

August 2021

Dear Families and Kindergarteners -

**WELCOME to Kindergarten!!!** I am so excited to begin the year with you and your child! We are going to have a great year together. This letter is meant to be a help to you as you are preparing your child for school. Our philosophy here at Morrice Elementary is to provide a play based and "whole" child Kindergarten experience. We will spend the year exploring, experimenting, problem solving and collaborating. These things lead to an explosion of learning for your child!

Kindergartners will have a staggered start. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come and join your child on this first half day. If a parent/adult is unable to come with your child, they are welcome to bring another person (i.e. grandparent or aunt/uncle). A staggered start means that part of the class comes one day, the next day the other half comes, and on Monday the entire class joins together for a full day of school. This allows me time to get a great start with a smaller group of children.

The staggered start schedule will be as followed:

Thursday, August 19th 8:30–10:30 Kindergarteners with their last name A–J plus a parent/adult

Friday, August 20th, 8:30–10:30 Kindergarteners with their last name K–Z plus a parent/adult

Monday, August 23rd, Kindergarteners all come all day

**\*\*If your child is going to be riding the bus, we will review bus schedules and give out bus tags on the half days so your child is ready to start on the bus Monday August 23rd. .**

Some important classroom information:

**Dropping off:** In the past, the morning routine has been that students go to the gym to wait for the bell to ring to go to class. We will let you know if this changes. Please make sure that your kiddo has entered the building before you pull away. If school has already started, you will have to sign him/her in at the office.

**Breakfast:** students will be eating breakfast in our classroom this year. Please make sure your child knows whether or not they should be eating breakfast. Feel free to communicate with me if you have any questions.

**Lunch:** Please discuss your child's lunch options each day; whether they are having hot or cold, and which hot lunch choices are available. This is really helpful when it comes to your child making those independent choices during school.

**Daily Snack:** We will have a snack every day. I would like every family to donate one snack per month for the class. I will store the snacks in a snack cupboard and use them daily. I will send reminders at the beginning of each month to replenish our snack cupboard. Please send healthy snacks; examples of

storable snacks are: a box of cereal, a bag of pretzels, a box of goldfish, crackers, granola bars or vanilla wafers, cheese sticks, applesauce, yogurt, etc.

**Getting home:** Please make sure that your child knows where s/he is supposed to go after school before the day begins and that there is a note if it's a change in routine. It's a big worry ALL.DAY.LONG for some kiddos – so please send a note. We are not allowed to make a change in the regular schedule without a note or a call to the office before 2:00.

**Birthdays:** Birthdays are a HUGE celebration in Kindergarten. If s/he has a birthday during the summer, we can celebrate a half-birthday. Treats are allowed (encouraged!!) If we have dietary concerns this year I will pass that along to you all. (Birthday invitations: please do not send them with your child to pass out if every child in the class is not included; if you send them to ME in a zippie bag I can quietly tuck them into the binder...)

**Clothing:** Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the many activities that we do each day. S/he needs to be able to move freely, they will be sitting on the floor, running, climbing, playing outside, etc, every day. Because of this, please send appropriate-for-weather clothing. We will have gym twice a week, so gym shoes are a must for safety. You are welcomed/encouraged to have a pair kept in the cubby; once "BOOTS season" hits it's SUPER important that there are shoes to change back in to. Wearing boots ALL day is stinky and uncomfortable, let alone messing up the carpet where we sit all the time for learning. We will also be painting and marker-ing and doing lots of messy projects– so don't send "BEST" clothes that can't get dirty. PLEASE put your kiddos name on ALL of their belongings; things get dropped in the hall, on the bus, etc, and you would not believe how many pairs of black snow pants show up that NO-ONE ever knows who they belong to.... This helps us sort out ownership issues and return things to the rightful owners. Once in awhile kinders have an accident, milk gets spilled, or the slide is super wet. Please send in an extra set of clothes—undies and socks and all— in a ziplock with their name on it for the cubby. They come in REAL handy in a pinch.

**Behavior:** We follow the school's S.O.A.R. rules in our classroom and the entire district.

Be Safe, take Ownership, Allow learning and show Respect. In our classroom, I understand that it may take time for our little kinders to adjust and learn the routines and expectations. I will keep parents informed of student behaviors as I see fit; if something really, really good happens, I'll let you know; if something really really bad happens, I'll let you know. Otherwise, please trust that I have school handled at school. Working together we will make a fabulous team to help make this the best year ever for your child!

**Communication:** I will be using Class Dojo for most of my parent communication. It is an online communication program that is linked to the school as well. This is private site for our classroom and for

your students. You will need an access code for your child which you will receive at open house. I will post class updates, student updates and lots of pictures! If Class Dojo is not an option for you, I will have hard copies of all the information available and will send it home with your child. The school district also has a school wide Dojo to help keep parents informed about events.

**A bit about me:** This is my fourth year teaching Kindergarten at Morrice. I graduated from Baker College with my degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Education. I have been married to my husband for four years. I have a daughter who turned one in April. I absolutely love teaching at Morrice, and I am excited for this new year to begin.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the classroom or procedures PLEASE feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you and your child, and to an exciting year ahead!

Amber Arend

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Morrice Kindergarten

**Important Dates:**

**Tuesday, August 17th** Open House 6:00-7:00

**Thursday, August 19th** Kindergarteners with their last name A-J plus a parent/adult come 8:30-10:30

**Friday, August 20th,** Kindergarteners with their last name K-Z plus a parent/adult come 8:30-10:30

**Monday, August. 23,** all Kindergarteners come all day (7:55-2:55)

**Friday, September 3rd,** No School

**Monday, September 6th,** No School

## 2021 Kindergarten Supply list

- \***Water bottle:** one water bottle (preferably less than 9 in.)
  - \***Face mask:** to be worn on bus
  - \***Full size backpack:** no wheels please (they don't fit in the cubby).
  - \***A zippy pencil pouch:** This is for any notes or money that will be traveling to school. Please make sure it has a clear window and is three hole punched.
  - \***Black expo markers:** At least two to start. Expo lasts the longest and black wipes off the best.
  - \***Headphones:** Everyone will need their own pair for the computer lab and for I-pad station in our classroom. I suggest **NOT** getting the earbud style, and rather sturdy ones as kindergarteners are rough on them and they snap easily. Please be sure to include their name.
  - \***Gym shoes:** Extra pair of gym shoes that can be left in the cubby. If your child is unable to tie please consider velcro.
  - \***Winter gear:** Snow pants, coats, boots, gloves, hats; it will be here very soon! We go outside **EVERY** day, at least once, often twice, unless it's just too cold. ~
  - \***Healthy Classroom snack** – We are asking for one whole class snack donations a month. This will be for the whole class. Example: goldfish, Cracker packs, pretzel packs, cracker packs, individual applesauce, go-gurts – **\*\* we will let you know about any class allergies.**
- \*\*\*\*\*If you are unable to supply necessary outer clothes, backpack, snacks or supplies, please let me know...we have offers of help.

### APPRECIATED supplies

- \*hand sanitizer (at least 60 % alcohol)
- \*Expo markers, extra (lg or sm) – **BLACK**
- \*gallon, quart, or snacksize zippie bags
- \*Clorox wipes/ Clorox spray
- \*Kleenex
- \*small paper plates
- \*large paper plates
- \*paper towels
- \*craft sticks
- \*Googly eyes
- \*craft supplies such as pony beads, feathers, buttons, etc
- \*card stock
- \* extra classroom sets of crayons, markers, pencils, glue and glues sticks appreciated
- \* sidewalk chalk
- \* lunch size paper bags
- \* construction paper

