

Mrs. McKellar's Kindergarten ABC's

2018-2019



A is for Attendance

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is a must! This is crucial to his/her success. If your child is sick please contact the office and let them know. If possible, try to plan family trips during our scheduled breaks. It is hard for your child to make up work missed in kindergarten, since most work is hands-on and done in class. Together we will devise a plan to make sure they understand the missed topics.

A is for Art

Your child will have a weekly art experience with Mrs. Gang in the Art Room. We will also do projects during centers in the classroom.



B is for Birthdays

I know how special birthdays are for you and your child. We do recognize and celebrate birthdays in our classroom. Your child will be recognized on the morning announcements and visit the office for a birthday pencil. On your child's birthday we will sing the "Happy Birthday" song and create a special class book. They will also receive a birthday book and crown from me as a gift. Cherry Knoll has a "no treat" policy for birthdays. I appreciate your support by making your child's birthday celebration happy and healthy!

B is for Book Clubs

Each month I will place an order from Scholastic Book Clubs. Each month you can purchase books for your child at a reduced rate (the deals are hard to beat!). This is a great way for your child to acquire his/her own library of books and be exposed to different types of literature. It is also a great way for our classroom to acquire new literature, since we get points towards buying books for our classroom when you order! All orders can be submitted online through our website. Reminders will be provided in our weekly emails. It usually takes two weeks to receive the ordered books. You do not have to participate in ordering books. If you are ordering books as a surprise gift, please let me know and I will make sure to keep the books a secret.



C is for Conferences

We will have parent-teacher conferences in the fall and spring. More information will be sent to you closer to that time. I would be happy to meet with you at any time to discuss your child's progress. I can meet after school or during my planning time. Notify me by note, email, or phone to arrange a time to meet. I will be joining Ms. Courson for the fall conferences to meet and discuss your child's progress.

C is for Centers

We will have centers each day in kindergarten to allow learning and experiences in several academic areas (unless a special event is planned).



D is for Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule will be posted each day for the students to follow. The schedule will change daily according to specials and activities in the classroom. This will also be posted on our website after it is adjusted in the fall.

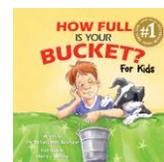
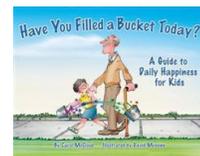
D is for Discipline

Children learn through experiences. In my classroom I work very hard to work with all of the students to learn routines and expectations. If a child is not following these, we will discuss their actions together and talk about the expected behavior. If the behavior continues, he/she will miss some of their free choice time to have a think break and reflection time with me. If behaviors are inappropriate or repetitive, an office discipline report will be recorded and sent home. There are two types of referrals, major and minor. Students will meet with Dr. Derks if a major incident occurs. Specific inappropriate behaviors are outlined in the student handbook.



We are Bucket Fillers!

In our classroom, we work hard to be "bucket fillers", not "bucket dippers"! But what are "bucket fillers" and "bucket dippers"? We will read [You Filled a Bucket Today?](#) several times throughout the year. This book tells the story of how everyone, all over the world, carries an invisible bucket with them. The way that we treat others can fill their buckets when we are kind, or we can dip from their buckets when we use unkind words and actions. Other people can fill or dip from our buckets too. A supplemental story that we also have and use in our classroom is called "How Full is your Bucket?". Both are great books that are motivational for students. You can use this concept at home also! I hope that your buckets get filled quickly with the kind behavior your child demonstrates!



D is for Dismissal

Please contact the office **before 2:30** if your child plans to leave early. This will allow for an easy transition. If you know they are leaving early ahead of time, a note in their folder is appreciated. I don't always get a chance to check email and phone messages consistently throughout the day with our busy schedule. So calling the office and sending in a note is best.



E is for Emergencies

You will be contacted if your child has a severe injury. We also have in place and practice a school plan in case of fires, tornados, or intruders.



