

The ABC's of Kindergarten



Attendance – A successful school experience is the responsibility of the children, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress both academically and socially is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is key.

Arrival – School begins at 8:00 a.m. You may drop your child off as early as 7:30 a.m.

Alert Now – Our school has an automated feature to let you know of early dismissals or school closings. You filled out an Alert Now contact sheet at registration. In the event of an emergency closing, you will be notified via phone call or message.

Allergies – We will be creating, making, and even baking in Kindergarten. Please let me know of a food allergy or any other type of allergy your child may have. If you need an EpiPen at school, we will leave that in the office with the nurse. We have students who are *allergic to nuts*. Please note that food containing nuts, nut oils and nut butters are not allowed in our room.



Backpack – Your child should come to school every day with his/her PAWS Folder and a backpack. The backpack should be labeled clearly with your child's name and not be hard or on wheels.

Birthday – We will celebrate your child's birthday in school. We will celebrate summer birthdays either in August or May. You may send store bought treats to school with your child on or near their birthday. Please send me a note or email beforehand so I know they are coming.

Birthday Invitations – I'm sorry! *Students are not allowed to pass out invitations to a birthday party at school per our handbook.* Please do not send them to school with your child. You will need to find another place to pass out or mail them.

Book Orders – Monthly I will send out book orders from different companies. It is a great way to have good literature at a super price in your home. If you order, please return the order on Fridays in the money pouch of the PAWS Folder. You may combine orders and write one check to "Scholastic." The order will take one-two weeks to arrive.

Breakfast – Breakfast is served beginning at 7:40 a.m. You pay for breakfast when you send lunch money. Breakfast is \$.90.



Car Riders – Kindergarten students dismiss to the parent pick-up line out the east doors with a Kindergarten teacher. Please wait on the sidewalk in front of the building or in your car in the parent pick up line to receive your child.

Conferences – Conferences are held each November and March. I will want to speak with every child's parents in November. If you need a conference at another time, please call or email me to set up a time and date.

Clothing – Kindergarteners are involved in activities that require jumping, running, climbing, and playing. A pair of tennis shoes is necessary to be left at school for indoor PE only. In class, students will be cooking, painting, using markers, using glue, working with play doh, and other messy stuff. Please select clothing that is both comfortable and appropriate for these activities.

Change of Clothes – Wet clothing can be very uncomfortable. Please send a change of clothes for your child in a gallon zippered bag with his or her name. Although we have clothes at school, we do not always have the right size and waiting can be embarrassing. A shirt, pants, underwear and socks are recommended.



Dismissal – School dismisses at 2:35 p.m. Your child may be parent pick-up, Latchkey, or a bus rider. If parent pick-up, please wait outside for your child or in the car line. A teacher will walk all children to their assigned place after school.

Discipline – Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. To establish good order and help the children learn self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and responsible actions. Our class has color coded behavior stoplight. Purple–Above and Beyond Green–Great Day! Yellow–Warning. Red–Problems Today. A behavior chart will be in the front of the PAWS Folder.



Email – A great way to keep in touch is through my school email. kwebb@cartervillelions.com

Emergencies – If we have a school related emergency, you will be notified via Alert Now as well as on local TV and radio stations. If there is an emergency at school regarding your child, I will begin calling from your emergency numbers listed. *Please let me know if at any time one of your numbers has changed.*



Field Trip – Kindergarteners will go on two field trips per year. You have already signed a permission slip for all field trips in the registration packet. Information will come home in the PAWS Folder and will be listed in a weekly newsletter. We will have some slots available for parent volunteers. You will need to drive your own car. Please remember field trips are about you

and your Kindergartner; please make other arrangements for younger siblings.

Fire Drills – We will practice fire drills two or three times per year. Students are expected to walk quickly, quietly, and with their hands to themselves. This will keep us prepared and safe in the event of an emergency.

Footwear – Your child is to wear flat, rubber-soled shoes that enclose the foot. Please keep flip-flops, dress shoes, cowboy boots, and other shoes not meeting this requirement at home.

G Got Questions? – You still may have unanswered questions, please call me after school or send an email. You can also send a note in your child's PAWS Folder with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

Guided Reading – The definition of guided reading encompasses a wide variety of behaviors. For example, some children may be working on alphabet recognition; some may require teacher support to read stories with predictable text, while others may read simple texts independently. Guided reading provides opportunities to teach children the variety of reading strategies they need in order to become fluent, independent readers. During guided reading, the teacher monitors and evaluates each child's progress.

