



Harmony Full-Day Kindergarten

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL (8:25-8:35 AM)

- All Day Kindergarten begins at 8:35 AM. Children may arrive between 8:25 and 8:35.
- Children who are car riders should be dropped off in the lower parking lot. Enter the lower lot and follow the car line all the way around to the end of the playground or until signaled to stop. Teachers on duty will supervise children getting out of their cars. Children then follow the sidewalk and go up the stairs to the school entrance. There will be staff members on duty to direct the children.
- Bus Riders and Walkers will enter through the front entrance.
- Children will go directly to their classrooms.

DISMISSAL (3:40 PM)

- **Car Riders**...Car riders may be picked up in the lower lot. Children will be dismissed with other students K-5.
- **Bus Riders**...Children will line up with other bus riders and be taken to the gym where they will be put on their bus by assigned bus-duty teachers.
- **Walkers**...Children will be dismissed outside the front doors of the building. You can park down the street or in the lower parking lot and walk up to meet your child.
- **YMCA**... Y-Care students will be picked up by a Y-Care staff member and escorted to the cafeteria for Y-Care.
- ***We must have a note if there is a change in the way your child will be going home.***
- ***If your child does not normally ride the bus, but is going home with a friend who is a Bus Rider, both children must have two notes from their parents, one for the teacher and one for the bus driver.***

DAILY ROUTINE

8:35 Journals / Writer's Workshop	12:30 Recess
9:00 Calendar /Morning Meeting	1:00 Social Studies / Science
9:15 English Language Arts	1:25 Specials
10:40 Story time / Movement Activities	2:25 Snack and Stories
11:00 LUNCH	2:45 EPIC Time
11:30 Math	3:40 Dismissal 3:40

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Harmony Kindergarten Communication Arts Program supports a Balanced Literacy Approach which includes the following components: reading aloud, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. Our literacy framework includes Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, and Word Work. Whole group lessons, small group lessons, independent practice, journal writing, story writing and literacy centers are incorporated. Benchmark Advance is used as a resource to help deliver effective instruction in five key areas of communication arts: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Our program is supplemented with literature and best practices in reading and writing. Children will be taught high-frequency words. Correct letter formation is taught using the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Series. An example is included in the back of this handbook.

HUSKY READER'S PROGRAM

The Husky Readers Program is designed to encourage at home reading, whether it be you reading to your child or them reading to you. One sheet will be sent home at the beginning of each month for you to record books read to your child (or read by them). When **BOTH** sides are full, your child should return it to school. They will earn a pizza coupon or other rewards. This program will run from October through March. We will explain this again at our Fall Conference and this program will begin shortly thereafter.

"BOOKS IN A BAG"

Kindergarten students will have the opportunity to bring books home to practice. The bag will have about four or five leveled reading books and instructions for guided reading. The books should be read to your child first and then the child should read it several times. The books will be exchanged weekly. Through repeated readings your child will naturally learn many high frequency words. Your child's teacher will let you know when she is going to begin sending home books.

LITERACY CENTERS

Literacy Centers are an important part of our school day. Literacy Centers are carefully designed areas in the classroom that provide opportunities for children to explore, discover and practice skills. All centers coordinate with our curriculum. Examples include: Math, Language Arts (ABC Center, Writer's Corner, Listening Center), computers and IPADS. Children will rotate through all Literary Centers while the teacher works with small groups.

EPIC CENTERS (Every Person IS Creative)

Throughout the week your child will spend time investigating and playing in a variety of DIY activities. These centers could include reading, writing, listening, math, art, drama, building with blocks, legos, games/puzzles, computers etc. The students will have an opportunity to work/play in the topics of their choice. Play and discovery is a valuable part of learning and growing and critical in the kindergarten curriculum.

Project Based Learning

The PBL approach is one in which students actively question and explore real world problems and challenges to acquire a deeper knowledge of the standards. We will utilize this approach as we integrate science and social studies into our themes.

LIBRARY

Library books will come home on the day the children go to Library for check out. For the first few weeks, they will be bringing home one book. As we get further into the school year, they will be bringing home two books each week. Children can keep their books all week until the next library day or they can bring them back and place them in the Classroom Library Box. However, they will not get new library books until their Library Day. Please help your child remember to bring their library book back each week, so they will be able to select a new book to bring home.

MATH

The math resource for Blue Valley is Addison Wesley's enVision. Based on foundational research, it develops conceptual understanding through problem-based, interactive learning and step-by-step visual learning. This program will be supplemented with other resources including units such as money, time and fractions. We will have whole group instruction as well as guided math groups. During guided math groups, we will work with small groups of children while the rest of the children work in math centers designed to meet individual needs.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Kindergarten Social Studies overall themes include self, family and school. Children will learn about rules and laws, citizenship, culture, government, geography and economics through units such as: Sense of Self, Basic Economics, My State and Being a Good Citizen..

The school counselor visits our classrooms three times every other month. Her lessons focus on teaching Blue Valley Virtues. These life skills are an important component of our classroom philosophy.

SCIENCE

The Blue Valley Science resource is "Bring Science Alive" by Bozeman. Children will learn to formulate answers to questions such as, "What happens if you push or pull an object harder? Where do animals live and why?" Some examples of the areas of investigations include: weather, plants and animals and forces and motion.

