

Mrs. Tustin's Kindergarten Basics

Welcome to Spencer Trail Kindergarten!

We are 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 we are looking forward to a great year!

Allergies

Please inform me (and the nurse) of your child's allergies.

Kindergarten Hours

The AM Session attends: 8:25-10:55

The PM Session attends: 12:20-2:50

Half-Day Hours

There will be half-days throughout the year. Please watch for reminders of these days via school communication through email. On these days, only one session of students will attend school. Students will attend school from 8:25-11:25.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken each day.. This information will be recorded on your child's report card. If your child will not be at school, please call the 24-hour absentee hotline at 815-462-7007 before the school day begins.

Contact Information

The best way to contact me is via email at jtustin@nlsd122.org prior to the beginning of class. I check my email before school, during lunch, and after school. I do not typically have the opportunity to check my emails during class time. If there is something important I need to know during class, please call the office so that I receive the message.

Spencer Trail School: 815-462-7007.

Communication

Once we dive into the curriculum, a weekly school newsletter will be sent to let you know what we are working on in class and it will list important upcoming dates. Additionally, a Spencer Trail Weekly and Monthly Newsletter will be posted on the Spencer Trail website under the 'News' section. Please reference these documents first before emailing/calling as many answers will be found here. I appreciate it!

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 his/her responsibility** to give any and all notes to me at the beginning of the day.

*Emailing me is the best mode of communication for notes.

Behavior

At the start of the year, your child will learn behavior expectations using the elements of Whole Body Listening and CHAMPS. Students will learn what his/her body should look and sound like during different activities.

Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held once a year in November. Attendance is necessary to receive your child's report card. Scheduling information will be communicated closer to that time. It is the only conference that is required; however, if at any time throughout the school year you have any concerns or questions, please contact me.

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.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be issued three times a year. Please see the school calendar for the report card schedule.

Homework

There is NO HOMEWORK that is due weekly. Please have your child practice printing his/her name, study the 40 sight words or practice any kindergarten skill on the kindergarten report card. Please ask me if you would like to know exactly what skills will be tested. Reading daily with your child is strongly recommended.

Art/Music

Students will have alternating **Art or Music on Tuesdays**. Both are taught by the same teacher, Mrs. Archey.

Library

Students will have a **Library class on Fridays**. Our Library teacher's name is Mrs. Ozbolt.

P.E.

Students will participate in **P.E. on Mondays**. Our P.E. teacher's name is Mr. "L" (Lundborg). Please make sure your child wears gym shoes for P.E.

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.

Responsibility

Please allow your child to begin developing his/her self-help skills by letting them: pack/unpack their own supplies, zip their own coat, tie their own shoes, organize their work space at home, etc. Teach your child these skills in small bites and gradually release responsibility to them. This helps establish a sense of routine and responsibility that the student will need throughout his/her school career.

Backpack - label with name

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/her own.

Folder - label with name

Your child will bring home his/her folder every night. Some papers may be stuffed in his/her backpack instead of in his/her folder. Please have patience with papers stuffed in your child's backpack. He/she is just learning how to put papers in his/her folder.

Water Bottle - label with name

Your child should bring a secure, non-drip water bottle to school each day. Please check the bottle you select at home before sending it to school in a backpack. Try holding it upside down and shaking a bit to make sure it doesn't drip. **There will not be a snack time, but we will have water breaks.**

Pencil Box - label with name

In addition to the supply list, your child will need a 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 provided.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindergarten. If your child would like to celebrate at school, he/she may bring non-food items to share with his/her friends (i.e., pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.). If your child's birthday falls on a weekend or holiday, you may send items on the closest school day. August birthdays, prior to the start of school, will be celebrated during the first week of school. Summer birthdays in the months of June and July will be celebrated in May. **Please remember, NON-FOOD items only!**

Star Student

Each student will have the opportunity to be the "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.

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.

Things From Home

Students should not bring toys, stuffed animals, electronic games, or other personal belongings from home. We would not want anything to be broken or lost coming to and from school. *The only exception to this rule is if you've been notified about a reward day or show and tell opportunity. In that case, something from home will be permitted.