

MRS. GRAHAM'S KINDERGARTEN ABC'S 2014-2015

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN! I am excited to begin the year. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child. I am confident that by working together we can ensure that your child has a terrific year. The following information will give you an outline of what your child will be experiencing in Kindergarten this year.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance at school is essential for your child's successful academic and social development. Your child should be in school, unless he/she is sick. **If your child is sick, please keep him/her home.** I will keep track of the work missed and send it home if possible. **Please call the office to excuse your child if they are absent for any reason.** If you are going on vacation, let me know ahead of time and I will send home some work to take with you.

ARRIVAL TIME: Please do not send your child too early. The students should arrive within **5 minutes** of school starting because there is limited supervision before school and often it is cold or wet outside. Occasionally the bus students arrive before that time. Morning children will line up behind the school with the rest of the students. Afternoon children will line up outside my door on the Kindergarten playground. An aide will supervise the afternoon children for approximately 10 minutes before school starts.

BIRTHDAYS: This is a very important day for your child. We will celebrate birthdays at school. You may bring treats for your child to share with the class, but they are optional. Utah State Dept. of Health regulations prohibit the serving of homemade treats to children at school. Only **commercially bought treats** may be brought to school. Please bring treats at the beginning of class. If your child's birthday is in the summer, we will celebrate it sometime in May. I will send a note home in May to tell you the day.

BACKPACK: Your child **MUST BRING A BACKPACK EVERYDAY**. It's a necessity to assure that work and notes get home. It should be **BIG enough to fit all school papers**. Please write your child's **first and last name** on their backpack. If possible, please do not send a backpack with wheels. **Do not send folders, pencils, pens, or crayons from home. All supplies that your child will need will be provided at school.**

BOOK ORDERS: Occasionally I send home book orders. If you would like to order books you may send the order to me and make your check payable to Scholastic or you may order online by going to WWW.Scholastic.com/bookclubs and use the Class Activation Code GQ9QY. **I cannot accept cash or checks made out to the me or the school.**

CALENDAR: Each month you will receive a calendar with the curriculum and activities for the month. This will help you follow along and reinforce the concepts at home.

CHANGE READING BOOKS: I need one mom from the PM class to exchange the home reading books each day. It takes about 7 minutes to exchange the books.

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE:

AM	M-F	9:05-11:50 am
PM	M	12:35-2:30 pm
PM	T-F	12:35-3:30 pm

DISMISSAL: A.M. Class: I will walk the children out front to the northeast corner of the school. If you are picking up your child, you will need to drive around the pick-up circle on the north side of the building, park and **walk up to pick up your child.** The children will not be allowed to run to your car. Please do not drive into the bus lane in front of the school.

P.M. Class: The children will line up along the wall outside our classroom and wait to be picked up by a sibling or friend.

DONATION: I am asking for a donation of **\$25.00** per child. This is a suggested amount but not required. We can use whatever help you can give. The money will be used for holiday activities, art and craft projects, parties and

special supplies. I will ask for additional food contributions for special class activities.

DISCIPLINE: Kindergarten is a place for children to develop self-esteem, a sense of competence and positive feelings toward learning. I try to use positive discipline approaches by recognizing and acknowledging the good and redirecting the undesirable behavior. Children are expected to abide by class rules and to use courteous, kind behavior in their relationships with others. Rules of discipline are developed to help ensure the establishment of an orderly, safe and productive classroom.

If a child's behavior becomes too distracting and interrupts the learning of others: 1) I will discuss their actions with the child and ask him/her to correct their behavior. 2) If the inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be given a time out to think about their behavior and 3) after a third time, privileges or recess will be revoked. If the problems are of a serious nature, I will contact you so that we can work together on a solution or behavior plan. Below is a list of the rules and a list of consequences for misbehavior. If you have any questions regarding discipline please contact me.

Classroom Rules:

1. Raise hand
2. Work quietly; whisper
3. Clean-up after yourself
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
5. Do not interrupt learning.
6. Be KIND to others.

Consequences for misbehavior:

1. Private warning, child asked to correct behavior. (signal 1)
2. Time out or head down at their table (signal 2)
3. Privileges or part of recess revoked. (signal 3)
4. Send child to buddy room.
5. Call parents: form a plan of action.
6. Severe Problem: If there is a severe problem, I will request a conference with parents to form a plan of action.

EXCUSED EARLY: If you need to pick your child up early, you will need to **sign out your child in the office.**

GRADING POLICY: *Daily assignments* are always **verbally** corrected as soon as the child is through with his or her work. Opportunities to correct wrong answers are provided and encouraged.

