



The “first day of school” is a great milestone for your child and I understand that you and your child may have met this day with excitement or apprehension (or a little of both). I hope that this letter will help you to know what to expect in kindergarten this year and answer any questions you may have. I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Shannon Lanz. I began teaching Kindergarten here at School #33 in 1999. I graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a degree in elementary education and received my masters in elementary education from SUNY Brockport.

I am excited to be working with your child this year and helping him/her to achieve his/her full potential. Throughout the remainder of this letter, I will share some of my beliefs and classroom policies.

### **Parent/Teacher Relationship**

I believe that good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year, I will communicate through notes, telephone calls, newsletters, parent-teacher conferences, and report cards. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the year. Please note, however, that phone calls during the day are often impossible to answer and/or respond to immediately, as I am busy working with your child. I will return your call as soon as I am able. In addition, I am unable to speak with you about your child’s program once the day begins as we are busy from beginning to end. Please set up a conference when you would like to speak face to face. Additionally, while I welcome parents to come and sit in on our classroom activities, it is often very disruptive to have small children in the room. If you wish to visit, please try to make arrangements for your younger children whenever possible. I can be contacted at school by calling **482-9290** or you may also email me at [shannon.lanz@rcsdk12.org](mailto:shannon.lanz@rcsdk12.org).

### **School Attendance**

Your child’s regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. I cannot emphasize this point enough!!! Most kindergarten learning activities are group oriented and involve interaction with classmates. Therefore, it is next to impossible to make up work at home. Please view school as a priority, and see to it that your child attends everyday except in cases of illness or emergency. For your child’s absence to be considered legal, a written note explaining the absence must accompany your child upon his/her return.

## **Curriculum**

We will be following the NYS common core curriculum this year and working towards the common core standards. More information can be found at <https://www.engageny.org/>

## **Changes in Transportation**

If you plan to pick up a child that normally rides the bus, you must send **a written note**. Please do not rely on your child to tell me this information, because children often become confused and relay messages incorrectly. If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.

## **Book Orders**

Your child will be bringing home a form to order books occasionally. If you wish to order, simply fill out the form and send the correct amount of money. These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their child at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on books, I earn bonus points that are used to purchase books for classroom use. This is a win-win situation because you get quality literature at a low price and you are helping to provide quality literature for the classroom. Of course, you are never under any obligation to order.

## **Birthdays**

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. If your child wishes, he/she may bring treats for the class on his/her birthday. Pre-packaged treats are best and easiest. Please send a note a day or two in advance, so I can give you an exact number of children in the class and set a side some class time for the party.

## **Homework**

Students will be given a monthly log to record the books that they read or our read to at home. In addition, common core curriculum homework will be sent home on Monday to be completed and returned on Friday.

In closing, I hope this letter has helped you to better understand your child's kindergarten program this year. Please keep this letter for future reference. If you have any questions, I encourage you to call me or set up an appointment to meet with me. I look forward to getting to know you and your child this school year, and hope that by the time you are reading this letter, your child has been excitedly telling you about his/her first day in kindergarten.

