

THE ABC'S OF KINDERGARTEN



If your child is **absent**, please call the school (423.745.3862) to let me know. A note stating the reason for the absence must be brought to school as soon as possible to avoid an unexcused absence. If you want a quick absence note to print and fill in, see the website homepage's Quick Links for Parents:

<http://mrsdiminnie.com>

Attendance is so important. In kindergarten, much of the work we do is oral or hands-on, so it is impossible to make up everything that your child will miss.

Our class's **art class** day is every other Tuesday for 50 minutes during the first semester. During the second semester, our art class time will be for 30 minutes every Wednesday during grade-level time.



Birthdays are recognized during morning announcements, and students receive a birthday tag, pencil, and button. We will recognize summer birthdays at the end of the school year. Please do not send **birthday party invitations** to be distributed at school unless all children receive an invitation.

I will send home **book order** forms for you and your child to look over from time to time. Book clubs offer books at reduced prices. It's a great way to build your child's home library, and our class receives free books from points earned by student orders!



Parent and Teacher **conferences** will be on October 24 this year. Watch for information and reply accordingly. Conference sign-up for this date is normally done at Open House night.

Communication is important. Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question, comment, or concern. You can reach me by phone (423.745.3862), in person, by email (reynoldsm4@k12tn.net), or by note.



The **discipline** policy is explained in the City Park Handbook (a multi-colored flip-book that will go home in the TIGER Book). We work hard as a class to make the classroom a positive and safe place for all.

Dismissal will be at 12:20 on half-days only. **Students will begin attending full days and be dismissed at 3:20 on August 22nd.** Our class will be dismissed at the end hall doors next to the parking lot. Any student not picked up by 3:25 will be taken to the office to wait. Parents will then need to park and come into the building to retrieve their child. We are not allowed to keep children in the classrooms after 3:25 to wait on rides. Prompt pick-up is even more important this school year, as teachers will often have bus duty after car riders are dismissed.



My school **email address** is reynoldsm4@k12tn.net (they never changed it after I married). I check email daily. If you have an **email address** that you would like me to be aware of, please let me know.

If your **emergency numbers or contact persons** change, please inform the office *and* me in writing.



Information about any **field trips** will come home in the TIGER book and will be detailed in the field trip permission slip and weekly newsletter.



Our class will have a set 30-minute **gym** class every Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesdays, special area classes change each six-weeks, so during some six-week periods the class may have an extra gym time on that day of the week. (See Grade-level Day below.) The children are asked to wear athletic shoes on gym days.

On **grade level days** (Wednesdays), students have two special-area classes back-to-back to accommodate grade-level teacher planning. These two classes may change each six-weeks. Our class's grade-level schedule is as follows:

1st Six-Weeks: Music/Educational Video

2nd Six-Weeks: Gym/Music

3rd Six-Weeks: Educational Video/Gym

4th Six-Weeks: Music/Art

5th Six-Weeks: Library (story time, not an additional check-out)/Art

6th Six-Weeks: Library (story time, not an additional checkout)/Art



Students will have some **homework** in Kindergarten. The main homework for kindergarteners will be the sight word cards that I will send home. There may be some paper assignments, but not frequently. Any paper assignments will be sent home in the front pocket of the TIGER book. Unless otherwise noted, please return the homework the following day, with the exception of sight word cards, which are your child's to keep for practice. At different points in the school year (depending on readiness), students will have a **homework book**. This book will always have been practiced with me or with an instructional assistant during a guided reading group at our Literacy Corners time. It is sent home for your child to read and review with you and so that you can celebrate his/her reading successes.



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 self-help skills at home with your child: *zipping, tying shoes, dressing, etc.*



Writing takes place almost every day in kindergarten. One way we accomplish this is through writing stories in our **journals** during writer's workshop. Encourage your child to write at home for a variety of purposes. Keep in mind, "pretend writing" is practice for the real thing!



Keep updated by reading the classroom newsletter every week and checking the TIGER Book every day for other notes and information.