Report cards will be sent home three times this year. It is a district standard based report card

HOMEWORK POLICY: The responsibility for educating the child is shared between the school, the home and the child. I will assign daily writing and reading homework and one weekly penmanship page. I will send home an explanation of what is expected. The children are expected to do the homework assignments and return them to school to be checked.

Each day at school the children are given daily assignments. These assignments are designed to be finished in the allotted class time. If the assignments are not completed in the allotted time I will write "homework" on the top of the paper and it will be sent home as homework. It then becomes the parent's responsibility to see that the work is completed and **returned** to school the following day for me to check. Any work that comes home incomplete and is not marked at the top of the page is extra work and does not need to be returned.

INTERESTED: I want your child to be interested and bubbling with excitement about what is happening in Kindergarten. If you express a daily interest in what is happening at school and point out the positive, it will make your child more excited about what is happening at school. Each day, ask your child what their favorite part of school was.

JANUARY: January is when we pick up speed and all the reading skills that we are learning start falling into place. You will notice a difference in your child's interest in reading.

KIDS: Kids progress at different rates. Work with your child at home to make sure they are keeping up with the skills taught at school. **Practice with your child if they are having difficulty.** If there is any special information that I should know that would help me in working with your child, please let me know.

KLEENEX or Bottle of Antibacterial Hand Soap: During the year we have lots and lots of runny noses, sneezes

and coughs. I encourage the children to use a Kleenex instead of their sleeve. If you would like to donate a box of Kleenex, or a bottle of antibacterial hand soap it would be greatly appreciated.

LABELING: PLEASE put **first and last names** on **ALL** items that come to school, including all Show and Tell, backpacks, coats, boots, gloves, etc. That will help me help you keep track of your child's belongings. Last year 3 children in one class had the same coat. Unclaimed items will remain in my classroom for about a month and then will be put in the Lost and Found bins by the lunchroom.

MATERIALS: I provide pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue for your child to use at school. Please do not send additional items to school as they are distracting. Keep additional items at home for your child's home practice.

MATH: This year we will be using the McGraw-Hill "My Math" program. I support a balanced math philosophy. I will provide a balance of direct teaching with the new math program and inquiry-based tasks with hands-on activities. My goal is for the students to acquire a good number sense background, to be able to use mathematics to make sense of the world around them and to lay a foundation for future success in mathematics.

MONTHLY POEMS: Each month (Sept.– April) the children will learn one poem. This will give the children an introduction to poetry, rhyme, and rhythm. The children will have an opportunity to recite the poem to the class. This will help the children with verbalization, expression and self-confidence. We will practice the poem at school. It will be beneficial to your child if you will practice the poem at home. Help your child to memorize it and feel confident in reciting it in front of the class.

NEWS LETTER: Each month I will send home a news letter to inform you of upcoming events.

NUT ALLERGIES: I have one child with severe nut allergies. Please do not send any treat that contains any kind of nut. Please check all labels before sending any food item to school.

OPPORTUNITY: Kindergarten is the perfect opportunity to start developing lasting school habits. Open your child's backpack everyday. Look through their work and give them a complement on their work. This helps your child realize the importance of their work. It also helps you reinforce the skills we have learned at school.

PARTICIPATION: I will encourage your child to participate in all school activities. If there are any special concerns that would prevent your child from participating, please let me know.

PARENT HELPERS: ***We need help in our classroom!*** Your help lets your child know that you care. I need lots of help with class tutoring, testing, making learning materials, assisting with classroom activities, etc. Helping in the classroom gives you an opportunity to know what is going on in class and how your child is interacting, behaving and progressing academically. Whatever you can give, I will appreciate. Please sign-up on the Parent Helpers Sign-up sheet so that I can plan ahead.

QUESTIONS: If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me anytime. **(HOME-226-0228, email: kristigraham@alpinedistrict.org)** It is important that we work together to meet the needs of your child.

READING LOG: Reading to your child is the most important way to teach your child to love to read. Reading to your child feeds their imagination, enforces language skills, and motivates him/her to read. I encourage you to read to your child only on the days they eat. Feeding their minds is just as important as feeding their bodies. Before reading, find a comfortable, quiet place away from distractions. While reading, discuss the book, title, pictures, and characters. Help your child predict what might happen next and help your child connect events in the book to their life.

A **reading log** will be sent home each month. (Sept. - April). Color one item on the log for **each day you read** to your child. There are no required minutes. Remember, make reading **FUN**, not a chore. Have your child return their **signed** reading log at the end of the month to pick out of the treasure box or receive a small treat.

RECESS: Each day we have a 15-minute recess outside unless the office designates an inside day. Recess is a time for your child to practice large motor skills, use their imagination, and engage in social skills. Please dress your child so they will enjoy recess. ***The children may not stay inside without a note written daily from a parent.*** If you would like your child to stay in the classroom for a day or two during recess, be advised that they may not be supervised during the entire time.