F is for Field Trips

Throughout the year we plan to schedule trips into the community to enhance our curriculum. Permission slips will be sent home prior to each trip. You will have the opportunity to volunteer to be a chaperone for a field trip on certain field trips. Depending on space requirements, the number of chaperones could be limited. When a field trip permission slip is distributed, if you are interested in chaperoning, please let me know as soon as possible. Chaperones will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. If we have more volunteers than spaces, we will take out names of parents who have already chaperoned a trip and then draw names. Please understand that we will make every attempt to give each parent the opportunity to go on a trip if they so choose. Chaperones will be responsible for a group of children while we are away from school. Thank you for your cooperation! ***Please, no siblings on the field trips

F is for Folders

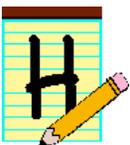
Your child will be given a large plastic folder to bring to and from school each day, even on days when it is empty. I have found that it is the best way to make sure notes and papers get to and from school safely and efficiently. Please place ANY notes to me into this folder. I check these folders each day for notes from home and it is important for you to check the folder each night. Research shows that kindergarten aged children learn best by using hands-on materials and repetition. Please don't be concerned if you do not see a lot of your child's paperwork coming home.



G is for Grading

Students will be graded with the following rubric throughout the year:

(Ext)	Extending: Learner demonstrates exemplary performance or understanding; shows creativity
(Ach)	Achieving: Learner demonstrates solid performance or understanding that meets kindergarten standards
(Dev)	Developing: Learner is building knowledge and skills
(NY)	Not Yet: Learner is in the initial stages of development
(NA)	Not Applicable: Learner is not yet responsible for the standard



H is for Homework

Homework is an important part of your child's school experience. Supporting good work habits requires a joint effort. I will support your child and encourage good work habits at school. Your child will benefit greatly from your support and encouragement at home. Students will also need to listen to a story or read each night. Students will also be able to practice their alphabet, sight words, math and printing with practice pages that I will send home. These are optional, but are a good way to practice the skills we have worked on in class. I send homework not only for review, but also as a way for you to see what your child can do and to help you to know what we are learning in class. This is intended to be a fun activity for families to interact and support their kindergartener's learning. Please look over the work that your child is doing to make sure they understand the directions as well as that they are completing it to their best ability. You do not need to return any homework pages to school unless it is noted on the weekly email.



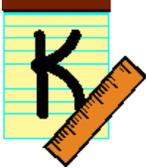
I is for Illness

We know that it is hard to decide whether or not to keep your child home from school. It is important to keep your child at home if he/she is ill. This helps to keep your child comfortable and prevents others from getting sick. Children function better in the classroom when they are healthy.



J is for Join in! Just try it!

Students in my class are encouraged to give it a try. It is important that children learn to be risk takers and to give things their best shot, even if they fail. You can't succeed if you don't try!



K is for Kindness

Students in our school are expected to treat all members of our school family with kindness and respect. Bullying will not be tolerated. We will learn about kindness and bullying with social lessons in our classroom throughout the year.



L is for Lunches (and Breakfast)

You can have your child bring a lunch from home or he/she can order a lunch from school. Please help your child to select his/her choice before coming to school each day. Please read the "Breakfast and Lunch Options" on our school website. Keep snacks separated from lunches if possible. Having these labeled and separate is very helpful.



M is for Math

I will be using a variety of tools to motivate and encourage learning. Students of all ability levels benefit from being able to use materials to model problems and explain their thinking. I will be encouraging students to find different ways to solve problems. Students will work in a large group, small groups, or at centers to practice their math skills. We will use Math Expressions. More details about this program is located on our classroom website.

M is for Money

Anytime you send money to school with your child, please place it in an envelope or a baggie with their name and a note explaining what it is for: lunch, pictures, books, field trips, etc.



N is for Newsletters

I will be sending home a classroom newsletter each week by email. It will contain updates, and activities happening in our classroom. I feel that providing a newsletter is a great way to communicate important information and exciting events in our classroom.



