



# Kindergarten Handbook

Sharon Elementary  
853-3349

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Teacher: Ginger Barnett  
Email: [gbarnett@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:gbarnett@warrick.k12.in.us)

Teacher: Mackenzie Castleman  
Email: [mcastleman@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:mcastleman@warrick.k12.in.us)

Teacher: Jill Chamlee  
Email: [jchamlee@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:jchamlee@warrick.k12.in.us)

Teacher: Karen Freeman  
Email: [freemk@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:freemk@warrick.k12.in.us)

Teacher: Katelyn Powless  
Email: [kpowless@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:kpowless@warrick.k12.in.us)



**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to Kindergarten! Kindergarten is a milestone in your child's life. It is not only the beginning of his or her first formal education, but will be the first step toward life-long learning and social participation. New experiences and friends will make this year a special time for you and your child. We have planned many exciting activities for this school year and we're anxious to share them with you and your child. Our goal is to maintain an excellent Kindergarten program that is aligned with state core standards as well as one that meets the social, emotional and physical needs of the children.

We realize you may have many questions about the Kindergarten program. This Kindergarten Handbook will hopefully answer some of those questions.

**Arrival and Dismissal**

It is very important that your child arrives on time and has regular attendance. Children enrolled in Kindergarten have the same attendance requirements as all other school children. Parents of children with numerous absences and/or tardies will receive a letter from Warrick County School Corporation (WCSC) officials who monitor attendance. If your child must miss school due to illness or a scheduled doctor's appointment, please call the school office at 853-3349 early in the day. Children who have a fever must be fever free 24 hours prior to returning to school.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the children are counted tardy at 8:15 a.m. Please do not arrive before 8:00 a.m. as your child may be in the room alone.

Class ends at 3:00 p.m. with the car and walker's dismissal in the Kindergarten circle and bus riders will be supervised to their bus.

Please call the office or send a note if you have made different arrangements for your child's dismissal. We will not send your child home any other way than the normal route unless you have sent a note or called and informed the office of a change in plans. **DO NOT HAVE YOUR CHILD JUST TELL US THAT THEY ARE TO GO HOME A DIFFERENT WAY, THEY MUST BRING A NOTE!** Let us know of any carpool arrangements. If you need to pick up your child for an early dismissal, just go to the office and they will call the room or the playground for your child.

**Birthdays**

It is important to each child to be able to share his birthday at school with friends. The class will recognize each child's birthday as it occurs. Summer birthdays will be recognized during winter at the six-month "unbirthday". You are welcome to send a treat in on your child's day. Bring the treat with your child when they come to school and I will serve it when there is time on that particular day. **Please send store bought individual treats.** Cookies, cupcakes and donut holes work well. If you want to send a drink, please remember the carpet. Send only clear or very pale drinks. Pouches and juice boxes work well. Don't forget napkins and, if necessary, plates and cups. Our enrollment can change, so please check with the office to make sure you bring enough. I will let you know about any food allergies as soon as I have compiled the information.

**No peanut butter treats!**

**Party Invitations**

It is our policy to not pass out party invitations at school.

## **Book Clubs**

We will be sending home Scholastic Seesaw/Fire Fly book club forms. There will be an order form on the back. At the bottom of the form, we will indicate when the form should be returned with the money. You should fill the form out completely, cut it out, and send a check made out to Seesaw. The money and order form should be returned in a sealed envelope or Ziploc bag with your child's name, teacher's name, and what the money is for on the front.

**Some teachers may request on line orders.**

## **Personal Belongings/Clothing**

**Please label all personal items** such as backpacks, folders and any clothing such as coats, sweatshirts, jackets, etc. First and last names are most helpful. Keep in mind that the children are sitting on the floor many times during the day. Girls wearing dresses may want to have shorts on beneath their dresses. Due to the possibility of loss, damage, and limited time during the school day, toys should not be brought to school except for your child's show and tell day. A specific request for an item to be shared will go home through my newsletter.

Please have your child wear clothes that are appropriate for outdoor play. Flip-flops, slides and sandals are dangerous when children are trying to run and climb on the playground equipment. You also need to make sure your child brings a jacket or sweater if the weather is cool. Please remember that the temperature can change quickly.

## **Sickness**

Please do not send your child to school if they have been running a fever or vomiting during the night. If you can call the school when someone is sick, we will know not to expect them. Please call the office by 9:00 a.m. We will be glad to send work home with a brother or sister upon request. Many of the papers we do can only be done in class and some days we don't do any papers at all, so there may not always be work to send home.

## **Lunch/Recess**

Lunch will be at 10:45 for Kindergarten students with a 30 minute recess to follow. There will be a second recess in the afternoon.

## **Library**

We will go to the library once a week. Please send books back before their next library day so your child will be able to check out more books. Please take care of the books and return them promptly. Each teacher will notify you of their library day.

## **Reading and Phonics**

Reading is taught through phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. The special language of the printed word is best introduced to children by reading aloud to them from a variety of sources. Please read aloud to your child nightly.

## **Report Cards**

Report cards will be sent home four times during the school year. We will use the WCSC core standards based report card. This report card allows us to assess the Indiana Core Standards as outlined in the State handbook. Please remember to sign and return the white signature card along with the envelope. The report card is yours to keep.

## **Communication and Conferences**

Open communication between home and school is an important component of a successful school experience. Teachers will schedule conferences as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to schedule an appointment to come in and talk with your child's teacher. Please call and leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible. If you have an urgent message that can't wait, please let the office know and they will contact us immediately. Email is another option. We check email on a regular basis.

Your child needs to bring the HOME folder/binder & Agenda Book to school each day. We will use this as a communication folder. All notes and daily work will be placed in this folder/binder.

**PLEASE CHECK FOLDERS AND AGENDA BOOKS EACH DAY FOR NOTICES AND PAPERS YOU NEED TO READ. DON'T LET THE PAPERS STAY IN THE FOLDER UNLESS IT IS SOMETHING YOUR CHILD IS SUPPOSED TO RETURN.**

We will check each folder/agenda book daily upon arrival to see if you have written a note. We can only check folders/agenda books and not backpacks, so it is very important that you place all notes, etc. in the folder or agenda book.

Each week teachers will send home a weekly newsletter.

## **A Time for Children**

Your children are special and unique. It is our pleasure to have them in Kindergarten this year. It is our hope that all of our students will leave Kindergarten at the end of the year knowing the joy and value of learning as well as the power of knowledge. They should be happy, feel good about themselves and school, and work cooperatively with others. To achieve these goals, we need the support and understanding of our parents. Let's work together to create the best possible environment for your children. This is their time!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barnett

Ms. Castleman

Mrs. Chamlee

Mrs. Freeman

Ms. Powless