

**2017-2018**

## **Kindergarten ABCs for Parents**

We've put this together to welcome you and to share lots of "need to know" information and answers to frequently asked questions.



**Absences:** If your child is sick, please let school know they will be absent by calling the **Nurse: 288-8008 ext. 1200**. When your child returns, please send in a note explaining their absence so that the day(s) missed can be marked as legal absences.

**Accidents:** If your child has a bathroom accident, it helps so much if you have sent in a bag of spare clothing that **includes underwear and socks** to change into. Write your child's name on all their clothing and on the outside of the bag. Clothing is stored in student cubbies. **Two or three kids share the same cubby so having your child's name on clothes is SUPER IMPORTANT**. It's easy for clothes to get mixed up and sent home with the wrong student when there are no names.

**Allergies:** If your child has ANY food allergies, please be sure the nurse and teacher know. Our classroom is a nut free zone; **absolutely no nut products or products prepared in facilities with nuts are permitted.**

**Alphabet:** Have a computer or tablet? Go to <http://www.abcya.com> and choose **Kindergarten alphabet games** for your child to play.

**Arrival:** **School begins at 7:30 a.m.** Breakfast is served from 7:30am-7:45am.

**Art:** Every student will have a ½ year of Art and a ½ year of Library.

**Attendance:** **Being in school every day is so important.** Below are days we do not have school; try to schedule appointments for your child on these days.

**No School**

**Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**



**Backpack:**

We count on you to **make sure your child brings their backpack and their school provided folder each day.** Help your child learn to show you their folder and pack up their backpack.

**Bathroom:**

We have a classroom bathroom. We give lots of reminders to use it at the beginning of the year. **Choose clothing your child can open and close without help. Please avoid belts and hard to fasten clothing**; bathroom accidents often happen when a child cannot manage their own clothing.



**Behavior Policy:** We expect students to follow school and classroom rules. This includes **raising your hand to have a turn speaking, listening to others on their turn, trying to be friendly, working quietly at your table, and giving everything your best effort.**

We explain that students are in charge of their choices and these choices decide how much we can learn and have fun. We talk about what makes something green, yellow, or red; **GREAT GREEN** choices [**friendly, helps us learn**], **YELLOW** choices [**UH OH ... interrupt, distract ... slow us down**], and **RED** choices [**disruptive, disrespectful ... keep us from learning and need to STOP**].

We spend a lot of time focusing on catching kids making GREAT GREEN choices. We emphasize that no one is perfect; what matters is being able to FIX UP a poor choice when someone asks you to STOP. The kids quickly learn to tell us what they are doing that is a GREAT GREEN choice, or what they are doing that is YELLOW that they need to "fix up." The goal is that as the year goes on impulse control improves; students are proud of their good choices, and able to FIX UP their slip ups. This lets most of our time be spent on learning instead of on managing behaviors. We strive to create a caring school family. We hope we can count on your support!

**Birthdays:** Birthdays are VERY special. Please let us know if you'd like to celebrate with the class. You are welcome to bring in your child's favorite book for a class read aloud and/or a treat.



**All food items must be safe for students with severe food allergies so please talk to us before sending in any treats.** We have a list of safe options on our school web page – <http://www.rcsdk12.org/46>. Party invitations will only be passed out at school if everyone in the class receives an invitation.

**Bus Riders:** If your child rides the bus, we will walk them to their correct bus each day at dismissal. Don't forget to send in a note if they will not be riding the bus on a certain day or if their bus is changing.



**Car/Parent Pick Up:** If you are picking up your child by car, please park in a parking space and walk up to meet our class. If you are picking your child up early, please send in a note and stop in the main office to sign out your child.

**Clothing:** Please follow our school uniform policy. Detailed information is available in the front office [288-8008] and online at <http://www.rcsdk12.org/domain/2998>.

**Computers:** Your child will be using computers on a daily basis. Please be sure they have headphones; this is a long lasting choice – <http://tinyurl.com/nszexvc> .



**Dismissal: School ends at 3:00 p.m.** Getting your child home safely is our top priority. **If you need to make a change to your child's dismissal, call the office by 2:00pm (288-8008),** or send in a note in your child's school folder. Unless the teacher hears directly from you, or from office staff, a student will be sent home by his/her usual mode of transportation.



**Expectations:** When you think of traffic lights, green means GO.

We will teach your child that they are in charge of their choices and we expect them to try to make **GREAT GREEN** "GO" choices. Very simply a GREAT GREEN choice means that your child is trying to be friendly ... to listen ... to learn ... to focus on practice work ... to follow school and classroom rules without needing many reminders. We hope to create a strong school family where children take responsibility for their behavior, focus on learning and are kind to others. You can help by asking your child about their choices and by talking about what a GREAT GREEN choice is when sitting on the rug, standing in line, during a fire drill, in the lunchroom, at a classroom table, on a friend's turn, etc.

