![MC900150913[1]]()Welcome To Kindergarten

Dear Parents,
    Welcome to one of the most incredible years your child will have in his/her school career! I am so excited about teaching kindergarten this year! I look forward to working with your child and helping them to develop their skills. I hope to make your child's learning experiences fun and exciting. I also hope to instill a love of learning that will last throughout your child's years of schooling. I have attached some important facts about kindergarten. Please take note of the homework procedures and weekly newsletter. This list should help clarify some of the procedures of our classroom. If there are any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

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 ![MC900150913[1]]() The ABC’s of Kindergarten

**![MCj02833850000[1]]()** Attendance- If your child is absent from school, please send in a **written excuse** on the day of his/her return. The absence will be automatically unexcused if the note is not sent by the third day after your child’s return to school.

Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read on grade level by the third grade. For older students, being chronically absent is strongly associated with failing at school―even more than low grades or test scores.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/>

![MCj02833870000[1]]() Behavior Guidelines and Procedures: All children are expected to respect each other and their teachers. A copy of our class rules is posted in our classroom. Children will be praised regularly for good behavior. If a child behaves inappropriately, we will do our best to correct the behavior at school. If inappropriate behavior persists, we will contact you for a conference.  We have a school wide behavior plan using PBIS and class DOJO which can be referenced in the student handbook.  Please see PBIS Behavior Plan online for a complete and thorough explanation of this behavior system.

\*\*\*If it becomes necessary, we will not hesitate to contact you at work/home so that you can speak with your child about his or her behavior.  If the behavior continues, a conference will be set so that we may discuss a way to improve the child’s behavior.

**Birthdays**- Every child will be recognized on his/her birthday. Those who have summer birthdays will be recognized at the end of the year. If you wish to send in treats, let us know in advance. ***All treats must be store bought***. Students may have their treat during our scheduled lunch time.

![MCj02833890000[1]]() **Communication:**  I can be reached by sending in **a note with your child, dojo message** or by leaving a phone message with our secretary or by email. I will contact you as soon as possible, but **not during the instructional day unless necessary**. That time is for the students. My email address is as follows: cookj3@gcsnc.com.

* **Complete Change of Clothes for each kindergarten student (including underwear/panties and socks)**. In case there is an accident at school (spilt milk, etc.).

**We will ask for clothes to be changed out in the winter and spring.**

**We will be working on independence this year. We ask students to learn to tie shoes by January or wear Velcro shoes. We are not always able to keep shoes tied.**

![MCj02833910000[1]]() **Discipline** – Good conduct is essential for the best learning in kindergarten! We begin to learn the school expectations on the very first day of school.

![MCj02833930000[1]]() **Early Dismissal** - If you need to pick your child up early, you must come to front door, push buzzer and they will be checked out by the office. They will inform us that you are here waiting, and we will send your child to the office. If you know in advance that you will be picking your child up early, please send us a DOJO message the afternoon before/morning of or call front office to let us know. This way we can have your child ready with necessary items he/she may need.

![MCj02833950000[1]]() **Field Trips** – We will be planning field trips and asking parents to attend to help chaperone.

![MCj02833970000[1]]() **Goals:** All students come in at different levels. Our expectations are for each child to meet grade level requirements.

![MCj02833990000[1]]() **Homework Procedure:** Homework will begin in September. Please supervise your child’s daily homework assignments and **initial every night**. Please check your child’s homework folder **nightly**. Inside the homework folder you will find your child’s homework packet, and any important reminders concerning special events. The folder should be returned to school each day. **All homework is due each Friday.**

* Students should read for at least 30 minutes as part of homework.
* The students should learn their weekly sight words each week, these are **VERY important** to help them with their reading and should be kept on flashcards in a baggie at home. Please add to the pile each week continuing to review all words.
* The students’ weekly work will be in their **Tuesday “gold folder”**. Please return the **empty**, envelope each Wednesday. It is important to keep these papers and go over them with your child.

![MCj02834010000[1]]() **Illnesses** – Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a temperature. Your child needs to be **symptom free for 24 hours ( so we do not spread it through the classroom).** If your child becomes ill at school, you will be called to come and get your child. It is important that your child feel well enough to participate in class activities.

![MCj02834030000[1]]() **Just** – Just remember that nightly sight word practice directly affects your child’s reading growth.

![MCj02834050000[1]]() **Kindness** – In our classroom we learn first that we are a family; no unkind words will be tolerated. We are all different and that makes us very special. Please encourage your child’s kind spirit at home.

![MCj02834070000[1]]() **Lunch -** Your child may bring his/her lunch or receive school lunch. A lunch menu can be found on the GCS website but is subjected to change due to availability. Our lunchtime is approximately 10:45 – 11:20

![MCj02834090000[1]]() **Money** – When sending money to school for anything please send it in a sealed envelope with your child’s name on it, and how the money is to be used.

![MCj02834110000[1]]() **Newsletters-** A classroom newsletter will be posted on Dojo. These newsletters will contain announcements, and news about upcoming events, so look for it on Dojo.

![MCj02834130000[1]]() **Opportunities to Help** – Help in the classroom is always welcome, but I know that coming to the classroom is not an option currently. If you are willing to be helping hands from home to cut laminated products, assemble books, donate items or do small projects please let me know!

![MCj02834150000[1]]() **PTA** – Please join PTA TODAY! It is approximately $7.00 for one member and $10.00 for two members. It is an amazing opportunity to be involved in our school.

![MCj02834170000[1]]() **Questions?** – We welcome any questions or concerns, but please not during instructional hours. cookj3@gcsn.com..

![MCj02834190000[1]]() **Reading Calendar** – Students will bring home a monthly reading log to record minutes read each night. For every 30 minutes read, sign the reading log. (At the beginning of the year, the student should be **read to**. Towards the end of the year the student should be able to read to you and answer comprehension questions.)

![MCj02834210000[1]]() **Special Days -** We participate in several activities during special times of the year: We have 2 celebrations, Winter Holiday and End of the Year. If you do not wish for your child to participate for religious or other reasons, please let us know.

**![MCj02834230000[1]]() Transportation Change** - If your child is to change their mode of transportation home from school, **please call front office.** We **cannot** allow the students to change without being notified. We **cannot take the word of the child or sibling**, for safety issues.

![MCj02834250000[1]]() **Using Technology** - We have an iPad for each child. We will be using the iPad in many ways including math activities and literacy. Only staff should add apps to iPad. We need to keep the apps limited to the ones used for our class to make sure it has enough space to complete school activities. Also please do not take pictures or videos on iPads as this also takes up data space. This iPad is for school use and activities.

![MCj02834270000[1]]() **Visitors** – We love visitors, but you must schedule a time to visit.

![MCj02834290000[1]]() **Wish List** – Different wish list items will be on our newsletters. Your help is greatly appreciated.

![MCj02834310000[1]]() **Excitement** – It doesn’t begin with an x, but there is plenty of excitement in Mrs. Cook’s Class!!!!

![MCj02834330000[1]]() **YOU!**- **You are your child’s first and most important teacher!**

![MCj02834350000[1]]() **Z,Z,Z** – Make sure your child gets **plenty of rest each night** so he/she will be alert and ready to learn each day. Our school day will be 7:00 to 2:10.