

The ABCs of the Johnson School

Kindergarten Program

Updated September 2011

A is for Absences

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please call the main office at 781-581-1600 and dial 2. If your child is going to be out of school for an extended period such as for a family vacation, you must write the school a note with the dates.

B is for Backpacks and Book Orders

Backpacks: Your child needs to have a sturdy backpack that can fit a folder and lunch box. Your child needs his backpack everyday. Remember, a sturdy backpack that is manageable for your child is best!

Book Orders: Book Orders will be sent home approximately once a month. I have set up the book ordering through www.scholastic.com so parents can individually go online to order. There will be a set deadline in order to ensure prompt delivery. It should be easier than in past years for both families and teachers. For every online order, I receive \$3.00 towards books for the classroom.

C is for Celebrations

For birthday celebrations there is to be no food brought into the classroom. If your child wishes to celebrate in school, I suggest sending in birthday plates (gender neutral) and napkins for snack time, that way it can still be a special treat. I promise you, I don't even miss the cupcakes anymore, and neither will the children! :)

Classroom celebrations are also encouraged to be done with no food. I will work with our room parents on these occasions.

D is for Drop Off and Dismissal

Drop off: Children are allowed to be dropped off starting at 7:45 a.m. Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade students are to be dropped off at the lower middle door (Door 1). The first bell rings at 7:55 when the doors will be opened. The late bell is at 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal: Kindergarten through Grade 2 students are dismissed from the lower middle door at 2:15 p.m. If your child goes with someone who is not a parent on a

daily basis (the after-school program or a babysitter) the office needs a **standing note**. Any other irregular dismissal changes (play dates, etc.) I will need a note that day.

E is for Email and ENO Board

The easiest way to reach me is at my school email, bpurdin@johnsonschool.org. I find email to be much easier than phone calls to my school number. I check my email in the morning and at the end of the school day. You should hear from me within a day or by the next morning. Please email me so I can add you to the class list serv.

ENO Board: You may have heard about our ENO Board and seen it in our room. We are very fortunate to have this technology in our classroom, and the children and I will be using it all year for interactive lessons and to make learning more exciting. Be sure to ask your child about the "magic pen"!

F is for Field Trips

In the event that the Kindergarten goes on a field trip a notice with permission slip will be sent home at least a few weeks before.

G is for Grading

The Johnson School is on a trimester system for report cards. Report cards come home in November, March and June. Kindergarten children are graded in several areas including academic areas and in social/emotional growth on a 1-4 scale. Parent Conferences are held the first week in December.

H is for Half Days, Home-School Folder and Homework

Half Days: We have about one half day a month throughout the year as well as 2 full day Professional Days for teachers. A monthly calendar with all important dates can be found at www.johnsonschool.org.

Home-School Folder: Your child's blue home-school folder will hold all important papers coming from school to be shared at home with you. The folder needs to come back each day in your child's backpack.

Homework: While I do not expect children to do nightly homework in Kindergarten, there are times when homework or home projects are required. Both our math and phonics program include home connections that I will send home. During the year, there will also be fun family projects you will be about to help your child with!

I is for Illness

In the event your child is ill, please keep your child at home that day. Your child will be much more comfortable, and it will help keep the spread of colds and flu during the school year.

J is for Journals

Kindergartners enjoy sharing what they do with their families and things going on in their lives with peers. One way we share is by having children write and draw in their own journals, starting in September. Journals encourage children to use inventive spelling as well as helps them to understand parts of a sentence and handwriting as the year goes on. Children write in their journal 2-3 times a week. Journals stay in school in children's work cubbies.

K is for Kindness

The old saying, "All You Need To Know You Learned In Kindergarten" may be cliché, but has much truth. A huge part of kindergarten is learning to be a part of a group as a learner, which means learning to be kind to others as well as kind to oneself, and being kind to classroom materials!

L is for Lunch Routines

Kindergarten children go to the cafeteria for lunch each day at 11:35. Our classroom aides are also the lunch aides, which is reassuring to many of our children. Children may purchase **chocolate, 1 percent or skim milk for 50 cents**. There are three options daily for lunch – a hot lunch, a sandwich and a salad or something like that, depending on the week. The lunch calendar goes home at the beginning of each month. Children may purchase **lunch for \$3.00, which includes a milk**. The lunch count is taken at the beginning of the day. It is important that you communicate with your child what they will be doing for lunch each day.