**E-mail:** Mrs. Hasler: [Emily.Hasler@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Emily.Hasler@rcsdk12.org)  
Mrs. Broughton: [DonnaL.Broughton@rcsdk12.org](mailto:DonnaL.Broughton@rcsdk12.org)  
Mrs. Seybold: [Audrey.Seybold@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Audrey.Seybold@rcsdk12.org)

### **Emergencies:**

Please make sure you can be reached if there is an emergency. **Be sure the school's main office has a complete, up to date list of phone numbers for you** and contact information for anyone else you would like for us to call if we cannot reach you. Be sure to update this information throughout the year.



**Field Trips:** We hope to be able to schedule field trips. Permission slips and cost information will be sent home prior to each trip.

**Fine motor practice:** Fine motor activities help develop hand muscles. Working with Play-Doh, using markers, crayons, pencils, pens, and scissors will strengthen your child's hand muscles. Stronger hand muscles will help your child's writing skills and letter formation. Try to have these items available at home.



**Good Habits:** Make sure you empty your child's school folder every day and look at their schoolwork and school notes. **Before your child goes to bed, make sure their backpack is packed and by the door ready to go to school in the morning.** To avoid a lost library book, keep it in their backpack when you aren't reading it. Develop the good habit of reading together every day and completing practice work sent home.

**Grading:** A report card will be sent home four times throughout the school year. The report cards will show the progress students are making with respect to New York State and District standards. It will also include a student effort level for each subject area.

**Gym:** Students do not need special clothing for gym, but they do need sneakers. Please be sure that your child always has sneakers on, or in their backpack, so they are ready for gym and for recess on the playground.



Does your child know how to wash their hands? Practice together; hand washing is so important to your child staying healthy.



**Illness:** If your child is sick, please call the **nurse: 288-8008 ext. 1200.**

***In an effort to keep our children as healthy as possible, we ask that you keep your child home until he/she has been symptom-free for 24 hours (fever, vomiting, and diarrhea).*** THANK YOU for your cooperation!

Please don't worry about any work your child missed while absent. For extensive amounts of days off, we will send home any missed work. When your child returns, please send in a note explaining their absence so that the day(s) missed can be marked as legal absences.

**Independence:** Kindergarten is a big transition for children and families! **Practice with your child packing/unpacking their backpack** and practical life skills [tying shoes, using buttons, snaps, hooks, zippers]. Help your child become proud of what they can do for themselves and encourage them to be problem solvers. We will be focusing a lot this year on problem solving and how to be kind, helpful and responsible! We'd appreciate it if could practice this at home too.

**Involvement:** You play a big role in your child's learning; you are their first teacher! It will be important to make time in the evening and on weekends to practice the skills they are learning in school. Be sure to get involved by attending information events, parent teacher conferences, and celebrations of learning. Don't hesitate to ask for additional activities to complete at home. The more you support your child's learning, the more they will thrive and grow this year!



**Kindergarten:** This is a HUGE year! In addition to focusing on academic gains we'll work on social, emotional, and physical development, as well. We want your child to become the best kindergartner they can be!



**Label your child's clothing:** Doing this cuts cut down greatly on lost items! Also, check the lost and found [downstairs just outside the cafeteria] throughout the year for any missing items!

**Lunch:** Our lunch time is from **11:40 -12:10.** Your child may bring a lunch or choose from the choices in the lunch room. A monthly lunch calendar will be sent home in your child's school folder. You are welcome to join your child for lunch any day; simply stop into the main office and sign in.

**Library:** Please keep your child's library book in their backpack when it is not being read. This helps make sure that books are back to school on time for our next library visit. Children will not be able to check out a book if they have one that is not returned.



**Music:** Children will have music class two times a week and they will also be singing and enjoying music in the classroom.



**News:** Check your child's school folder every day for school news, notes, finished work, and practice activities. Please be sure that you keep us posted on important news in your family too.

**No School:** Use these days to schedule appointments for your child on these days.

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May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Nurse:** Please be sure to stop in and talk to the nurse if your child needs to take medication during the day. The nurse will need specific information to be able to assist you.

**Be sure to call school [288-8008] ext. 1200 whenever your child is ill and stays home.** When your child returns, please send in a note explaining their absence so that the day(s) missed can be marked as legal absences.



**Outdoor Recess:** The children will be going out for recess most days unless it is raining or extremely cold. Please dress your child for the weather. **When your child wears snow boots be sure that sneakers are packed in their backpack for the school day.**



**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** We are always available to meet with you. We encourage you to come in and find out how your child is doing.

**Positive Behavior in School [PBIS]:** Each month we have a school wide celebration of POSITIVE BEHAVIOR in SCHOOL. This is something children earn by making positive choices over the entire month. This is a very hard concept at kindergarten so we try to let all kindergarten students participate unless a child is persistently having trouble making positive choices, or fixing up their choices. If your child's behavior is a concern, we will reach out to you. We hope we can count on your support!

**Phone calls:** During the school day calls to our room will go directly to our voice mail. There can be a lag between when you leave a voice mail message and when we get it. The fastest way to reach us is by calling the office [288-8008] and asking them to get a message to us.

