

Tuesday, September 2nd 2014



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am excited about the great, learning-filled year ahead of us. Our goal at Bartlett is to learn and grow together. Your child will do just that—it will be amazing! Please take the time to look around the room with your child to help him/her ease any nervousness. If you have any questions please ask!

To help me get to know your child a little better, I have prepared a student questionnaire. I would appreciate it, if you would fill it out and return it to me today or tomorrow in your child's B.E.E folder.

The following are some general information about some of our routines in the classroom.

The School Schedule:

The school day will begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:18 p.m. Students should not arrive at school before 8:05 a.m., there is no adult supervision before this time.

End of the Day:

Dismissal Tags:

Tomorrow, your child will be sent home wearing a dismissal tag. It will have your child's name and address on it to help the bus driver and it will also have my name and our room number. It is very important that your child wear his or her dismissal tag to school and home from school for the first few weeks of school. Once the students know the routine and their bus numbers I will inform you in the newsletter that we can stop using dismissal tags. Students who do not ride a bus should also wear their dismissal tag, this is to help ensure that students get to the correct room in the morning and the color coded tags help me and the safeties to be sure that everyone gets to the correct place.

Bus Riders:

I will escort students to their busses, with the help of 5th grade safeties. It is important that your child wear his/her dismissal tag every day to help this process go smoothly. This will ensure that the bus drivers drop your child off at the appropriate stop. It is helpful if your child recognizes their bus number and memorizes it.

Pick-ups:

Parents sign out their child at the gym doors (at the far end of the hallway closest to the parking lot). You must present identification to pick up your child in order to make sure we stay safe at Bartlett. If you are planning on having someone else pick up your child, that person must be on their emergency card and show identification as well. A safety will bring the pick-up students to the gym where they will wait by the kindergarten sign. When they are waiting at their sign you may go up and meet them. Please talk with your child about waiting for you to come to them, instead of running to meet you. This will avoid collisions with the older students who are coming in behind them.

Walkers:

If your student has an older sibling who will walk them home then your kindergartener will wait at the end of our hall with a safety for a sibling to come and pick him/her up. If they do not have an older sibling then they will be considered a pick up and will have to go to the gym and be signed out by an adult.

Changes:

It is a school policy that any changes being made in the dismissal of your child must be **put in writing, or sent to me through a phone call to the office.** I will not honor a child's word that he/she is not to ride the bus today, or that he/she is to go to a friend's house instead of going home. Any changes must be in writing or by phone. This policy is enforced in order to ensure the safety of everyone.

If you plan on transporting your child every day or he/she will have other special arrangements, please notify me immediately so that I can correct my lists with the proper information.

Visitors/Parent Helpers:

Anytime you are in the building, other than the regularly scheduled arrival and dismissal times, you will need to sign in on the school guest clipboard in the office along with showing your I.D. A nametag will need to be worn throughout your stay. I greatly appreciate any and all help that parents can give our class. I believe that excellent parent involvement at Bartlett truly enhances your child's education. I will need parent volunteers to help with literacy and math activities, material preparation (in school and at home), class parties, and field trips. In the next few weeks, I will work to build a positive relationship and bond with your child, so I will not have volunteers working directly in the classroom. After the children have made a solid adjustment to kindergarten, I will send out a calendar for parent volunteers. I look forward to working together.

Snack:

Seeing that it is a full day of kindergarten, the children will be having snack in the morning so that they can stay focused and full until lunch at 12:25. Please send a small healthy snack for your child to eat. Cut fruit, yogurt, crackers and cheese, granola bars, etc. are always good choices. We have a water fountain in our classroom so the children will have something to drink, but sending them with a plastic water bottle with their name on it would be a great idea too! Snack will be everyday (even on half days, so please prepare it the night before). Often children are confused about the difference between snack and lunch. It is helpful if you put their snack in a separate bag or a special spot in their backpack, and not in with their lunch. You may also want to label the bags with their names on it.

Lunch:

Your child will eat lunch in the cafeteria every day. He/she may bring a lunch from home or may buy hot lunch in the cafeteria. The price for lunch is \$2.60, which includes milk. If your child would like to purchase milk only, the cost will be \$.50.

