until school begins. All students will need to have books and/or magazines to read and look at quietly. Please make sure your child has these items labeled with his/her name in his/her book bag each day if he/she will be arriving to school prior to 8:00. Breakfast is served daily at 7:40 in the cafeteria. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school please make sure they are here by that time.

School dismisses at 3:30 pm. It is very important for both your child and your child's teacher to know who is picking them up after school. Please send a note to school if there is a change in arrangements. Also, if a last minute change in schedule prevents you from picking up your child and your child is expecting you, please call the school office so they can relay the message to me and I can visit with your child beforehand.

Take Home Folders

We will use folders to help facilitate communication between home and school. Your child will bring the folder home each day. Daily work and special notices will be sent home in this folder. Also, each child will have a weekly communication log that **must** remain in the folder. Any comments or questions can be written on this note throughout the week to help with communication between home and school. If I need to remind you of something coming up, let you know how your child is progressing, or any

other news can be found on this note. Please feel free to write and questions or comments for the teacher also.

Behavior Plan

In our classroom positive behavior is encouraged throughout the school day. We will have a behavior chart to assist the students in visualizing the effects of their behavior choices throughout the day. Each student will begin the school day on "Ready to Learn". As each student makes positive behavior choices, he/she will move up on the chart to purple "Good Choices", then "Great Job", and finally "Outstanding". If a negative behavior choice is made that requires a student to visit our "refocus mats", he/she will move the clothespin down to "Think about it". At that time, he/she must sit on the "refocus mats" where he/she needs to think about the choice that was made and how to make a better choice next time. This thinking takes place on the red and yellow mats. Once the student is ready to talk about his/her behavior, he/she can move to the blue mat and talk to the teacher about it. When the teacher and student have worked out the issue, the student will move back to "Ready to Learn" and begin trying to move back up the chart. This gives the students ample opportunities to make positive behavior choices throughout the day to achieve an "Outstanding" day even if a mistake or two is made. If a negative behavior persists throughout the day or a child is not able to arrive at an acceptable way to correct a negative behavior, he/she will move to "Contact Home". At that time the child will make a phone call to his/her parent to explain the issue and discuss what is needed to the behavior to change.

There will also be communication about your child's day on the Communication Log in your child's folder. You may not receive an update every day. I want the students to be proud of their good behavior choices, but not dwell on making some mistakes. That is how we all learn and grow 😊

Birthday Treats

We will celebrate each child's birthday as it occurs. If a birthday falls on a vacation or a weekend, you can make arrangements as to when you would like to celebrate at school (if you choose to do so). Summer birthdays will be celebrated in the spring. Children may bring birthday treats to share with the class. Please send the treats in individually wrapped packages and enough for the entire class.

Snacks

Snack will be served daily in kindergarten. We ask that you provide two days worth of snacks for the entire class at the beginning of each month. The students will be involved in preparing our snacks as much as possible, so we ask that you send snacks that are nutritious and kid-friendly. We have listed some examples below:

****We do have a student ALLERGIC to nuts!! Please do not send snacks with any kind of nuts in them!!**

- Box of cereal/gallon of milk
- Box of graham crackers/bananas
- Block of cheese/crackers
- Grapes/Apples
- Cans of pineapple rings
- Snack mix
- Goldfish crackers
- Bread/Jam (we will have a toaster to make toast)
- Oranges/Clementines
- Watermelon

If you have other ideas or questions about a snack, please feel free to ask!

Money Procedures

There may be times throughout the school year that your child will be responsible for bringing money to school (book orders, lunch money, etc). When sending money to school, please place it in an envelope marked with your child's name and the purpose for the money. Please put the envelope in the "return to school" pocket of your child's folder.

Book Orders

Each month we will send book orders home with your child. These offer you an opportunity to purchase books at a low cost. Allowing children to own their own books is important because it builds excitement and eagerness for learning to read. However, do not feel you are obligated in any way to purchase from the book orders. You may order online using the classroom code that will be provided to you or send a check and order form to school for the order.

Special Classes

Library: Mrs. Flowers is our librarian and Mrs. Dinkel is our library aide. The children will have a 45 minute library time once a week. Students will get to check books out during this time. Please have your child return their book weekly, so they are able to check out a new book. You may keep the book until your child's library day or you may send it back to school as soon as your child is finished with it.

P.E.: Mrs. Rudman is our P.E. teacher. The children will have P.E. class for 25 minutes daily. Please make sure your child has shoes with a clean sole to be used in the gym.

Music: Ms. Latta is our music teacher. The children will have music class for 25 minutes each school day.

Thank you for your help and support! Please feel free to call or contact us before or after school if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great year!!

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