SHOW AND TELL: Purpose: To verbalize, giving the children a chance to talk in front of the class! Put the show and tell item in a **sack**, and write the ***letter the item starts with on the outside of the sack.*** Make sure your **child's name** is also written on the sack. Help your child ***learn three clues*** they can tell the class to help the children guess what is in the sack. If your child wishes to bring an animal for show and tell, arrangements need to be made ahead of time. We often have pet allergies in our class. Show-and-tell will start on **Tuesday, Sept. 2th**.

SOUND BOX AND SNACK: The children enjoy associating letters and sounds to items with which they are familiar. Each week one child will bring home a "**sound box**". When it is your child's turn, please help him/her fill the box with objects that begin with the sound assigned. Do not send anything of value or that is irreplaceable. We will return the items in one or two days. It is also fun for the children to have a **snack** that begins with that letter. Suggestions for the snack will be sent home or feel free to be as creative as you wish.

STAR OF THE WEEK: Once a week we honor one child. On Tuesday of your child's special week, I would like you to come and take five to ten minutes and tell how your child is special in your family. The children enjoy pictures of your child and their family, their favorite toys, books and/or any other favorite items. Tell about your child's talents, hobbies, travels, or interests. I will send home a schedule identifying your child's week. If the scheduled time is inconvenient for someone in your family to come and tell about your child, please let me know and I will arrange another time that week. If a situation arises where it is impossible for anyone to come at all, please write a few sentences about how your child is special and I will read them to the class. ***Make a poster*** about your child to hang up in the classroom for their special week. **I will not start this program until October.** I will send a reminder note home.

TAKING BOOKS HOME TO READ: I will send home books for your child to read when they have learned all the letters and sounds, can blend sounds together to make words, and know some of the sight words. The first books that come home will be phonetic readers. When your child reaches a higher level in reading they may start taking books home from the Home Reading Library.

TESTING AND ASSIGNMENTS: Test papers are usually sent home in the form of **daily assignments** for the Kindergarten children. Parents will be able to keep up with their child's progress by reviewing and discussing their papers each night. Other testing is done orally on a one-to-one basis. The children receive test results immediately. Results are sent home on the report cards.

TOYS: **Please do not let your child bring toys to school!** (Except Show-n-Tell, where the item will be shown and returned to it's sack and backpack.) If a toy is brought to school and causes a disruption, I will take it away for a few days, at which time it will be returned. **Also, no dangly, noisy jewelry or Silly Bandz!**

TREASURE BOX: Twice a month the children will get the opportunity to pick out of the treasure box or get candy for a reward for their reading homework and their writing homework. I will need lots of items for the treasure box. Throughout the year if you would like to donate items to our treasure box that would be extremely helpful.

UNIQUE: Each child is unique. Each child has an individual internal clock and growth rate, personality, learning style, and family background. Hence, all children progress at different rates. Together we can meet your child's needs. Be aware of your child's progress and needs and work with your child at home.

WATER BOTTLES: We do not have time to get drinks several times a day. In Kindergarten, if one child needs a drink, everybody suddenly needs a drink. Your child may bring a water bottle that **closes tightly** in their backpack. (WATER ONLY) They may get a drink from their water bottle anytime they are working at their seats.

WRITING: Children will be taught to write capital and lowercase letters correctly (**stroking top to bottom**) on lined paper. We will be using the Zaner-Bloser simplified handwriting style. The children will be taught to use continuous strokes to form the letters.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Each month your child is required to write 20 sentences in their home journal. Five sentences for each sentence starter. Make or buy a journal for his/her writing homework. I will send home weekly sentence starters and a writing check-off sheet to record the times that your child writes in their journal. **Staple the writing check-off sheet to the home journal.** Help your child write the sentence starter and finish the sentence with a sound spelled word(s). At the end of the month have your child **bring their writing check-off sheet and journal to school** to pick from the treasure box or receive a small treat. Your child may write additional sentences in their journal if they want to. It will be fun to watch how your child develops in their writing ability. I encourage you to help your child sound spell the words that they do not know so that they learn to listen for the sounds and not depend on you to tell them the letters. When a child sound spells, the words are usually spelled wrong. Over time your child will learn to use all the sounds and will learn additional skills that will help their spelling improve. To start with, your child may only hear the beginning sound of a word. Help your child identify and write the sounds that they do not know.

XYZ: Extra's - Go the extra mile and help make this a positive first year of school for your child. Each day when your child comes home, ask him/her what they learned at school and what their favorite part of school was.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. It is important that we work together to make this a wonderful year for your child.

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