Please send in your child's lunch money and/or milk money in an envelope or Ziploc bag with their name and lunch choice clearly marked on the outside. The cafeteria allows you to prepay for the lunches with cash or a check. They do not give change back to students; instead it just remains in his/her account to be used next time. There will be a parent who will assist the kindergarteners at their lunch time. They will be with the Kindergartner during lunch and lunch recess. They will also be there to assist your child during lunch along with our 4th grade lunch helpers.

The lunch schedule will be as follows:

Lunch recess – 12:00–12:20

Lunch – 12:25–12:45

Birthdays:

We are very excited to share with you Bartlett's Birthday Book program. This year we are going to launch this book sharing program, in place of birthday treats/snacks. Students are encouraged to donate or bring a book of their choice to the classroom for their birthday. Students' will celebrate by having their book read to the whole class. The student's book can then be added to a classroom "Birthday Book" tub or returned safely back home. We are hoping that this venture will help us to continue our focus on instruction and student success. Additionally, it allows all our students, those with diabetes and allergies, to participate in classroom birthday celebrations. The birthday book program will also help Bartlett support learning healthy habits.

With the new policy, no birthday treats or snacks should be brought or sent in. If these items are brought to school they will be returned home with your student.

We are incredibly excited about the wonderful books you will help us share with our classrooms throughout the year with Bartlett's Birthday Books. Thank you for your help and support. We truly appreciate it!

**Please note that there will be other events and classroom parties where we would love your help with treats and snacks. Please look for these opportunities coming home from your classroom teacher.*

Parent Communication:

The key to a successful year for your child is communication between you and I. Whether it is to share concerns, ask questions or give praise and compliments, it is important that we stay in touch often. In order to make sure your child's behavior and progress is shared week to week, I will be sending home a Friday Parent Communication folder every Friday. In the folder you will receive a Weekly Report regarding your child's progress and behavior in the classroom. If extra notes are needed, I will write them on a separate note and place it inside the folder. **PLEASE send the folder back every Monday with your signature or initials on the Weekly report inside it.** If you have any notes you would like to add, please feel free to put them in the folder.

Helpful Items:

Each child will need to bring a backpack every day to school to help them carry home their important notes and treasured work. **Also, please send in a pair of PE shoes labeled with your child's name to keep in his/her locker.** PE shoes will be used for PE class only so we can avoid pebbles on the gym floor and keep students safe. It would be helpful if you could send in Velcro or slip on PE shoes if your child does not know how to tie yet.

B.E.E Folders: Please check your child's B.E.E folder for notes and work every day. If you have anything to turn in to me, a dismissal change, or a note or question about something it can be placed in the folder. Also, tell your child if you have put any notes for me in their folder so that they will remember and turn them in when asked.

Don't forget to put your child's name on everything (backpacks, gloves, mittens, jackets, sweaters and anything else that may come to school)!

Class Newsletters:

This year our class news will be posted and updated on our classroom website! You can find out what our class is learning about and important events by following us at: mskaminskiclass.weebly.com You will also find our class schedule, specials schedule, class calendar, pictures taken of all the fun we have in class and much more! Please take the time to check out our class website on a weekly basis. Changes will be made to our Classroom News once a month.

As for quick reminders, which we always need, I will be sending a text to you through "Remind". Please make sure to fill out the blue piece of paper with the best number to reach you so I can add you to "Remind." You can put this blue paper in pink mailbox on top of the cubbies on your way out.

Extra Pair of Clothing:

Just in case of an emergency, please put an extra pair of clothing maybe a pair of shorts, pants, underwear, and shirt in a Ziploc bag. Make sure you label the bag with your child's first and last name. This can be kept in your child's locker. Thank you!!

Specials:

To be determined

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! **After the children and I make some class rules, I will send home the discipline plan.** My e-mail address is kaminskil@slcs.us . The school phone number is 573-8300 and my extension is 2517.

Happy Kindergarten School Year!
Lindsey Kaminski