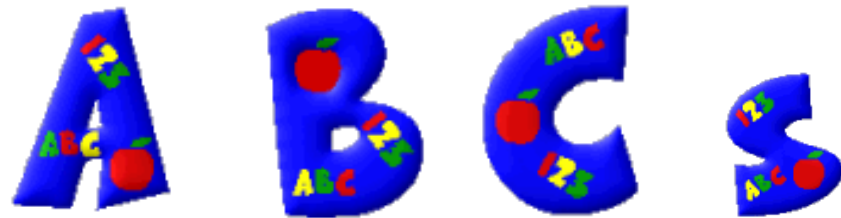


The



of

Kindergarten

A Handbook for Mrs. Goodman's Class

2016-2017





Absence



If your child is ill, please call the office (223-1111) by 9:00 a.m. to inform us of your child's absence and the reason for it. If a student must leave early for a doctor's appointment, please go to the office to sign him out and the secretary will call him to the office. Never send another person to pick up your child without informing the secretary or me.

Attendance



A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parent and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key.

Arrival and Dismissal



Pupils should arrive between 8:40 and 8:50 AM. Students should not arrive prior to 8:40 AM because supervision by the school staff is not available. No child or parent should be in the building before this time. School begins promptly at 8:50 AM and afternoon dismissal is at 3:20 PM. Please note that we will dismiss at 2:05 on all Fridays this year. Please pick up your child promptly. If you are late, look for your child in the office.

Art



The children will attend Art class once a week with our art teacher, Mrs. Wick.



Backpacks



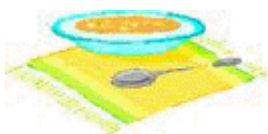
To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack **every day**. Large backpacks that zip are best for independence. Please check your child's backpack daily for important notes and any wonderful creations your child has made. Please do not send backpacks with wheels.

Birthdays



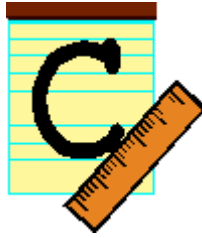
Birthdays are special occasions for young children. If your child wishes, he/she may bring a treat for the class. Because every child's birthday is equally important, we will celebrate everyone's special day with a treat, a crown, and the birthday song. Please do not send decorations, party favors, balloons, etc. You may choose to celebrate summer birthdays during the last few weeks of school, or on the $\frac{1}{2}$ birthday. Please keep in mind that all treats must be pre-packaged, and must list ingredients on the package. We are a nut-free school, and will not be able to serve any food item that contains nuts of any kind, or that has been packaged in a facility where nuts are present. This includes peanut butter and Nutella!

Breakfast



Please be sure your child eats a healthy breakfast every day. A child with a happy tummy finds it much easier to learn.

We will have a breakfast program at Northview School this year. Students who plan to eat breakfast at school may arrive at 8:20.



Calendar



The school office provides a calendar of events and monthly school lunch menus. They will be posted on our school website each month. Please check www.perued.net on a regular basis.

Computer



We are fortunate to have three chrome books in our classroom. We use a variety of age-appropriate programs that reinforce math, writing readiness, and reading skills. Children will work on the computers during Daily Five Literacy and Daily Three Math. We will also use the computer lab on a regular basis.

Communication



As partners in your child's education, it is important for us to communicate openly with each other. Please feel free to send notes, or to call (815-223-1111 Ext. 228) or e-mail me at school at (cgoodman@perued.net) if you have any questions or concerns. If I am unavailable, I will return your call as soon as possible.

While my door is always open to you, I do ask that you refrain from stopping in to see me before school in the mornings. Preparing for a day of kindergarten is much like planning for 20 guests for Thanksgiving dinner. Those last few minutes are often critical in ensuring that we have a super day together!



Discipline



Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected. Since this is a new school experience for most kindergarten students, we will spend time learning classroom and school procedures/routines and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. To establish good order and help the children learn self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and responsible actions.

In order to guarantee all of the students in my classroom the nurturing learning environment they deserve, I am utilizing the following Discipline Plan starting the first day of school.

CLASSROOM RULES:

1: **Be Responsible:**

- *Take good care of property.
- *Do your best work.
- *Follow directions quickly

2: **Be Respectful:**

- *Respect one another
- *Share
- *Raise your hand for permission to speak

3: **Be Safe:**

- *Walk from place to place
- *Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

Each day, students begin their day "Ready to Learn" (green).

