

Kindergarten Check List/Information

- **Meet the Teacher Night/Open House:** August 27th 3:00-5:30 PM
- **1st Day of School:** August 28th 8:10 AM (Time is Tentative)

Questions:

We welcome your questions anytime.

Please call our school office 634-2219 if we can assist you or visit our website.

Office Assistant: Donna Geibel (dgeibel@mdsd.org)

Secretary: Jodi Frederick (jfrederick@mdsd.org)

Principal: Valerie Berg (vberg@mdsd.org)



Requirements for School Entry

(Must be on file before 1st day of school in August).

Incomplete:

- Certified birth certificate
- Immunizations (see below)
- Proof of residency or Open Enrollment Application

Children Born after September 1, 2012 must have a minimum of:

- 5 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)
- 2 Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- 2 Hepatitis A

DTaP: the 5th dose is not necessary if the 4th dose was administered at age 4 years or older.

Varicella: History of varicella (chickenpox), documented by a physician, meets the requirement for immunization.

Polio: The 4th dose is not necessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after previous dose.

Exemption Form: Can be obtained from the office.

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Barbara R. Morgan Elementary

What to Expect in Kindergarten

First Day/Week of School:

As a transition from home to school, and to allow students time to learn how to find his/her classroom, we encourage an adult to escort the child to his/her classroom on the first day of school and to a morning choice (Music room, Gym, Cafeteria or outside) on the days to follow from 7:50-8:05.

Arrival:

When children arrive at school in the morning, they are given 4 choices until the bell rings and classrooms open.

1. Gym
2. Music Room
3. Outside All School-Playground
4. Cafeteria (for breakfast or to read)

Students are not permitted in other areas of the school without an adult until after the first bell. The front (south) doors are the primary doors to use for arrival at school. The first bell rings at 8:05 AM. When the bell rings, the children are permitted to go to his/her classroom. Four ways to have your child arrive at school:

1. **Bus** (check with Harlow's on pick up times/locations). Buses will drop students off at the west side of the school in the bus only lane. Students either walk to playground or come inside to a morning choice (café, gym, music room).
2. **Parent Drop Off Lane:** This method is intended for quick drop off; without getting out of your car. We advise children to exit on the curb side of your vehicle. No parking or leaving vehicle unattended in the loading/unloading lane.
3. **Parent Park & Walk Child:** Parents are welcome to park in a designated parking spot (no idling) and escort your child across at one of two crosswalks (watch for vehicles in unloading zone) into the school to one of four options.
4. **Walk/Bike:** If child is doing one of these; please review our walking/biking safety routes and practice this route with your child until they are confident.

Students should not arrive at school before 7:50 A.M. as there is no supervision until that time. Please remember to send children to school properly dressed to be outside. School starts at 8:10 A.M. and the tardy bell rings at 8:15 A.M.

No vehicles can be in the bus lanes; nor can children be dropped off at the west doors.

Attendance:

It is important for your child to develop a habit of prompt and regular attendance. Good habits acquired now will carry on through life. If your child should be absent from school, please call the office before 8:30 A.M. (634-2219) and let us know when your child will be absent. If you do not contact the school, it is the policy of the district to make contact through an automated phone calling system to verify your child's absence. If your child arrives after the 8:15 bell they must report to the office first and get a tardy pass for your child to be admitted to class. Parents do **not** need to come inside if a child is tardy.

Birthday Celebrations:

We love to celebrate birthdays and they are very special. Please coordinate with the classroom teacher what special snacks/plans can be done to fit the classroom schedule and any allergies. Birthday party invitations are not to be delivered at school unless it involves all students in the class.



Breakfast and Lunch:

Your child's lunch account is used for breakfast; just as it is for lunch. You can feed your child breakfast at home before sending them to school or he/she can eat school breakfast with your child's account. Check for prices on the McCall Donnelly Website. Students/Parents should pay for their meals in the cafeteria before classes start or you can send money with your child in his/her backpack clearly marked with your child's name. The District's policy (8200) on cafeteria breakfast/lunch charges can be found at: www.mdsd.org/page/308. Applications for free or reduced prices, based on household income, are available in the office. We encourage every family to apply as you never know if you'll qualify until you apply. This must be done EVERY school year. Forms are not available until August every year. If you are planning to eat lunch with your child, please let the lunchroom/office know by 9:00 A.M. Adult lunch prices are higher than a student lunch and can be found on our website.

