**The ABC’s of Mrs. Thompson’s Kindergarten Classroom**

I am thrilled to be on this learning journey with you and your child.  Within this document you can source answers to common questions you may have about how our school and classrooms operate, general FAQs, and what to expect this year.  When you have a question, this is your first stop in finding the answer.  Welcome again and I am looking forward to a great year!

**AIMS Web:** Students are tested using AIMS Web measures in the fall, winter, and spring. These are quick tests focused on developmental early literacy skills. A report depicting your child’s results will be communicated with you following testing.

**Allergies:** Please inform me of any allergies your child has by filling out the form in your orientation packet.

**Art/Music:** Art/Music will be on Thursday. Each week we will attend either art or music. Art/Music is taught by the same teacher, Mrs. Archey.

**Attendance:** Attendance is taken each day in our classroom. This information will be recorded on your child’s report card. If your child will not be at school, please call the attendance hotline at 815-462-7902 before the school day begins.

**Backpacks:** Make sure your child brings a backpack to school each day. It needs to be large enough to fit a folder and library book. Backpacks with wheels are not allowed. Your child needs to be able to zip the backpack on his or her own.

**Birthdays:** We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindergarten. Please remember non-food items to celebrate birthdays. If your child would like to celebrate at school, he/she may bring non-food items to share with their friends. (i.e., pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) **Please remember, NON-FOOD items only!** Our class will sing happy birthday to your child and they will be recognized during announcements. Your child will receive a birthday certificate, sticker, and a birthday pencil.

**Book Orders:** Book order forms will be sent home throughout the year. You can also order online. The books are discounted for the children and our classroom earns free books. Please make sure to label each form with your child’s name.

**Conferences:** Conferences are held once a year in November. Attendance is necessary to receive your child’s report card.

**Contact Information:** Currently, the most efficient means of communication is via email. You may also contact me by calling Spencer Trail School at 815-462-7007.

**Communication:** A school newsletter will be sent home on Thursdays along with other notes from the office. I will be sending a classroom newsletter on Friday or Saturday to let you know what we are working on in class. I will be emailing all newsletters this year. Please provide me with an email that you can be reached at.

**Discipline:** We use “Whole Body Listening” and “CHAMPS” as a school-wide model of behavior. These rules are used to foster a caring learning environment. The students are given many opportunities to have positive behavior rewards, but will be corrected for any misbehavior. Please check out the behavior system in the classroom.

**Dress Code:** The shoulder straps on students’ shirts/dress tops must be at least 3 fingers wide. Please no sandals or crocs. Please see the District handbook for complete dress code guidelines.

**Folders:** Your child will bring home his/her folder every night. Inside are papers done during the day and notes for parents.

**Gym Class:** Gym class will be on Tuesday. Your child must wear gym shoes to participate- please no zipper shoes. Also, your child should dress appropriately for gym day. Our PE teacher’s name is Mr. “L” (Lundborg).

**Homework:** There is no Homework that is due weekly. Please have your child study the 40 sight words.

**Half-Day Schedule:** There will be half-days throughout the year. Please watch for reminders of these days in your child’s folder.

**iPads:** Students will have access to a classroom set of iPads. Each student will have their own iPad.

**Kindergarten Hours:** The AM Session attends from 8:25-10:55. The PM Session attends from 12:20-2:50.

**Library:** The students will go to the school library on Wednesday. They will be allowed to check out a book. This book must be returned by or on the following Wednesday in order to check out a new book. Please keep your child’s library book in his/her backpack. Students will eventually be able to take out 2 – 3 books during library time. Our Library teacher’s name is Mrs. Ozbolt.

**Notes from Home:** Please be sure your child gives any notes (book orders, urgent-dismissal, permission slips, home-school correspondences, etc.) from home to me at the **beginning** of class. **Please** - it is very important to convey to your child that **it is their responsibility** to give any and all notes and homework to me at the beginning of the day.

**Report Cards:** Report Cards will be issued three times a year. Please see the school calendar for the report card schedule. A parent must sign the report card envelope and return it to school as soon as possible.

**Responsibility:** Please allow your child to begin developing his/her self-help skills by letting them: pack/unpack their own backpack and folder, zip their own coat, tie their own shoes, etc. This helps establish a sense of routine and responsibility that the students will need throughout their school career.

**Recess:** We will go out for recess daily as weather and schedules allow. Make sure your child is wearing shoes with backs (gym shoes are best) so that they can play safely. Also be sure they are dressed for the weather once it begins to get chilly. Please no sandals or crocs – this is for safety reasons.

**Star Student Week:** Each student will have the opportunity to be our “Star Student” of the week during the school year. When it is your child’s turn, he/she will bring home information about their special week. I encourage all families to participate in the preparation.

**Supplies:** In addition to the supply list, your child will need a ***plastic pencil box*** to keep crayons, pencil, glue, and the school’s scissors. Make sure your child can easily open and close the case. If you cannot provide a pencil box, a Ziploc bag will be available for your child.

**Things from Home:** Students should not bring toys, stuffed animals, electronic games, or other personal belongings from home. We wouldn’t want anything to be broken or lost coming to and from school.

**Vacation:** If your child will be missing any school for vacations, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Volunteers:** We love volunteers! Parents are welcome to help with projects, centers, or special events. Home volunteers are often needed to prepare materials for upcoming projects or events. You will find a volunteer form in your orientation folder. Please check it out and if you are available to volunteer, I would greatly appreciate it! I will make a volunteer schedule once I have the forms. If you cannot make it in on a scheduled day, please do not worry; I know it may not always work out. I just appreciate your willingness to help me. Thank you!

**Whole Body Listening:** I listen with my eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, brain, heart; I listen with my whole body!

Students will learn these characteristics at the start of the school year and will continue these school-wide expectations during all kindergarten activities.