M is Math and Morning Snack

Our Kindergarten **math** curriculum is Everyday Math. At the beginning of each unit you will receive a family letter with activities to do at home with your child. While we do have a set time each day for math, math is also done all day long in Kindergarten – from the lunch count, to the calendar to working with manipulatives, we use math concepts all day long!

We have a **morning snack** in Kindergarten. We have peanut-free classrooms at the Johnson School. Please send your child with a **healthy snack** (yogurt, fruit, cheese and crackers, etc.) and a drink every day.

N is for Notices

Important notices will come home through your child's home-school folder. Please make sure to check it each night, and return it to school in your child's backpack the next day.

O is for Open Lines of Communication

The home-school connection is very important to me. If you ever have a question, concern, problem or anything else regarding your child, I would like you to speak to me first. Most times, working together, we can find a solution. I try my best to let parents know what's happening in the classroom and tell you all the wonderful things your child is doing and learning!

P is for Parents as Partners

Along with open lines of communication, I believe that the teacher and parents are partners in your child's success at school. That means we will work together to solve problems if they arise, and enjoy the triumphs of your child's successes during the year. Kindergarten is a magical time!

Q is for Quiet Time

When the children return from lunch and recess, we will have a "quiet time" for children to rest and relax. I may turn the lights down and turn on quiet "spa" music for about 10 minutes. Children during this time are allowed to read, look at books or color. However, bodies and mouths are quiet! This also allows for a more productive afternoon of learning.

R is for Responsive Classroom and Reading Everyday

Responsive Classroom is a way of teaching that emphasizes social, emotional and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. We will begin each day with a morning meeting and a morning message. Children will learn through guided discovery and academic choice time. Teachers help children to create classroom rules and make clear expectations. (www.responsiveclassroom.org)

Reading Everyday: While there may not be "formal" homework to be returned each night, I hope that you and your child spend time sharing in good books each day. Also, don't forget about the wonderful resource of the public library! Reading together is a great way to help your children become a better reader and learner.

S is for Schedule and Specials

Schedule: Kindergarten children enjoy knowing they have a routine and schedule to their day at school. I try to keep us on a consistent schedule most days, unless

there is a field trip or other unscheduled thing happening in school. There is work times and choice times throughout the day.

Specials: Kindergarten children this year will have 2 Physical Education classes.

T is for Time Out and other Logical Consequences

In using the Responsive Classroom approach, when children break the rules there are logical consequences, which are broken into three main categories - "you break it, you fix it," loss of privilege and time out. We will be discussing these, modeling them and role playing them with the children, in order for children to understand what will happen if one is used. They are not punitive. Time out, for example, is called, "take a break" and gives the child a chance to regain control and come back to the lesson when they are ready. The logical consequences make a lot of sense, and make for smooth days in the classroom.

U is for Units of Study

In Kindergarten we teach thematically, which means we will be working on a unit for about a month. The units are of developmentally appropriate for Kindergartners, beginning with family, school, community, colors and many other science and social studies topics.

V is for Volunteers

Kindergarten loves volunteers! If you have a special skill or would like to come in as a guest reader or want to help with a special project, just email me. We can work something out. More information to come about this on parent night.

W is for Web-page

I update my classroom web-page once a month to give you an idea of what we are working on in the classroom. You can find my monthly letter when you go to www.johnsonschool.org and click on classrooms and then on my name.

X is for eXtra Clothes

It is important to leave a spare change of clothes in your child's cubby at school at all times. It should include socks and underwear. That way if there is a spill or anything else your child will be comfortable for the rest of the day!

Y is for Your Child's Year of Learning

Kindergarten is a special year. It's your child's first year of "real school." It's a time of lots of growth in their social and academic development. They will become students and learn many new things. It will be a great year!

Z is for a good night of ZZZs every night!

Our days are busy and it is important to make sure your child gets enough rest at night. Five year olds should be getting at least 10 hours of sleep at night. A good night's sleep means a good day at school the next day!