Breakfast is offered from 7:50 AM to 8:10 PM.

Lunch for Kindergarten will be offered from 11:00-11:30 AM. (Tentative time)

Clothing:

Whenever possible, we will be going outside to play, so please have your child dress appropriately. Choose coats and boots that your child can put on with the least amount of adult assistance. We recommend sending all '5' items to school from October 1 until April 1 annually. All '5' includes: boots, snowpants, coat, hat, gloves/mittens.

Dismissal Procedures:

A bell will ring at 3:00. Students are dismissed and escorted by an assigned staff member to these locations:



- a. **Walkers/Bikers Area** are encouraged to find a sibling or older child to meet up or be taught how to use the safe bike zone area or know how to walk home. Most walking/biking students gather on the playground (north side)
- b. **Bus** students will be escorted to the buses on the west side of the school by a staff member.
- c. **Pickup** students will be dismissed out the front of the school. We have two sides of the doors for students to wait on. The front west side door is for parents who meet their child. The front east side door is for parents in the car line up who do not get out of the car. You can either stay in your car and wait to pull up in the loading zone or park and walk on the crosswalk to get your child. Please use one of the two crosswalks when crossing our parking lot and wait for a crossing guard.

Going Home:

It is important for your child's teacher to know where and how he/she will get home or to daycare after school each day. Please make it a point to relay information to your child's kindergarten teacher in writing. **WE MUST HAVE A NOTE OR PHONE CALL** if your child is to go home any way other than the usual. Please review procedures with your child. If your child is riding a bus and is not home on time for the first week or so, please remember that our buses often run a little late as they are learning new students and new routes.

Homework:

Homework is typically not assigned apart from asking all of our kids/families to take at least 5-10 minutes per day to read together and celebrate learning. If your child has unfinished work for whatever reason; your child's teacher may ask if you can help get it completed at home.

Lost & Found:

If your child loses something, please check:

- a) Lost & Found box near the gym doors. Please label jackets, backpacks, etc. with your child's name.

- b) Harlow's (Bus Company) keeps their own lost & found: 208-634-1089
- c) Classroom: check cubbies, backpack, and/or ask the teacher.

Paraprofessionals:

Each Kindergarten classroom will have part time support from an adult, paraprofessional (classroom aide) assigned to help students during core subjects of their days. These paraprofessionals are an integral part of our students' day and our staff. They work for the assigned teacher and will follow the directives/job responsibilities assigned to them by their assigned teacher.

Restrooms:

Restrooms are located in the Kindergarten classrooms and the Kindergarten hallway. Our staff and parent volunteers will assist your child in locating these areas. Please teach your child how to ask for help and to always be sure the teacher knows when they are using the restroom. Our restroom expectation is to promote privacy, turn taking, and good manners. We will also strive to teach children to use the restrooms at break times rather than during lesson time. Emergencies are an exception.

Recess/Outside Play:

The kindergarten students will have several opportunities daily to play outside. Kindergarten students will be scheduled to be outside with all Kindergarten students in the morning, after lunch, and again in the afternoon. We strive to keep grade levels separated as much as possible due to our high enrollment when on the playground. We also will utilize a smaller play area at the front of the school and an outdoor classroom for all kids as well. All outdoor areas have expectations and those are taught to all students throughout the school year.

Special Classes:

In Kindergarten, your child will participate in a music, physical education, and library, once every week on a rotation. These classes are typically 30 minutes long. Your child's teacher will share their specific schedule with parents in the fall after school begins. It is important for your child to wear tennis shoes and closed toe shoes on days they participate in P.E. or if they wish to run on the playground.

School/Home Connection:

Think of your child's backpack as a mailbox. Your child will be given an agenda to carry to/from school day. It is a great communication tool. Be sure to check your child's backpack daily. Please go over any school papers with your child. This reinforces what he/she has learned. Teachers will also utilize text/email in the school Powerschool system; per your set up preferences. When sending money, please place the money/check in an envelope with your child's name and state your purpose for the money (i.e. Susie Smith's book order money, lunch money, etc.). The school will send home a monthly newsletter and you may also utilize our school website.

