

Ferguson Township Elementary School



Kindergarten Handbook

2017-2018 School Year



Dear Ferguson Kindergarten Families,

Starting school is an exciting event for your child. We hope to make this first experience with public school a very happy and meaningful one. This PDF file has been prepared as a reference guide. We hope you will find it helpful during the year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Engle
Mrs. Harrington
Mrs Macalus



Information at a Glance

School Phone Number

231-4119

Fax Number

231-4163

Web Site

[http://
www.scasd.org/Domain/
255](http://www.scasd.org/Domain/255)

Safe Arrival at School:

235-4555 Please call this number to report your child out sick from school.



Principal: Mrs. Shelly Buckholtz

Full Day Kindergarten: 8:44 AM - 2:50 PM

Attendance: Please be sure your child arrives to school on time. If (s)he is absent, please be sure to complete and return an excuse for absence on the day your child returns to school.

Dismissal: Students who are picked up by their parents need to be signed out from the office. Please do not drop off or pick them up at the kindergarten classroom.

PTO: The scheduled meetings of the PTO will be in the newsletter and reminders will be sent home with the students. Please feel welcome to join the meetings.



Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Storch
Office Paraprofessional: Mrs. Leslie Specht



Units of Study

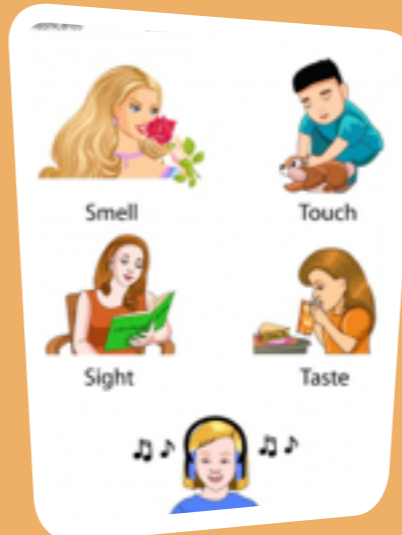
All of our learning objectives and learning activities relate to our units of study. Kindergarten children study the following units throughout the year:



