



August 28, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten and the Johnson School! I am excited to be your child's Kindergarten teacher this year. This will be my eighth year teaching Kindergarten, and my sixth here at the Johnson School. I love teaching Kindergarten because it is a magical time. We will have a year filled with positive learning experiences, time-honored traditions, and of course lots of fun and laughter as your child begins on his or her journey as a student and a lifelong learner.

I hope your family had a restful and enjoyable summer. I have had an amazing summer. I was busy traveling, visiting with friends, learning new things and relaxing at the beach. I am recharged and excited to be back to school. I have come back with new ideas and techniques that will enhance our learning in the classroom.

This year I will continue to use Responsive Classroom techniques. In the past, I have attended both RC I and II week-long institutes. RC is technique used to add structure to the school day and creates a caring classroom community that has positive effects on all children's learning. To find out more about Responsive Classroom, please take a look at their website [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org).

Parent - Teacher - Child communication is extremely important. During the course of the year I hope to keep in contact with you in many ways. I will continue to have a classroom email listserv, however, I am will be trying new technologies as well to better communicate in our "smartphone" world. **New this year** will be my updated classroom website [www.wheremykindergartengrows.com](http://www.wheremykindergartengrows.com) and our classroom twitter account: [www.twitter.com/kgardengrows](http://www.twitter.com/kgardengrows). In both of these places I hope to keep you updated of our classroom happenings and the amazing things your children are doing. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me via note, phone call or email. I will do my very best to get back to you that same day.

Enclosed in this packet of information are a few pages that will give you an overview of my philosophy of education. I believe in the importance of modeling how we want children to be as people (sharing, kindness, acceptance), giving children the

freedom to explore interests through play and shared experiences, and exposing children to great literature in order to make them excited about being readers and writers.

I am looking forward to a great year together working with you and your child.

Respectfully,

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