

Everything I Learned In Kindergarten

Backpack or School Bag

- Large backpack as it needs to hold daily folder, Thursday take-home folders, lunch box (if applicable), snack bag, library book, etc.
- Name on it in permanent marker. *I used a plastic luggage tag with his name on it and then attached to the backpack.

Lots of info in the FAQ's regarding how to purchase lunch. Here are some things I learned during the year for the bring-from-home lunch crowd:

- Lunch time: Lunch time varies from year to year.
- Lunches from home run the gamut as there are so many options
 - Peanut butter is allowed. There is a nut-free table available.
 - Cold packs can be used to refrigerate lunch boxes.
 - A sponge dipped in water and frozen solid makes a great cold pack.
- Lots of lunch box options - we use a square one that can hold a thermos/water bottle in addition to the food.
 - Kept it inexpensive in case it was lost or damaged early in the year.
 - Name on it in permanent marker.
 - If sending any reusable containers in their lunch box, please put first and last names on all items on all pieces. You'll be grateful the first time you get both the top and bottom portions of your Tupperware back after sending it to hold their sandwich.

Snack time – with the early lunch the kids need a small snack in the afternoon

- Teachers will alert parents if there is an allergy restriction in the classroom.
- Size of snack bag to be used only has to hold a small snack (eaten in a few bites) and a small drink (such as a juice box). If also using reusable containers to hold snack/drink, put their names on all pieces.
- Something reusable for their snack bag works well (washable nylon travel bag, for example) with their name on it in permanent marker.

LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER (scheduled just before the 1st day of school)

Orientation Day

- This is such an exciting day but it is also very crowded and overwhelming.
 - Having just one parent there will help reduce the confusion. Maybe the other parent(s) and siblings can visit for a lunch date in the near future.
- You will bring in their school supplies to turn in.
- They will see their seat, tour the classroom, meet their teachers and assistant teachers, get their name tags, etc.

First and Second days of School

- On the first day of school, parents are welcome to walk their kindergarteners into the gym and stay until their child's class is called.
- Starting on the second day of school, you can walk your child in the front door, but then exit and give last waves from the front lobby. A wall of well-meaning parents is an imposing sight for inexperienced five year olds.
 - Following this pattern will also help them get used to separating, get them into the routine more quickly, and help them transition smoothly to their school day.
- Kids will wear a name tag during the first few days of school - this tag helps with learning names but also identifies them as K and the color indicates which classroom. At the end of the school day, just pop the name tag in their backpack so that it is ready to go the next day.
- During roundup, a sample daily schedule is given out. Once school starts, your Kindergarten teacher can give you a more accurate sample of your child's day.
 - Free time is called "Centers" and the day specific activities (art, music, etc) are called "Specials".
 - Late arrival days, early dismissal days, and special events will impact their normal schedule.

Arrival

- The doors open at 8:30 AM and students should arrive no later than 8:40 AM in order to be led to their classrooms and settled by 8:45 AM.
 - In extreme weather conditions (below 25 degrees, for example) the doors *may* open a few minutes earlier to allow children into the building.
 - K – 3 will be sitting in the gym prior to being led to their classrooms.
 - When the gym is being used for an assembly, the morning procedures will shift to the cafeteria or alternative location. The kindergarten students will be seated together.
- There is a Kiss and Ride lane that can be used to drop off your child.
 - You will have to judge if your Kindergartener can get to the door of the building without assistance as the teacher on duty will be there to oversee the patrols helping kids out of the cars.
 - Please follow the correct path through the parking lot. Have backpacks at the ready, kisses given, and ready to go when it is your turn at the drop off.
 - After drop off, the crossing guard will indicate whether or not you are to proceed without stopping to make your right turn (right turns only to exit parking lot) or to stop to allow children to proceed through crosswalks. If the crossing guard does not indicate one of these two things, please use caution while following all traffic signs (there is a stop sign) and rules of the road.
- There will be a rope barrier blocking off the traffic circle in front of the school. This is to allow the buses, commercial daycare vehicles, and handicapped designated vehicles a safe place to unload children.

Dismissal

Kindergarteners will be dismissed at ~3:25 PM to give them a chance to meet up with their parents and/or get to their busses and commercial daycare vehicles.

- School bus procedures are covered in the FAQ's.
- Kiss & Ride students will be escorted to the cafeteria and wait for their name to be called once the parent is identified in the Kiss/Ride lane.
- Parents of walkers are to meet their Kindergarteners at the slanted wall.
 - Slanted wall is immediately to the right of the front doors of the school while facing the school.
 - Start teaching your kindergarten student where you will meet him/her after school so that they aren't overwhelmed by the crush of students at dismissal when they enter 1st grade.
 - Your child will need to indicate to their teacher that they see you and the teacher will want to see that you are one of adults approved for pick up. This gets much faster as the year goes on.
- When driving to pick up your child, it is best to legally park on Viking, or one of the side streets. The parking lot & bus loop will be roped off starting at ~ 3:30 PM and not open back up until 3:45 PM in order to give the walkers time to safely cross the parking lot crosswalk. The only exception to not being able to exit the parking lot until 3:45 PM is for properly marked cars parked in the handicapped spots and emergency vehicles.

Volunteering in the classroom

- There are oodles of opportunities to volunteer both in the classroom and for school events. Sign up early (and often!) to ensure all activities run smoothly.
- Kindergarten classroom volunteer activities will be coordinated through your Room Parent.
 - Art, Academics, Library help – lots of help needed for the classroom.
 - There are also many events throughout the year
 - Thanksgiving luncheon
 - 100 days of school
 - Valentine's day celebration