Gingerbread Man



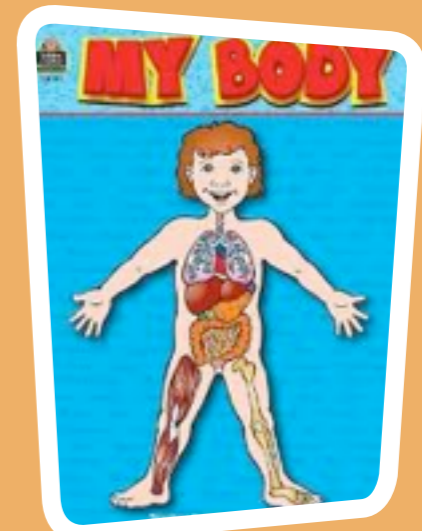
Fall, Color, Light and Sound



The Five Senses



Nutrition



The Human Body



Bears and Winter



Animals



Spring and Plants



Summer

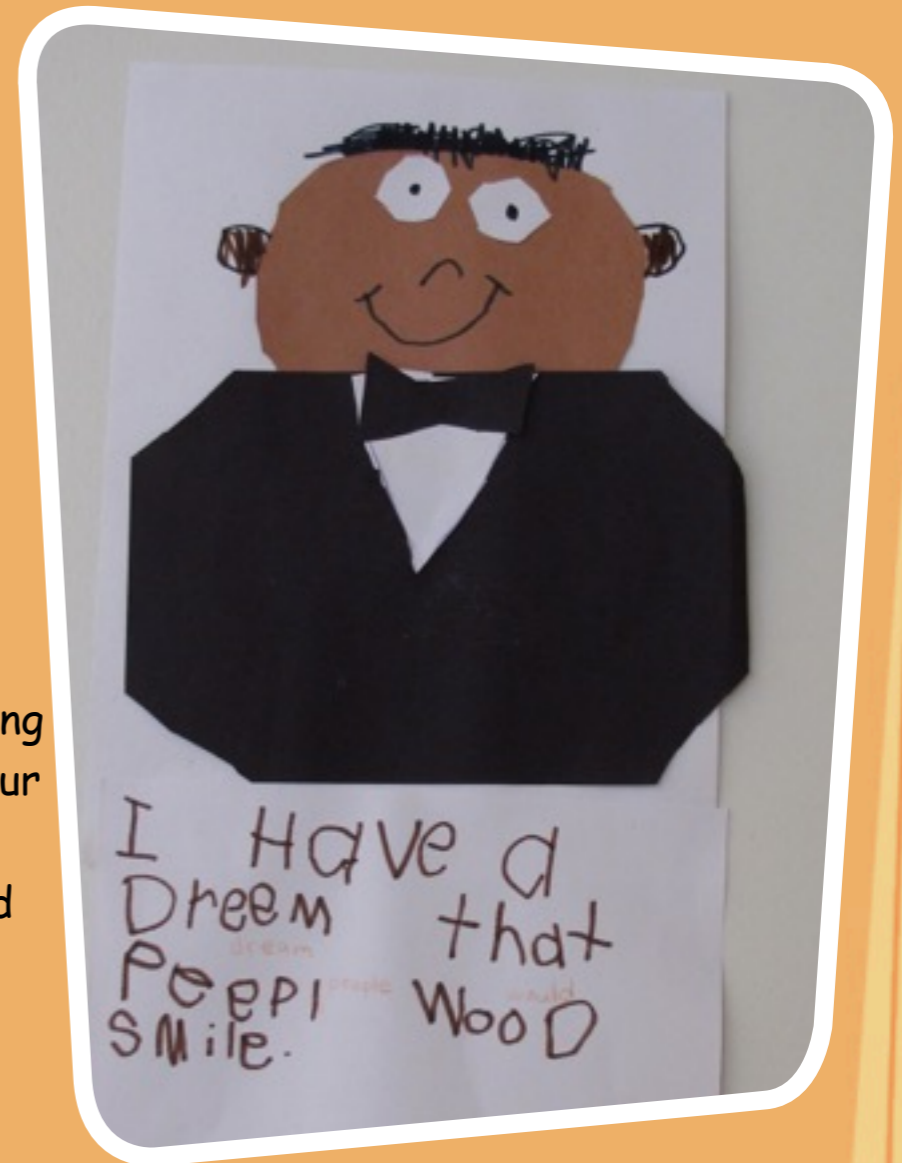


Language Arts



Our Language Arts Program involves children in a variety of alphabet activities. They practice using letter names and sounds with games, puzzles, learning centers and writing. They use iPads to guide them and provide them with additional alphabet games. Listening, writing and reading are all part of the students' ability to communicate with others.

The Kindergarten Language Arts Program includes songs, poems, literature and companion activities. All children participate in daily guided reading activities. The children write their own versions of stories and recreate stories through drama. We believe that premature insistence of standard or "correct" spelling inhibits a young student's desire and ability to write. We encourage you to accept your child's efforts to use "sound" spelling and understand that the transfer to book spelling will gradually occur. As children understand how a consistent spelling system works, they begin to make the transition to standard spelling. Authorship at this level may include dictated passages, copied sentences and a child's original work. All these activities are important pieces so that your child "sees" him/herself as a writer/reader.





All I Ever Needed To Know I Learned in Kindergarten...

While at school, your child
will be learning to:

- * Share with others.
- * Show consideration for others.
- * Work and play with cooperation.
- * Care for self, others and belongings.
- * Develop self expression through words, art, media, music and physical activities.
- * Explore new ideas.
- * Assume responsibility.



Math and Science

Math

Our math curriculum is an activity based program. The children explore and use manipulatives to verbalize the results of their activities. They begin to develop a solid grasp of mathematical concepts. The children enjoy centers pertaining to sorting, patterning, graphing, understanding number concepts, writing numbers, estimating, measuring, solving problems and adding and subtracting basic problems.



Science

Throughout the year, children will enjoy hands-on activities, books and stories, videos, guest speakers, field trips and learning stations that relate to our science unit of study. Children will explore science stations where they can make discoveries about basic science principles.

Specials



Our Librarian: Mrs Frye

Library

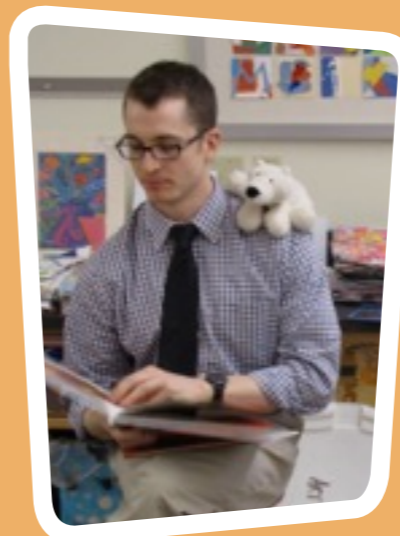
We go to the library one day each week to meet with the librarian. There will be story telling, puppet and book sharing. Each child will be able to choose one book. Please help you child develop responsibility for his/her library book together. If you read the book a few times, it can be returned early and exchanged for another book. After December, two books may be borrowed during one visit.



Our Music Teacher: Mrs Youmans

Music

Mrs. Nancy Youmans, our new music teacher, will meet with the children once a week. Positive attitudes toward music are promoted through singing, moving, and listening experiences.



Our Art Teacher: Mr. Brucker

Art

We have a weekly art class taught by an art teacher. We try to integrate the art lessons with themes and units we are studying in the classroom.