Our class will visit the **library** once a week. Our media specialist is Ms. Rollins. Once checkout begins for kindergarteners (I will notify you when this will be), your child will check out a book when we visit the library and return it within the following week. If your child forgets to return the book, he/she will not be allowed to check out a new book until it is returned. Our library time/check-out day is each Friday.

Our class eats **lunch** from 10:50-11:20. **Lunch prices** are \$2.00 for students and \$3.50 for adult visitors. When sending **lunch money** to school, please send it in a baggie or envelope in the TIGER Book. There is a pencil pouch for this purpose that is located in the front of the TIGER Book. Please write your child's name on the baggie or envelope. This allows them to set it down on my table and go about their morning routine without having to wait in line for me to collect everyone's money.

Literacy Corners is a time for your child to experience partner or small-group reading skill activities. This is also a time when I and an instructional assistant pull small groups for adult-led instruction, such as guided-reading groups. Students will be assigned to two or three Literacy Corners per day, and they may choose which activities to complete within each area. Literacy Corner time on Fridays will be a free-choice time, when students may choose from any Literacy Corner or from other special activities.



The children will have set 30-minute **music** classes every Monday and Thursday with Ms. Tallent. See Grade Level Days under the "G" heading to see which six-week periods our class will have an extra music class.

The kindergarten **math** curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue throughout their school career and lives. Many of our math concepts are covered through our daily calendar routine. On most afternoons, we will have a math mini-lesson, after which students will work with math bins or math center activities while I meet with small groups of children for "guided math." These math groups will be fluid and flexible, changing from day to day or week to week, based on the needs of students. We will also keep a **math journal** to show our math thinking during calendar time and problem-solving time.



A weekly **newsletter** will be sent home on Mondays to keep you informed about what is happening in our class.

There will be **no school** on the following days: **October:** 2, 3, 6, 7, 24; **November:** 3, 4, 26-28; **December:** 22-31; **January:** 1, 2, 5, 19; **February:** 12, 13, 16; **March:** 23-27; **April:** 10; and **May:** 1 (kindergarten only, preregistration for 2009-10), 25.



Open House information will be sent home soon. Sign-up for Parent-Teacher Conference Day is usually done at Open House.



When **picking up** your child, remember that we are dismissed at the end doors by the parking lot at 3:20 on full days.



Questions? Please feel free to call, stop in, email, or send a note.

- reynoldsm4@k12tn.net
- 423.745.3862



Kindergarten **report cards** will be sent home 6 times during the year, at the end of each six-week reporting period.

Kindergarteners have at least 30 minutes of **recess** each day, barring inclement weather. If weather prevents us from going outside, the children will have a free-choice play period in the classroom.

We will begin the year having a **rest period** each day for 20-30 minutes. This will phase out as the children become more accustomed to attending school for a full day. Please send a bath towel (beginning on full days) for your child to use for this purpose. These will be stored in backpacks. Please wash or exchange the towel for a fresh one at least once per week.



We will have a daily **snack** beginning on full days. I will send home a snack calendar beginning in September. PLEASE DO NOT SEND SNACKS WITH PEANUTS ON THE INGREDIENT LIST. Thank you!



T.I.G.E.R. BOOKS help keep us organized. The three-ring binder houses a work folder (and later in the year a homework book pouch), and other items that assist with communication between home and school.

If your child has any changes in their **transportation** please let me know in writing.



and

Volunteers and **visitors** must register in the office and pick up a badge.

Family **vacations** are wonderful opportunities for your family; however, please try not to schedule these when school is in session if at all possible. The school system usually counts these as unexcused absences.



Our class **website** is <http://mrsdiminnie.com> I will try my best to post the current newsletter there each week and the current month's snack calendar. (If you do not have Internet access, these will also go home in your child's TIGER Book.) There is a Parents' section, but you can also find out about some different parts of our day by looking under the Teachers' menu.

Writing is something that we will practice a lot this year as we learn the letters, their sounds, and how to decode words. As you look at your child's writing, you will see something called "developmental spelling." I will send home some information on the developmental stages of writing in a few weeks after the initial onslaught of paperwork has died down.



Parents and family members may **eXit** and enter via the main school entry. Signing in at the office is required.



Your ideas...and suggestions are welcome!



Zzzzzzz - Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child