H Homework – Your child will likely have homework one night per week. It may increase but should not take longer than 5 – 10 minutes to complete. The homework is usually on Thursday and promotes home involvement and reinforcement of reading, math, science, and social studies concepts taught in class. Please take time to enjoy this special learning time with your child. Homework sent home is always due back to school the following day.

Hands-On Learning – The best way to help children is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary, but for the most part our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Handwriting – The handwriting curriculum at Tri-C is Handwriting Without Tears. If you have had an older child go through our school, you will notice changes. These changes were made in the 2008-2009 school year. Included in the PAWS Folder is a copy of how to help your child at home with handwriting strokes, formation and the correct terminology to use as you write.

I Illness – The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a quite difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child at home if he or she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming sick. Children function more effectively in a classroom when they are healthy. It is a policy of Tri-C

Elementary to keep a child home from school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours.

Independence – Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following skills at home with your child: zipping, tying, dressing, etc.

J Join P.T.O. – Tri-C Elementary has a Parent-Teacher Organization. Meetings are held throughout the school year and are listed on newsletters and menus. Any adult can join by going to the meetings and can be a voting member by paying \$1.00.

Journals – We keep a journal in our classroom to use during writing time as well as when we feel inspired to write. It is a good idea to keep a spiral notebook at home for your child to write in and illustrate as well.

K Kindness – Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others, with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

L Library – We will visit the library once per week. Our librarian, Mrs. Spencer, will read to the students and teach them basic library skills. When we begin checking out books from the library they will come home in a "library bag" and are due back the following week.

Lost & Found - We have a lost and found area located by the entrances into the multipurpose room. We ask that you label clothing items worn to school by your child, especially coats, backpacks, hats, and gloves. This will help us return items to the owner.

Lunch – Our class will have lunch from 10:45 – 11:20. Children may either purchase their lunch for \$1.50 or bring it from home. A bi-weekly lunch menu will be in the PAWS Folder.

Literacy Centers – During literacy centers, children practice reading and writing skills while the teacher works with individual children or small guided reading groups. The center activities are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation.

M Math – The Kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards math. We use calendar time in the mornings as math practice and have a scheduled time later in the day. We have Scott Foresman chapter booklets to use and also employ an Investigations hands-on, problem solving approach.

Music – We will have music two days per week. Mrs. Horning will be coming to our class to teach the basics of music education and songs.



Newsletter – The newsletter will be published weekly. You will find your copy in the clear sleeve of the PAWS Folder. *Please leave it there and I will change it each week.*

Nurse – We have two school nurses. Nurse Julie and Nurse Treca will be here on a rotating basis. We will tend to minor scrapes in the classroom and they will be contacted for more serious injuries. If something happens and she needs to get a hold of you, she will use your emergency contacts.



Outside Play – Your child will have outside play time daily, weather permitting. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. While weather is still nice, they will also go outside for PE daily.

Open House – We will have one dedicated night to Open House. This is not a parent-teacher conference. It is simply a time for your child to bring you into the classroom and show you the places and ways we learn each day.

Open Lines of Communication – Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child throughout the year. I feel that it is our job to work together as partners to help your child have a successful first year. I can be reached at 985-8742 or kwebb@cartervillelions.com. I try to check my messages throughout the day, but of course there are times when that is not possible. If you have an urgent message and I need it before school is out, please call the office and speak to one of our wonderful secretaries. ☺



Parent Volunteers – I encourage you to volunteer either in the classroom or at home. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. We are always happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom or at home. Volunteers often copy papers, work with small groups or individuals, organize/file, make or cut apart items for centers and more. All volunteers at Tri-C are required to check in at the office and wear a guest badge.

Parties – We will have a Fall/Homecoming, Christmas, and Valentine's Day party. I will send out information asking for parents to act as room parents to organize volunteers and get donations for each one.

P.A.W.S. Folder – P.A.W.S. stands for Prepared And Wonderful Students. You can keep up on all of our class information by using this folder. It is made and given to your child at the beginning of the year. Your child will bring it home from school every day and return it the next morning. In it all communication will be kept in categories: Work to take home and important notes, newsletter, a money pocket, notes for the teacher, menus, etc. Please clean out the front and back pockets and check the behavior chart daily. This fosters better communication between home and school and helps your child to develop strong organizational skills. Please keep all information in the clear sleeves. I will change them as necessary.