O is for Open Lines of Communication

One thing I enjoy about teaching (besides, of course, the kids!) is the relationships I have built with parents. I believe that communication between school and home is essential to your child's success at school. Therefore, I will be sending home notes or making phone calls regarding your child's progress -- successes as well as any problems. Please be sure to check your child's folder for any notes, and I will do the same for any notes you may send to me. 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 to help your child have a successful year. You can contact me on my classroom phone at 933-8983. If you have an urgent message and you want to be sure that we get it before school is out, please call the office, 933-8940. Please feel free to email me if you have questions, concerns or celebrations. My email address is mckellarka@tcaps.net. I check email throughout each day and will try to respond in a timely manner.

O is for Outdoor Dress

Please make sure your child is dressed to play outside. The students will go outside each day unless it is raining or extremely cold. Make sure all of their winter gear is labeled with their name. So many items get lost each year. If it is labeled, it is likely to be returned.



P is for Physical Activity

Students will be involved in physical activity daily. This may be P.E. and/or recess.



Q is for Questions

Please feel free to ask away. If I don't know the answer, we will find out for you as soon as I can!



R is for Reading

It is important that your child see you read and also be read to. Studies show that the more they read and are read to, the better they will do in reading and most other areas of school. Encourage your child to read many different kinds of books to expand their imagination and creativity. Reading is not only essential to your child's success, but it is also fun!! We will be using a reading program called Journeys this year. More details about this program is located on our classroom website.



S is for Science

Students will participate in activities and discussions relating to several science topics throughout the year. Most of these are incorporated into our reading program.

S is for Sharing

We will not have a scheduled show and tell time. If your child has something special to share at a different time that would enhance learning, please let me know and we can make arrangements.

S is for Snacks

I encourage each child to bring in two nutritious snacks daily. Several snack examples: fruit, cheese/crackers, vegetables/dip, yogurt, granola bars, etc. Please do not send in desserts or candy.

S is for Social Studies

Students will participate in activities and discussions relating to several social studies topics throughout the year. Most of these are incorporated into our reading program.

S is for Special Classes

Students will participate in physical education, music, library and art this year.



T is for Thank You

Thank you for all of your support and communication!



U is for Unique

Each child in our class is unique and special.

U is for Unusual Weather

Fog and snow days will sometimes delay or cancel school. Be sure to check to see if there is a delay or cancellation.



V is for Volunteers

If you are interested in helping in our classroom, please email me and I will arrange the visit(s). I hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to be a part of your child's education!



W is for Website

I have created a website to provide resources and use as a communication tool.

<http://mrsmkellar.weebly.com/>

W is for Wish List

Throughout the year if our classroom needs other items or help, I will put it in my newsletter. It is not required that you donate items or your time, but I would gladly appreciate anything that you could help with, or any donation you would like to make.

W is for Word Wall

Students will practice common sight words throughout the year. These words will be posted in the classroom for practice. You will receive a copy of this list.



X is for Extra Practice

Anytime that you feel your child is struggling with a concept and needs extra practice, or maybe needs a little extra challenge, send us a note, and we will see what we can find.



Y is for You

You can help to make your child feel successful this year by doing some of the following: It is important to discuss the school day with them. Ask questions like, "What did you learn today?", "What did you work the hardest on?", or "What are you getting better at?". These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information.

It is also very important that you work with your child on the homework that is assigned each week. Encourage your child to ask questions about school. Informed children are confident children. Talk positively about school. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will have a direct effect on how he/she feels about them.

YOU are your child's first teacher, and you play an extremely important role in your child's education!

Show an enthusiasm for learning, it is contagious!



Z is for ZZZ's

It is so important to make sure that your child is getting a good night sleep at night. Establish a bedtime routine that allows your child to get 10-12 hours of sleep each night. They will function more productively in class with a good night sleep.