When a student follows the rules and makes good choices, he or she has the chance to move a clip up to the highest levels of the Behavior Chart, earning behavior bucks for the PBIS store: Fantastic (blue) {2 behavior bucks}, Outstanding (purple) {3 behavior bucks}, and Super Star (pink) {4 behavior bucks and

positive notes, emails, or phone calls home.}

If a child breaks a rule or fails to follow a procedure at any time during the day, the following consequences occur:

Think About It! (yellow) :! {no behavior buck for the day}

Make Better Choices!- (orange) 5 minutes time out; {no behavior buck for the day}

Contact Parent (red)- (PBIS minor; note, email, or phone call to parent/s), no behavior buck for the day, and possibly sent to the principal depending on the infraction.

The rules and consequences are posted in the room and will be discussed on the first day of school and at least once a day for the remainder of the year.



E-mail



You can contact me via my email address:

cgoodman@perued.net

I will check my email on a daily basis. If you need to discuss something urgently, please call and leave a message with the school secretary.

Emergency Card

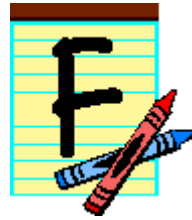


Please be sure that you have a correct emergency card on file in the school office. If your home or work phone number changes, inform the office so you can be located quickly if an emergency occurs. Please be sure to update any change of numbers for emergency contacts as well.

Emergency Closings



If schools are closed for a snow day or any emergency, radio station WAJK (99.3 FM) or WLPO (1220AM) will make an announcement. School closures will also be posted on our district website and on our district Facebook page.



Field Trips



We plan field trips that are both fun and educational for the children. Information regarding each trip and requests for parent chaperones will be sent home well in advance of the scheduled trip. Please return permission slips as soon as possible after they are sent home.

Fire Drills



Fire and severe weather drills are held on a regular basis throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated safe place. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.



Gratitude



On behalf of all of the children in our class this year, I would like to thank you in advance for any time, energy, or materials you are able to donate. We appreciate your generosity.

Guided Reading and Math



Guided reading is taught to small groups of children and focuses on the individual needs of each student. During a guided reading lesson, the teacher works with students at their instructional level to guide them in using context, visual and structural cues within the context of the selected text. The main purpose is to build meaning and understanding. By using instructional levels, it allows the text to gradually increase in difficulty while still allowing the child to be a successful reader. The ultimate goal is to allow your child to become a proficient and confident reader.

While the teacher is meeting with a guided reading group, all other students are working on Daily Five literacy activities. Literacy activities consist of reading, writing, and listening activities that are connected to the reading curriculum. We will have guided reading every day.

Guided Math will be taught through the same approach, with children working on authentic math activities while I teach small groups.

Gym



Our class will have three gym classes each week. The children are asked to wear tennis shoes on gym days and girls might consider wearing pants or wearing a pair of shorts under their dress.

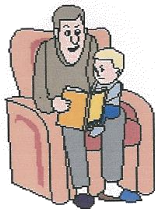


Health



Please let me know of special circumstances that may affect your child. These could include medication that may make him sleepy, a death in the family, etc. Also, please let me know of any allergies your child may have, especially food allergies. We sometimes cook or do food activities to complement lessons in kindergarten and it would be helpful to know when I plan our recipes.

Help at Home



Your child is expected to know these readiness skills:

- *Full name
- *Counting to 20
- *Basic colors
- *Letter and Number Identification
- *Some letter/sound knowledge
- *Reciting the alphabet
- *Names of Shapes
- *Identifying numbers to 10
- *Self-help Skills
- *Printing first name beginning with a capital letter and the rest in lower case.

Your extra help at home really makes a difference!

Home Reading Program

As part of our reading program, the children will soon begin taking home one book a night to read at home. This is wonderful practice to build reading fluency and to reinforce the vocabulary words they've learned. This is your child's chance to "show off" his or her developing reading skills to parents, relatives, and friends. Please be sure to read each book with your child, and to return it to school the very next day.

Homework



I encourage you to read to or with your child every day, and to practice numbers, letters, and sounds often. Your child will be expected to learn a number of sight words in kindergarten, and extra practice at home will be essential for this goal to be accomplished. Occasionally, your child will bring home a reproduced book that he or she can read. Please designate a special place to keep these books (like a huge zip lock bag or a plastic box), so that he or she may practice them over and over and over again.

You will also receive a "Home/School Connection" folder that will contain many resources for you for at home practice. Please keep this folder in a safe place, and use it several times per week throughout the year.

Handwriting



Learning to write numbers and letters can be challenging for many children, and extra practice at home may be essential for your child. When practicing, please refer to the letter style sample included in your parent packet. All letters and numbers are written from the top down, and from the left to the right. Please do not allow your child to begin on the bottom line and go up. Always be sure that your child writes his or her name with only one capital letter! We will use the Zaner-Bloser program to teach handwriting.



Illness



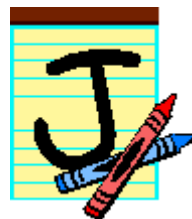
The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. Generally speaking, a child should be free of fever and/or vomiting at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Children who require medication to maintain a regular temperature should not be sent to school.

Independent Reading



Because children learn to read by reading, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving the children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.



Journals



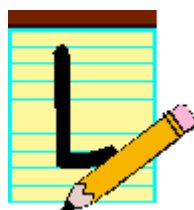
One strategy that will be used to help convey the vital concept that "print conveys meaning" is the frequent use of writing journals. In these journals the kindergartners combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. As the children are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will move from drawings and "inventive" spellings towards more conventional writing.



Kindness



Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of Northview School with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.



Library



Our class will visit our school library two times every week. During one visit, Mrs. Spelich will read a story to our class, and then will give each child the opportunity to choose a book to check out for the week. The second visit will be for checking out books only. Please help your child remember to return library books promptly, so that he/she may check out a new book each time we visit the library.

Lunch



Our lunch period will be from 11:40 to 12:20 each day. Children may bring a packed lunch from home or eat a school lunch. Soda of any kind is not allowed in the lunchroom. Please limit sugary foods, as they tend to have a negative effect on a child's ability to focus. After eating, the children will go outside for a recess break. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, and that he or she wears shoes that allow for safe play on the playground equipment. Children will not be allowed to wear their P.E. shoes outside.



Math



The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. With lessons and activities aligned to the new Common Core Math Standards, we employ a hands-on, problem solving approach to learning such concepts as counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, number operations and base ten, measurement and data, and geometry.

Music



Our music teacher, Mrs. Kelsey, will be teaching the children the basics of music education and will be sharing many wonderful songs! We are scheduled to have music for two periods weekly. Of course, I will be singing and enjoying music with the children daily.



Newsletter



A class newsletter will be sent home each week. This will keep you informed about what is happening in our classroom---the skills we are learning, vocabulary words, poems or songs to practice, special activities and upcoming events.

Nurse



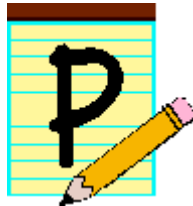
We are very fortunate to have a wonderful health aide at Northview School. She will tend to minor scratches and scrapes, as well as sudden illnesses. For more serious injuries, she will contact you. Please be sure to send in any change of contact numbers in case she needs to get in touch with you. Please be advised that over the counter medications - **including cough drops**- will **not** be dispensed at school. Please refer to our handbook for these rules.



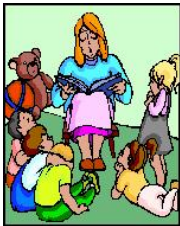
Objectives



We have many social and academic goals for our kindergartners to achieve by the year's end. My main objective, though, is to foster an enthusiasm for learning and a love for school in each and every child.



Parent Involvement



Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! I will be asking for volunteers who will be available one half day each week. Please keep in mind that changes in scheduling due to schoolwide special events may require our volunteer schedule to be cancelled occasionally.

Parties & Celebrations

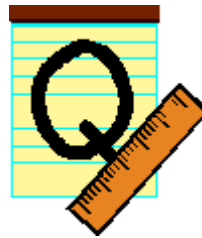


There are many special celebrations planned throughout the school year. For these events, we'll rely on parents to help plan, organize, and run the parties. My favorite celebration is the 100th Day of School. For this big day, we'll need 8-10 volunteers!! I will send out requests for volunteers well in advance of each party. I appreciate your help!

Positive Behavior Intervention System



The Positive Behavior Intervention System (P.B.I.S.) teaches students three basic district-wide behaviors: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. Children are taught to use their words, rather than their fists, to express themselves. We will learn to be good citizens at home, at school, and in our community.



Quiet



We will learn respect for others by quietly listening while others speak, and by using the hallways and restrooms quietly. You can help strengthen this skill at home by encouraging your child to wait his or her turn to speak, and by discouraging interrupting.