ODDS & ENDS AS YOUR KINDERGARTENER BEGINS

BACKPACKS OR BOOK BAGS

For safety purposes, it is important that your child bring a backpack to school each day. We will make sure that all school communication and schoolwork gets into the backpack. Please check backpacks **daily**. For safety purposes, we encourage children **not to have key chains attached** to their backpacks and no rolling backpacks! Toys should not be sent to school. Thank you.

DAILY FOLDERS

Your child will come home each day with his/her daily folder. All notes, papers, etc. will be placed in this green folder. The folder should be emptied each night. Please put anything that needs to be returned to school in this folder to make sure that it gets to school safely.

BIRTHDAYS

At Harmony Elementary, we will recognize each child on their birthday or summer half birthday. Birthday students are honored on the morning announcements and classroom teachers will have various ways of recognizing the children in their classroom. Birthday snacks are no longer permitted in our school due to the number of health concerns and allergies. We would like to suggest in lieu of a treat you have your child join the Library Birthday Book Club. By donating money to the library a book plate with your child's name will be placed in the book of your child's choice. We are not allowed to hand out trinkets or favors. BIRTHDAY invitations cannot be passed out at school. Nor can we distribute names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.

SNACKS

Send a healthy snack to school with your child every day. Having individual snacks will eliminate children from skipping snack time due to allergies and personal preferences. Please choose food items that are quick and easy to eat without assistance. We do not have access to refrigeration. No candy, cookies or sweets should be sent. Our classrooms are allergy controlled. Please be aware that certain food items (peanut butter, tree nuts) will not be permitted in the classroom.

LUNCH TIPS

We encourage the children to be independent while eating lunch. Send packages that are easy for your child go open. Peel oranges and cuties ahead of time. Start a little peel of the banana. Cut a small slit in bags and wrappers so your child can easily rip it open (lunchables, string cheese, chips, etc). Lunch money can be added to your child's account on line.

RECESS

Your kindergartner will have one recess every afternoon. Our playground is equipped to help develop the gross motor skills of our students. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. It is best to wear closed-toe shoes on the playground. Our children will go outside unless it is raining, snowing or bitterly cold following the district policy.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Our classroom expectations reflect important life skills. Children are repeatedly called upon to use self-regulation throughout the school day. Without self-regulation, children struggle socially and academically and as a result disengage from school. The good news is self-regulation can be taught.

- Attention Flexibility: paying attention, listening and following directions
- Working Memory: Using short-term memory, remembering multi-step directions, recalling and recognizing facts, lessons and or instructions.
- Inhibitory Control: Controlling impulses, stopping one's behavior and choosing another more appropriate action. Calming down when upset, taking turns, waiting / delayed gratification.

Self-regulation leads to strong academic performance, helps students form healthy friendships and gives them social and emotional resources they need to face high stress situations in life.

Please talk with your child about the importance of good school behavior. We appreciate your support with our program so that we can maximize the learning process in our classrooms.

CONFERENCES

Fall parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled on October 23, 24th, 26th. Winter conferences will be held February 5th, 6th, 8th. Please make sure to sign up for a Fall Conferences before you leave. Reminders will be sent home prior to each conference date.

There will be no school K-5 on October 26th, 27th / February 8th & 9th.

FIELD TRIPS

Kindergarten will have 3 field trips this year. We will visit Kaleidoscope at Crown Center, the Nelson, and the Wilderness Science Center. We have also arranged for the Theatre of Young America to do a performance at our school. Permission forms will be sent home prior to each trip. We will ask for parent volunteers as needed for these trips. Please remember that our school policy states that siblings may not attend field trips.

NEWSLETTER

We will send home a class newsletter via email each Friday. In the newsletter, we will fill you in on what we did during the week and give you a sneak peek about what is coming up. It is **VITALLY IMPORTANT** that you read our newsletter so that you can keep up with what is going on in Kindergarten.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate and enjoy having parent volunteers. If you wish to be a helper, please sign up on the Parent Volunteer list. Harmony guidelines for parent volunteers are as follows:

1. Parents report to the classroom at the assigned time after signing in at the office and receiving a visitor badge.
2. The classroom teacher will provide instructions and supplies.
3. Work must be done in the parent-helper room off the library.
4. The time from for using the room is 9:00-11:00 am.
5. If we need help with special projects, we will call you as needed.

Volunteers will also be needed for field trips and class parties. Room Mothers will contact the helpers for the parties. Please remember that our school policy states that siblings may not attend field trips, parties or come with a volunteering parent.

SHOW AND TELL

Occasionally we will have Show & Tell assignments. You will receive specific instructions as they occur. Sharing allows practice with communication skills.

HOMEWORK

Occasionally we will send homework home with your child. Reading their books and practicing the Kindergarten high frequency words, counting and doing simple math activities will help them tremendously. When homework is sent home Instructions along with due dates will be included.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kindergarten participates in many school-wide and classroom special events.

School – Wide events include:	Classroom special events include
Walk A Thon Red Bag Week Box Tops for Education Community Service Projects Fall Costume Parade Field Day United Way Campaign	Hundred's Day Celebration Field Trips Fall Party Winter Party Valentine's Party Dr. Seuss Week Kansas Day Earth Day

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES