

General Information

Children, especially in the primary grades, thrive on routines and procedures. Listed below are explanations of various routines in our kindergarten day.

Journals

We write in our journals every day. At this point most of the students are drawing pictures, but should move on to words and sentences as the year progresses. Children have the opportunity to share their writing with both the teacher and other students. The students are very excited about writing in a journal. You will be amazed with their progress when you compare journal entries throughout the year!

Morning Meeting

We start our day with a morning meeting on the carpet. During this time, we have calendar, shared reading and writing, and story. This is a time for us to work on many reading, mathematical, and scientific concepts. There are many different components to our calendar and more will continue to be added throughout the year.

Recess

We will have outdoor recess everyday unless weather conditions do not permit us to be outside. Please be sure to dress your child appropriately for the possibility of playing outside. **Please help your child practice fastening his/her coat (when applicable), and tying shoes.**

Library

Our class will go to the library once a week for a story and check out. Students will have the opportunity to check out a book each time we go to library. Please help your child find a safe place to keep library books at home so they are easily located to read or to find when it is time to return them! Your child needs to return the library book by the next library visit in order to check out a new book.

Student of the Week

There will be a new student every full week of school. On the Friday before your child's week, we will send home an information sheet in their GO Folder. Please help your child complete the information and return it on Monday along with 5-7 pictures your child can talk about. The pictures will be kept on display for students to look at throughout the week. There will be a variety of special activities to celebrate your child throughout the week.

Birthdays

You are welcome to send treats to celebrate your child's birthday. Individually packaged treats are always appreciated! Please drop the treats off in the office or send them with your child in the morning. Summer birthdays can be celebrated on their half-birthday or in May. Please email or send a note a few days before you plan to send treats. *Keep in mind we have students in our school with nut allergies, and treats will need to be selected off of the approved list.* We ask that you avoid passing out birthday invitations. (We don't want any hurt feelings because someone wasn't invited.) If you have any questions regarding birthdays, please let me know.

Book Orders

Book Orders will be sent home periodically throughout the year. If you decide to order books, there are two ways to complete the ordering process, online with a credit card or personal check made out to Scholastic attached to the order form. More information will be attached to the first book order. We encourage you to look through the book orders. You can find great books for less than one dollar and every order helps our classroom earn books!

Specials

Specials are classes that are taken out of the regular classroom. Please remember to wear tennis shoes on P.E. days!

Music and PE

Kindergarten students will attend Music and P.E. twice a week for a total of 60 minutes. Both programs provide a variety of activities to help develop basic skills that will be the foundation for continuing growth in these areas.

Art

Kindergarten students will attend Art once a week for 55 minutes. This program provides a variety of activities to explore different art media and to establish a foundation for an appreciation of art.

Computer Lab

Kindergarten students will go to the computer lab once a week for 30 minutes. This class provides your child with the opportunity to develop basic computer skills. Students will also use the computers in our classroom during center time to play games to reinforce reading and math skills.

REAL

Kindergarten students will attend REAL once a week for 30 minutes. This is a recreational reading program designed to get students excited about reading. Students are introduced to different kinds of literature and a variety of authors.

Spanish

Kindergarten students will participate in a Spanish language class twice a week for a total of 60 minutes. Through songs, games, and activities, they will learn many new Spanish words.

Counselor

Our school counselor, Mrs. Frank, visits our kindergarten classroom twice a month for 30 minutes. Each visit she focuses on teaching self-esteem, positive relationships, feelings, wellness, etc. She is also available to work with individual students if needed.

Volunteers

We are always willing to have parents help our class. We utilize volunteers in two ways:
1) working with small groups of students (flashcards, learning games, writing activities)
2) helping prepare materials for class (cutting, displaying student work, copying, etc)
Several times throughout the year we will also have station rotations within our classroom. We are always looking for volunteers to help lead a small group activity during Station Rotations. Please be sure to sign up or let me know if you are interested in assisting our class. We can always use "At Home Helpers" as well!

If you are interested in helping out at our kindergarten parties, please contact our room parent. All parents are invited to attend our kindergarten parties!

Homework

Your support at home is essential to the success of your young learner! Homework allows your child to share with you the concepts we are working on in class. Each month we will email home a calendar filled with activities to reinforce our classroom learning. Remember this is not mandatory, only an extra resource for you!

Later in the year, we will also send home **Baggy Books** on your child's reading level. This will be part of Reading and Writing Workshop. It will allow you to help support your child's reading progress. More information will be coming home at a later date.

Snack

There will be an opportunity for daily snack. Please send an individual snack with your child each day. Remember to refer to the TCE website for a list of peanut-safer treats.

Classroom Donations

Occasionally our class will need additional supplies for special projects. We will inform you of these supplies through e-mail and the weekly newsletter. If you are willing to donate a requested item, please let me know. In addition, if you have any “leftovers” (buttons, stickers, envelopes, etc) kindergarteners might enjoy, please feel free to send them in. Each classroom teacher has a “wish list” for classroom donations – check their individual table.

Conferences

Report cards will be distributed each quarter. At the end of the first and third quarter, we will have conferences at school. Everyone will have a Fall conference, and in the Spring conferences are by teacher/parent request.

Behavior System

We believe there are natural consequences for every choice a child makes. In our classrooms, positive reinforcement is given when appropriate choices are made. Rewards for appropriate behavior choices include verbal praise, stickers, Starburst (for being a Kindergarten Star), and trips to the treasure box. Students place stickers on monthly charts as a visual reminder of how well they are doing!

Additionally, we will have a “Take a Break” station in each of our classrooms. This is a positive, respectful and supportive teaching strategy that helps students regain focus, when needed. Our goal is to be proactive with the students and to help them understand expected behaviors. Students may choose to visit this spot or teachers may ask them to go. At the “Take a Break” station, students can choose from a variety of activities including taking deep breaths, doodling in a notebook, stress balls, and other motor activities. They will also complete a “think sheet” that allows the child to share how they were feeling in the situation, which gives students an opportunity to learn to self-regulate their emotions. These notes will go home, so parents can talk to their children about what happened. Parents and teachers will always maintain open communication about each child’s behavior in the classroom. It is a partnership between school and home. Our goal is to help students’ personal growth by developing strong self-control in a loving way.

Communication

Your child will bring home a green go folder each night. Please help them empty it, and to help your child build responsibility, please help him/her remember to return the folder the next day. Please feel free to send notes/reminders to me in their folder. You will also receive a weekly newsletter via email informing you of classroom activities!

If you need to contact us during the day the best way is by email. But if you need to talk to someone immediately please call the Timber Creek Office. Our classroom phones do not ring during the school day.

* Timber Creek Office 239-7800

* Classroom Number **Betts**: (913) 239-7853
*Email cmarshall@bluevalleyk12.org

* Classroom Number **Chaffee**: (913) 239-7850
*Email jchaffee@bluevalleyk12.org

* Classroom Number **Leek**: (913) 239-7861
*Email asleek@bluevalleyk12.org

* Classroom Number **Richardson**: (913) 239-7873
*Email carichardson@bluevalleyk12.org

**Please let your teacher know any changes in your child's pick up routine. It is extremely important for us to know who your child is going home with in order to keep them safe. If you have a change in your child's schedule, please let your teacher and office secretary Sarah Sikes know via email, phone, or note. **