



Miss Zimmerman's Kindergarten Handbook

West Wyomissing Elementary
610-670-1835
extension 3504
zimsus@wilsonsd.org



Kindergarten Handbook

Dear Parents,

Welcome to kindergarten! Kindergarten is a huge step in your child's life. It is an exciting time filled with new experiences and friends. It also can be an anxious time for both you and your child. I realize you may have many questions about the kindergarten program. This Kindergarten Handbook will answer some of those questions.

*Sincerely,
Miss Zimmerman*

The Beginning...

The first month (*or three*) of school is a transition period. It may be your child's first major separation from the securities of home and other familiar surroundings. He/she is interacting in a new environment, filled with new friends, activities, and learning adventures. It is a place a child can never totally share with his/her parents. In order to bridge this gap between home and school, *Kindergarten News* is sent home almost every week. In the *Kindergarten News*, I let you know about books we are reading, projects we are creating, centers we are exploring and more! If ever you have any questions, please set up a conference with me, **610-670-1835 extension 3504 or zimsus@wilsonsd.org**

Class Times and Information Cards

The school day begins at 8:50. Kindergarten students line up on the yellow smiley face closest to the building on the right side of the entrance. When the bell rings at 8:35, students begin to come into the building one grade at a time starting with kindergarten. All goodbyes should be said at the outside door. It is part of the kindergartner's responsibility to walk from the front door down the hall to the kindergarten room. Please note that if your child misses the outside line, goodbyes must still be said at the outside door. The following is an exception: If you arrive after 8:50, please escort your child to the office where you should sign him/her into school. Our session ends at 3:10 at which time the kindergartners that are pick ups will escorted to the All Purpose Room Exit to meet you. These doors are located to the far right if you are facing the school. Also, please note that you must park and come to the sidewalk on the school building side in order for your child to be released to you. Thank you!

***Kindergarten parents please be aware that your child will only be released to those persons designated on the information card filed in the office.
Please keep this card up to date!***

Toys and Sharing

Please keep toys at home. We do not have a weekly show and tell session. We do have a class morning meeting daily where students are encouraged to share talents, things they have made and stories they know how to read or that they have written. Thank you for your cooperation!

Kindergarten Folders

Folders are provided for each student. It is the student's responsibility to bring the folder to school each day after it has been sent home. It is a way to transport correspondence, homework and projects to and from school. Please help your kindergartner find a safe, consistent place to keep his/her school items. ***Also please note that all school materials are supplied.*** I will let you know if there are any special items we need during the school year. Please keep personal items (erasers, pencils, folders, etc.) at home. If your child is eager to use school supplies you have already bought, setting up a special work area at home is one solution. Thank you!

Snack Time and Birthdays

Donations of packaged, unopened dry cereal, crackers, graham crackers, pretzels, popped popcorn or similar snacks are WELCOME. I ask that you do not send individual snacks with your child. We all eat the same snack each day.

Students may not bring special snacks to celebrate their birthday. This is a district policy.
Thank you!

Book Orders

Book orders will be sent home every month beginning in September. If you wish to order books, please send back the order form by Friday of that week. Be sure **NOT** to send cash, instead please send a check made out to **SCHOLASTIC BOOK COMPANY**. If you are ordering from more than one form, please note that you only have to write one check. Better yet you can order online and we can extra free books for the classroom. Follow these steps:

www.scholastic.com/bookclubs

User Name: [MissZimmermanWW](#)

Password: **H4C3J**

My Approach

Skills and concepts are taught through themes and the integration of subject areas. The whole child is important. There is balanced emphasis on social and emotional development, work habit and academic development and also gross and fine motor development.

I believe each child is unique. He/she should be accepted exactly where he/she is and we move forward from there on our learning adventure.

Mathematics

We use the Everyday Math Program. It is a fantastic program that complements the developmental kindergarten's thematic approach as well as the Standards. Children manipulate cubes, balances, rulers, stencils and more. The games incorporated by the program help make learning fun. Home-link activities will be sent home monthly to keep you informed.

Language

Our district reading series is called Treasures. Language activities are a priority in kindergarten. Through literature, books, big books, class-made books, drama, tapes, poems, literacy centers and an array of other activities, your child will experience a language-rich environment daily.

Reading is taught through reading aloud, guided reading, shared reading, developing language and print concepts and phonemic awareness. Reading aloud to children is the best way to introduce them to printed language. A child's desire to read is nurtured and increased when children see the necessity and joy of reading!

Please note that reading daily with your child at home can only help him/her to be a more successful reader and student. Also, students will be bringing home books made in class to create their very own library of books THEY can read. Please help them find a safe spot to start their library. Thank you!

Kindergarten Writing

Kid Writing is the model we follow in developing writing in kindergarten. I work in small groups of 4 or 5 students. We discuss topic ideas and help each other as we go. Students are typically encouraged to draw their story picture first and then work with an adult to write their story words. This way the process of writing, forming letters, learning stretch words and hear letter sound association is developed on an individual basis.

There are many stages of writing. It begins with scribbles, and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words, spaces and eventually sentences. Your child will be applauded for all attempts and accomplishments in writing.

Your child will be writing in his/her writing notebook almost daily. He/she will also keep a writing portfolio that I will share with you at conference time and throughout the year. If possible please provide your child with writing tools, such as, pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.

Social Studies, Science and Health

These areas are explored daily. Kindergarten is a place to explore and learn about self, others and the environment. Hands on projects are key for our busy minds and hands. We go on one fun field trip in the fall that enhances these learning experiences: The Weaver's Orchard. Look for more detailed information in the *Kindergarten News* that will be sent home.

Fine and Gross motor Movement

Children practice hopping, skipping, throwing, bouncing and catching a ball, cutting, gluing, tracing, coloring, wiggling, dancing and more!

Music, Drama and Art

Children sing songs, participate in rhythmic activities, listen to music and use rhythm instruments.

Various rhymes, songs, poems and stories are brought to life through dramatizations.

Art activities include drawing, painting, coloring, cutting, gluing and tracing. A wide variety of materials are used. Imagination is encouraged!

Kindergarten Specials

Kindergartners participate in five different special classes during our six day cycle. The following classes meet once per cycle. They go to Art class and Music class. They visit the library for a class and to check out books. They also go to the computer lab. Then twice in the six day cycle, they go outside or to the gym for Phys. Ed. Once a month the guidance counselor comes into our classroom and shares a story, lesson or activity with us that emphasizes one of the seven character traits adopted by the Wilson School District or appropriate social skills, such as, how to make new friends.

Character Traits

The following are the 7 character traits the District has adopted: Caring, Courage, Respect, Resourcefulness, Responsibility, Honesty and Perseverance.

I Am Ready Signal

1. Pleasant face



2. Look at the speaker

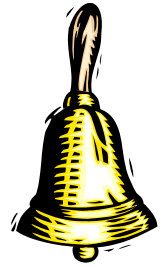


3. Hands and feet quiet



School Rules

Always remember to...



1. Follow directions the first time they are given
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
3. Choose appropriate language
(swearing, teasing, name-calling will not be tolerated)
4. Play fairly
(no fighting)
5. Respect self, others and the property of school and community

Our Pledge for a Bully Free School

- 1) We will not bully other students.
- 2) We will try to help students who are bullied.
- 3) We will make it a point to include students who become easily left out.
- 4) If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell the homeroom teacher (or other teacher) and adults at home.