Snacks:

Each Kindergarten teacher will have a routine for snacks and allow students to snack/drink water as fits their classroom



routine. Watch for specific classroom newsletters on how snack time will work for your child.

State Testing:

The IRI (Idaho Reading Indicator) test is given the first month of school, in the middle of the year and at the end of the year to show progress for your child. IRI results are shared on your child's report card. The IRI will be a new testing site from iStation starting in August 2018. We encourage you to visit the Idaho State Department of Education website for more information on how to prepare your child for this test.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are a valuable tool in our school. We welcome all parents/adult guests to volunteer (after we have conducted our background check). If you are planning on volunteering in your child's classroom, please arrange a specific time with your child's teacher. Each teacher creates a specific schedule for each classroom. Once scheduled; volunteers check in at the office with a volunteer log book and get a volunteer pass before going to the classroom.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN



BEFORE THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

- Read stories to your children.
- Give them opportunities to use scissors and cut out pictures (magazines, etc.).
- Listen for sounds (trains, cars, buses, animals, etc.)
- Talk- share stories with them and have them share their own stories.
- Draw pictures of things they've seen or done.
- Give them chores that they are responsible for. Teach them tidiness and responsibility.

AFTER THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

- Use questions that require more verbal communications (avoid yes/no questions).
- Allow time for the child to do things for herself/himself.
- Take time to talk to your child about her/his experience and allow her/him to read and share the books she/he brings home.
- Seek help from the teacher or your physician if your child shows signs of unusual behavior.
- Give your child clear boundaries and carry through with age and situation appropriate consequences.
- Talk about the character qualities learned in school and praise your child when you see examples of character.

TEACHING HANDWRITING SKILLS

- Learning to write begins with letter recognition and pre-writing skills. As your child learns more about letters from singing the ABC song, noticing letters of their name on written signs, looking at ABC books, etc., begin practicing pre-

writing skills. Sample pre-writing pages have been included in your kindergarten registration packet.

- When your child can hold a pencil correctly and is able to trace the marks on the pre-writing pages they are ready to start tracing letters. From the start, make sure that your child is taught to trace the letters with correct formation. An alphabet handout with correct letter formation arrows has also been included in your packet. First trace and then copy letters, paying close attention to the direction of the arrows.

Holding a Pencil/Crayon Correctly

Young children naturally tend to hold a crayon or pencil in their fist. Gently show children that they will have more control if they hold the pencil in their fingers, as shown in the illustration (right). You may find that each child holds a pencil in a way that best fits his or her hand naturally. Simply encourage a balanced, relaxed grip. Very young children may tend to use either hand when first drawing. Usually by age 5 the dominant hand is well established. Authorities agree that there is no merit in attempting to make a left-handed child use his or her right hand.



Recommended Concepts and Skills for When I Go to Kindergarten

I need to:

- be able to recite and recognize the alphabet.
- be able to recognize and print my name.
- point to and count objects from 1-10.
- know and say colors (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple).
- know, match, and copy shapes (circle, square, and rectangle).
- know and say my first and last names.
- know and say my parents' names.
- know and say my home phone number and address.
- be able to repeat sounds, numbers, short sentences, and stories.
- be able to listen and follow directions.
- be able to clap my hands, hop, jump, run, and walk a straight line.
- be able to dress myself, button clothes, brush my teeth, tie my shoes, and use a handkerchief or tissue.
- be able to take care of my own toilet needs.
- be able to print and draw with a pencil and crayon.
- be able to cut simple shapes with scissors and use glue.
- know that pictures and books tell stories.
- be able to listen quietly to a story being read and then answer and ask questions about the story.
- know that print reads from left to right.
- know and say parts of the body.
- understand basic position words (up, down, over, under, beside, top, bottom, etc.)
- understand day and night
- know and say my age and birthday.
- be able to cross a street safely.

NEW in April 2018: Smart Ants online access

A new web-based program, provided by our State Department of Education– Smarty Ants – is now available for free to help children get ready for reading and kindergarten. The five-year agreement between the State Department of Education and the online literacy program Achieve3000 was approved by the State Board of Education in April 2018 and is free for the state as well as for families. Parents sign up: <http://ww2.achieve3000.com/SmartyIdaho>