Popcorn Words – Popcorn words are the 60+ words that we will study heavily this year. They are called popcorn because they keep “popping up” all over the place in all things we read. Please look for lists of the words to practice each week on the newsletter.

Physical Education – Our class will go to P.E. each day. Mrs. Haas and Mr. Breeden will teach many important skills while playing fun games. Each child must have clean (they need not be new) shoes for indoor P.E. only. Please label your child's first and last name on the outside bottom of each shoe.



Quick Goodbyes – Quick goodbyes...leave dry eyes. I encourage you to start a healthy and quick routine in the mornings. You may choose to drop off from the car, be picked up by the bus, or walk to the front of the building but, I suggest doing it without delay. Sneaking out often results in a longer postponement and a more dramatic exit on following days. Talk about it and be upfront and honest with your child about the day.



Restrooms – The toilets in our school flush automatically. If your child has never been exposed to one of these, it may be a good idea for you to stop in one with him/her for the first time. Also, the water fountains, sinks and hand dryers are automatic.

Read – Believe it or not your child is going to read in Kindergarten! However, their reading success is dependent on your parental support. Studies show that reading to your child will make them become a better reader. What does this mean? READ, READ, READ to your child. Also ask them what they are learning in school. Try to do some activities at home with the unit or letter we are working on in school. Point out words they know and letters in books and things that start with that letter. The learning experiences are endless. We will be working from the Scott Foresman Reading Series.

Rules – We make our rules together during the first few weeks of school. By having the students make up the rules themselves, they feel a sense of ownership in them and will be more likely to follow them. Here is a general list of rules.

1. We keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
2. We use nice words
3. We listen when someone is talking
4. We play safe
5. We are careful with classroom materials
6. We keep our room clean

Please review these rules with your child and discuss with them how to respect themselves and others at school.



Snack – We will have snack time each day. All children are given the same snack each day. Please send one snack per month for our class. You will need to send enough to feed 24 children. Individually packed snacks work best and of course healthy snacks are preferred. Please remember nothing with nuts or nut butters because of allergies.

Shared Reading – Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-readings, children read more and more of the text until they are able to read the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

Science – The focus of the Kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses and general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Social Studies – The Kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Holiday celebrations will also be highlighted. Activities will help the children focus on their natural curiosity for the world around them.

Supplies – You should have received a student supply list for a list of supplies. It is a good idea to keep a few basics at home, especially while they are on sale. I will keep all your child's school supplies in a labeled bag. As s/he needs something, we will get it from there. When the bag is empty, I may send a note home asking for a replacement. Throughout the year, I may also ask for additional items. If you are willing and able to donate them please do so. Thanks in advance!

T Toys – Children are asked not to bring toys from home. They are very distracting. I cannot be responsible for broken toys or hurt feelings caused by them.

Transportation – If a student has a change in their after-school transportation, please let me know in writing.

U Unique – Kindergarteners learn that they are special and unique. Kindergarteners have opportunities to describe how they are alike and different from others.

V Visitors – Tri-C Elementary has a policy that all guests (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the office and wear a guest badge. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

W Writing – Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with

writing tools such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paper at home.

Website – Tri-C Elementary teachers have a wonderful website. You can check out mine by visiting our school at www.cartervillelions.com. Go to Tri-C, then Kindergarten.

X eXperiences – We will have many wonderful eXperiences this year such as cooking, crafts, science experiments, making class books, and playing many learning games. They will all be fun and eXciting!

eXit – Parents and family members may eXit and enter via the main school entry.

eXpectations – We have four report cards per year. I will send out an eXpectation sheet at the beginning of the year that shows you exactly how your child will be graded. You can obtain another copy via the Kindergarten website. We have many performance based assessments that are ongoing throughout the year. All papers that are completed in class will not come home. I will keep some in a portfolio you will get at the end of the year.

Y Younger Siblings – It is in your child's and our Kindergarten class's best interest to have our parents volunteer without younger siblings. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.

Z ZZZ's – A Kindergarten room is a busy place and your child will probably be exhausted at the end of the day. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. Establish a bedtime routine that allows your child to get 10-12 hours of sleep each night. They will function more productively and be alert and ready in class with a good night's sleep.