

Welcome to our nest! We will be in touch soon about our Kindergarten Welcome, where you can drop by, meet the team and view the classrooms. Until then, here are some tidbits to help your child transition to Kindergarten!

♥ Kindergarten hours are 8:30-2 M-Th and 8:30-12:15 on Fridays. The classroom opens at 8 for a soft start and morning choice activities at the tables. This is a quiet, calm time for the children to transition from home to school. Please make an extra effort to be at school BEFORE 8:30. It takes a few moments to park and walk in, so please allow for that time and to still get your child to school on time. I do take attendance at 8:30 everyday. All families are to enter the school building from the front of the building and then walk down the stairs to our classroom. On a typical school morning, please have all the goodbyes and hugs complete by the time I ring the "5 minute until clean up" chime. After that, the children will come to the carpet and we will begin our morning meeting.

♥ On the topic of goodbyes... they can be hard. I experience this as a parent too. If your child is struggling with a goodbye, please make it meaningful and swift. The longer the goodbye lingers, the longer the child is living in the anxiousness of that time arriving. From time to time, there can be tears on the first day of Kindergarten, and I will receive your child with love and compassion. Please do not let this doubt your goodbye. All will be well. I will contact you if any distress continues during the morning!

♥ Pick up at 2 pm is directly from the classroom, NOT the schoolwide pickup line. You are welcome to wait at the back doors near our classroom, and I will dismiss your child to you, when I see you. Please do not enter the classroom- we will be in our closing circle. At 2:10, all remaining students will walk to Ravenwolf. If you are running late, please make sure to call the school so that the office can hold your child, or they can go to Ravenwolf to receive them.

♥ Please leave all toys and stuffies at home. They cause distraction and fairness issues. Be sure to prepare your child for this before school starts. If they bring something with them in the car, please leave it in the car and do not have your child bring it all the way to the classroom. We will start to have "share" days once we have routines and procedures in place.

♥ Once the students have adjusted to the routines and procedures, which is usually about 6 weeks, parents are welcome to volunteer in the classroom! I have a fairly open door policy for volunteering. Pretty much any time is fine! Let me know if you have a particular interest, skill or talent that you would like to share.

♥ It is important that your child has a hearty snack and lunch. I encourage healthy foods that your child will eat. Please, no candy, soda, or treats at school. If you need ideas, please let me know! Out of an abundance of caution, we do not share food in Kindergarten. Please do your best to send food in packaging that your child can open.

♥ Celebrating your birthday in Kindergarten is so much fun! Due to the variety of food sensitivities and family food choices, If you would like to send in a “treat” for your child’s birthday, it should be non food based. Stickers! Balloons! Flowers! Let’s work together so your child feels special and no one is left out.

♥ Please bring a water bottle to school! My goal is to train the children to keep their water bottles on their tables, so they always have access to water. If you have not yet found one, please look for sport tops or flip straw tops. That way, if/when they spill, we do not have an entire water bottle’s worth of water to clean.

♥ A note about shoes: Please make sure your child can take their own shoes both on and off. Take them with you when buying new shoes and ask them to put them on themselves. There are times we will take off our shoes (or they fall off), and the children need to be independent in putting on shoes.

♥ Please let me know anything that you feel pertinent regarding bathrooming for your child. It is important that you help build their independence in this area. For example, they should be able to put on and take off their clothing to use the restroom. They should be able to verbalize when they need to go. They should be able to wipe and clean themselves. If your child is prone to accidents, please let me know and also provide a few extra pairs of clothing.

♥ Each child has a cubby space to keep their change of clothes and snack/lunch in. Please hang backpacks outside the double doors by our room on the designated hooks. Children will need help/reminders unloading their items to bring into the room.

♥ If your child is going to our after school program, Ravenwolf, please let me know! I encourage you to not rely on your child to relay that information. If someone other than a parent is picking up, please let me know. I want to be sure all the children get where they need to be and feel safe doing so- it can sometimes be hectic at pickup, so the more I know, the better.

Thank you for reading!