Recess



The children will play outdoors for 20 minutes after lunch each day (unless it is raining or very cold). Please keep this in mind when helping your child to select clothing for the day. If your child is too sick to play outside, he is too sick to come to school. There is no supervision available for children to stay indoors at recess time.

Report Cards

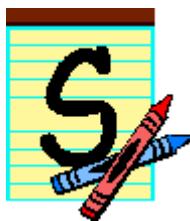


Report cards are issued every twelve weeks. These formal reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and use a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. Occasionally, I will send home an informal report, so that you will know what you should focus on in your help at home.

Restrooms



We are very fortunate to have a restroom in our classroom. Children will be allowed to use this restroom freely, and will be sent to the restroom in the hallway when our classroom restroom is in use. Please be sure to dress your child in clothing that he or she can operate independently. Tricky belts, buttons, or snaps should be avoided. Please help your child develop restroom courtesy that includes closing the door, flushing, washing hands, and throwing away paper towels.



Science



The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses and general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Shared Reading



Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-readings, children read more and more of the text, until they are able to read the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

Show and Tell



Each child will have one scheduled show and tell day each week. On your child's special day, he or she should bring something to show and tell our classmates about. **Please do not send toys or other objects to school on any other day.** Please do not send show and tell items that include guns, knives, or weapons of any other kind. Show and tell items should begin with our focus letter of the week.

Snack



Young children generally get hungry by mid-afternoon, so I'm requesting that families send a snack with their child each day. This should be a small healthy snack that is quickly eaten, such as a baggie of cereal, crackers, fruit roll-ups, raisins, etc. We will have milk with our snack. Please do not send snacks that must be refrigerated, or that require dishes and/or utensils for serving or eating. **All snacks must be nut-free.**

Social Studies



Kindergarten social studies concentrate on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Activities will help the children focus their natural curiosity for the world around them. Social Studies concepts will be integrated into all areas of the kindergarten curriculum.



Toys



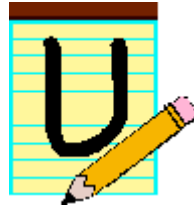
Bringing toys to school is not allowed for a number of reasons. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings will be hurt. Please be sure that all toys, electronic games, etc., are kept at home.

Tattling vs. Reporting



If a child sees another student threatening or harming someone, doing something dangerous, or destroying personal or school property, he or she will be encouraged to tell a grown-up immediately. We will learn that it is everyone's responsibility to protect one another and property. We call this "**reporting**," and it is **acceptable**.

However, "**tattling**" is simply the act of telling on another person for the sole reason of getting him or her into trouble. **Tattling will NOT be tolerated in my classroom.** Tattlers will receive the consequences that they had hoped to inflict upon someone else. If your child tends to tattle at home, please help me curb this habit.



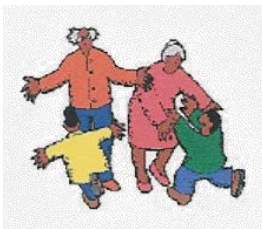
Unique



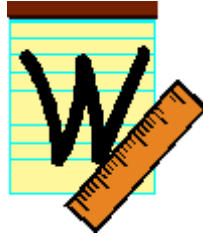
Kindergartners learn that they are special and unique. Kindergartners have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others. They share their culture and learn about different cultures within the class. We accept and respect every person's individuality.



Visitors



Northview welcomes and encourages family involvement. Regarding this, our school has a policy that **ALL GUESTS** (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office, where they will be asked to show their drivers license or state ID. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment for all of its children. Visitors will only be allowed to enter the building through the front entrance doors (located on Plum Street). Regular volunteers will be asked to submit permission for a background check.



Website



Our district has a website which can be accessed at www.perued.net. We also have a district FaceBook page and a Twitter account.

Check in daily to find information about special district events and school news.

Wish List



Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials (such as baby food jars or brown paper grocery bags.) These needs will be posted in the class newsletter. Extras craft items that you think we might be able to use are always welcome! Gift cards to Hobby Lobby, Wal-Mart, Target, or JoAnne Fabrics would be put to good use.

Writing



Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces, and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home. Remember to praise every writing attempt, to help your child feel confident and willing to keep trying!



eXcitement

eXcitement will make us eXhausted in the beginning days and weeks of kindergarten. This is likely to happen again following long holiday breaks. Please eXercise eXtra patience, as your child may be cranky by the week's end!



Younger Siblings



It is in your child's and the program's best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Please plan to make childcare arrangements for younger siblings when you volunteer in our classroom. This rule applies to field trips as well. Thank you for understanding.



Zzzzs



Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!