**Parent-Teachers Association:** Please join our school's Parent-Teacher Association. It's an amazing group of parents that want to help make School 46 a great place to be for kids, staff, and families.

**Practice Work vs. Homework: Nightly homework is reading with your child and filling out their Whoo's Reading? log** [kept in the outside back pocket of your child's folder]. We'll let you know if something being sent home is HOMEWORK and needs to come back to school; assume everything else is practice work. Do practice activities when it works for your family. Know that we can tell who is using what we send home; we see **your child's school work improve dramatically as they practice at home with you.** Practice with you makes a HUGE impact!





**Questions:** Please feel free to call, e-mail, or send a note if you have any questions or concerns.



**Read...Read...Read:** Please read with your child every day. Also, allow your child to read to you! In kindergarten, we have three ways to read: read the pictures, retell the story, or read the words. All these forms of reading help your child develop reading skills and an excitement for reading! Encourage any and all reading your child may do!



### **School Supplies:**

***Your child will need:***

- LARGE, sturdy backpack** – Big enough to carry a library book, art projects, spare clothes, snow pants, boots, sneakers, a lunch bag [if your child will be bringing lunch], and our school's communication folder. *Use permanent marker to write your child's name on the backpack.*
- Headphones** – I recommend these because they should last all year - <http://tinyurl.com/nszexc>. Your child will use school computers/ iPads every day. **[Please send them in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name]**
- 1 package – **SKINNY Expo dry erase** markers (assorted colors)
- 2 boxes – 24 count Crayola® Crayons
- 4-pack [5oz size] **Play-Doh** [available @ Target]
- 12 – Dixon Ticonderoga® #2 Pencils
- 12 – **Elmer's® Disappearing Purple glue sticks**
- 1 large [210 count] boxes – **Kleenex or Puffs** tissue
- 1 pump bottle [16oz or larger] – **UNSCENTED** hand sanitizer
- 2 tubs [80 wipes or more] – **Lysol/Clorox Antibacterial Wipes**

**Please do not purchase any folders:** each student will be given a school folder to be used for sending home school notes, finished work, and additional practice activities to be completed at home.

**Accidents happen ... Be sure to send in a complete change of clothes in a gallon size Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. Use permanent marker to write your child's name on the inside of their clothes.**

**School Folder:** **Be sure to check** your child's school folder for notes and practice work every day. Use the folder to let us know if you are picking up your child instead of having them ride the bus, to send in a note after your child has been absent, or to ask a question. **Please make sure your child's school folder and backpack come to school every day.**

**Sneakers:** Please try to be sure your child has sneakers every day. Students will be outside running and playing on playground equipment whenever weather permits.



**Teamwork:** We believe that school and home are a team. You need to be able to reach us easily and we need to be able to reach you easily. Whether it is texts, emails, folder notes, or phone calls, let's be a great team for your child!



**Useful Phone Numbers: 288-8008    Nurse: ext. 1200**  
**Mrs. Hasler & Mrs. Broughton: ext. 1180    Mrs. Seybold: ext. 1190**



**Visitors:** When visiting, please sign in at the office and get a "VISITOR" sticker. When leaving, remember to sign out.

**Volunteers:** There are many opportunities for parents to assist. Volunteers are greatly appreciated throughout the year. Be sure to check your child's school folder for events needing volunteers!



**Web Page:** Our school's website – <http://www.rcsdk12.org/46> – is a great place to keep updated with current school events.

**Whoo's Reading?** This **school wide program** encourages reading at home.

**Goal:** *Each student will read with their family for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week.*



You'll use the **By The Minute Reading Log** located in the outside BACK plastic sleeve of your child's school folder to record minutes read. At the end of each month we collect and turn in the logs and give your child a new log. **Your participation is counted towards your child's homework grade.**



**eXtra clothes:** Please send in a bag of extra clothes that includes underwear and socks. **Two or three kids share the same cubby so clothing can easily get mixed up; make sure all clothing has your child's name on it.** Even kids that never have an accident can slide down a wet slide and need a change of clothes.

**eXtraordinary year:** This is a year of HUGE growth both academically and socially. With your help, your child will amaze you by how much they can do and how self-reliant they become by the end of the year!



**You** are such an important part of making this a great year for your child.

So much more is expected of kindergartners these days. **Making sure your child is in school every day, well rested and focused on learning is a big piece of the puzzle.** You'll also want to make sure that your child practices at home the skills being taught at school.



**ZZZ's:** Little ones need **MUCH MORE sleep** than you might think.

**Make sure your kindergartner gets a good night's sleep! Keep the morning routine simple; have them all packed up the night before.** This will help your child have the best day possible!

Have ever had to get through a day with an over tired child? Imagine having a classroom of tired children. Do your best to stick to an early bedtime, even on weekends. We often tell the kids that mom and dad have a job to do and they do too; Mom and Dad expect you to come to school ready to learn and ready to try your best.

**Let's be a great team and work together so your child has a great year!**