Physical Education

Once a week, we have physical education class. The P.E. teacher presents movement education, games and cooperative activities. We request that all children wear sneakers and comfortable clothing to allow them to move freely.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

Encourage your child to:

- * do simple tasks.
- * listen to others.
- * help others.
- * put things away.
- * follow directions.
- * use the bathroom appropriately without help.
- * dress without assistance.

You should:

- * read good books together.
- * see that your child is well rested and well nourished.
- * praise and encourage your child's efforts.
- * listen to your child.
- * enjoy your child's work.

Be sure your child knows how important it is to:

- * refuse rides with strangers.
- * behave on the school bus.
- * go directly home after school.
- * know important information: full name, parents' names, address and phone number.
- * stand quietly at the bus stop.
- * wear a name tag.





Health Suggestions

Your child should stay home whenever there are symptoms of a cold, fever, upset stomach, pink eye or other illness. Upon returning to school, a signed excuse with the dates and reasons for absence must be sent to school.

Be sure your child has enough sleep at night to assure active participation in school activities. All children must go outside during recess as we do not have anyone to supervise in the classroom when the teacher is outside.



State College Area School District

Excuse for Absence or Tardiness

"Regular Attendance is Essential to Success"

* tardy

_____ was * absent

(student name)

From school on _____

For the following reasons _____

Date _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

EXCUSES MUST BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL OFFICE WITHIN 3 SCHOOL DAYS - This excuse must be kept on file for the inspection of School Officials. In case of questionable absence claimed by illness the local school board officials may require an examination by the school medical inspector to approve such absence as legal.


A sample of a blank excuse form is provided here.



Emergency Procedures

Parents will be notified immediately in the event of an injury or an illness. A sick or injured child will not be sent to an unsupervised home nor may they be sent home alone. If you cannot be reached in an emergency, a person you have designated on the emergency form will be called to assist. It is very important that you give us names of LOCAL people on the emergency form. If, in an extreme situation, you or emergency people cannot be reached, an ambulance will be called to take your child to the hospital.

Transportation



It is important that all children be instructed to go directly home from school. If a child is to go home other than the usual way, a note is absolutely essential so that the teacher is alerted to the arrangements. If a note is not received, the child will be sent home from school the usual way. Please do not offer to drive other children home unless there is a note from the parents. Children need to be dropped off and picked up in the office.

Bus Safety Rules

The teacher will make certain that your child boards the correct bus. However, please remind your child that the bus going home may be a different number from the one that brought him/her to school.

1. Remain seated while the bus is in motion.



2. Obey instructions given by the driver.



3. Talk respectfully to classmates.



4. Never push or shove in or around the bus.

Backpacks, Name Tags and Clothing



Backpacks

A book bag or backpack is required and is helpful for your child to carry books, papers and precious possessions to and from school. It will be important for the backpack to be big enough to hold their daily folder. Please put your child's name on the outside of the backpack.

Name Tags

Name tags are given to you at the First Day of School orientation. Please make certain that your child wears the name tag on his/her backpack during the first two weeks of school. The name tags help the teacher and bus driver. Please pin it on your child's backpack.

Clothing

1. Please put your child's first and last name on everything that comes to school.
2. Clothing should be washable, comfortable and manageable for small fingers.
3. Your child should be able to put on outside clothing independently.
4. Boots should be large enough so that the child can put them on without assistance.



Snacks and Lunch



Each morning there will be an opportunity for your child to have a snack. We recommend that your child pack a healthy snack of his/her choice each day. The classroom teacher will provide a snack if you forget.



Snack Possibilities

...fresh fruits or vegetables, cheese sticks, "Go-Gurt", dried fruit, applesauce, fruit cups....



Lunch

Students may purchase or bring their lunch which they will eat in the All Purpose Room. A student lunch including milk costs \$2.40; milk by itself is \$.60. Please make checks payable to SCASD.





Happy Birthday!

This is a special day for your child and we will celebrate informally in school. If you wish, you may send a special treat to school that day. Please let us know a few days ahead so we can schedule a time.

NOTE: Please do not send invitations to private birthday parties to school to be distributed. The children who do not receive an invitation will be disappointed. If invitations are sent in, they will be returned to you.

Visiting and Conferences

Visiting

We will be very happy to have you visit school any time after the first month.

That first month will be important to allow your child to make adjustments to school life.



Conferences

Conferences will be held for all children in the fall and spring. Parents are encouraged to arrange their schedules so they can attend these important meetings.

If a conference is desired by the parents at anytime throughout the year, please call the office and the teachers will set up an appointment.



Volunteers

We hope that you may be able to come in and work with us in the classroom during the school year. Volunteers in the kindergarten assist by working with the children and preparing materials. This will help you see how your child works in a school setting. It can also help you take an active role in sharing your child's educational experience. When you do visit or volunteer, please be sure to sign in at the office and pick up a visitor's or volunteer's button to wear.

****Please Note**** ALL volunteers must complete clearances prior to volunteering. Please visit the [VIPS](#) website to learn what to do.

THANK YOU!