

July 2021

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to John Muir Elementary School! We hope that the following information will be helpful as you plan for the first day of school on Monday, August 2nd!

1. Daily: A.M. Classes (8:20 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.) P.M. Class (10:54 A.M. to 2:35 P.M.)
All A.M. and P.M. Kindergartners will go directly to their classrooms and line up outside the door. Allow time for parking as your child will be eagerly awaiting your return at the end of the school day. We will not send your child with anyone except you or another person listed on your child's emergency card, unless you send a note!
2. First day of school: This year things are a bit different due to Covid protocols. Parents may accompany their child to the classroom door on the first day only. All adults and students must be masked during this time. They will say their goodbyes as the teacher greets each student and leads them to their carpet spot. Tears are common, but normally do not last very long.
3. It is important that your child is able to write and recognize his or her name. Please have your child practice writing their name over the next week. This will help them recognize their name for attendance and for their lunch cards. It is also important for you to begin practicing tying shoes with your student. Please practice daily!
4. The third Wednesday of each month is typically a Common Planning Day (CPD). Please refer to the district calendar that will be sent home on the first day of school and weekly communicators for specific dates. Keep this school calendar easily accessible as we also have Assessment Collaboration once a quarter which are also minimum days. All Kindergartners will attend morning session on these days (8:20 a.m.-12:00 p.m.). Students in grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 12:35, so be sure to make special arrangements for your Kindergartner if an older sibling usually picks him/her up.
5. Please provide a full-size backpack to accommodate a 12" x 15" envelope. Don't forget to check your child's backpack daily for class work and important papers. Due to the extremely limited space in the Kindergarten classrooms, backpacks with wheels are not allowed.
6. Please label all coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, etc. with your child's name. Children should wear comfortable clothes as we like to be active in our work and play. Sometimes glue or paint does get on clothing. Athletic shoes or closed-toed shoes with straps around the heels and socks must be worn at all times, NO FLIP FLOPS. If your child does not know how to tie their own shoes they will need Velcro or slip on shoes. Teachers will not be able to tie any shoes this year. Girls, please note that spaghetti straps and halter tops are not allowed. Please wear green on Fridays to show your John Muir spirit! The handbook stating our school dress code can be found on the John Muir website.

7. Meals: It is important that your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning before coming to school. The school will provide a free breakfast and lunch for all students. The cafeteria opens for breakfast from 8:00-8:20 a.m. Kindergartners will also eat lunch at school. You may send a lunch in a sack or lunch box clearly marked with your child's name. If you provide a lunch from home please do not send any kind of soda in your child's lunch.
8. Home/School communication: Communicator and flyers will be sent home every Tuesday in the Muir Messenger envelope. The envelope needs to be signed and returned the following day.
9. Absences/Tardies: When your child is absent, please call the school secretary (953-8106) that morning and tell her the reason for your child's absence. If you are unable to call the school, it is important to send a note the day that your child returns to school explaining the absence. If your child arrives late, please accompany him/her to the office for a tardy slip. More than three days absent you child will need a doctor's note.
10. Bedtime - It is important that your child be well-rested for school. Please set up a regular bedtime and stick to it! (Recommended time is 8:00 p.m. for all Kinders).
11. Supplies: Keep at home, students will need pencils, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and glue sticks to complete homework assignments. You will also need index cards to make flash cards. At school, please send a pair of headphones labeled in a Ziploc bag with your child's name and at least one spare mask they can keep at school in an emergency. I am also requesting a 4X6 picture of your child and their family. We will be displaying these in our classroom this year. All other supplies will be provided at school.
12. Homework binders will be sent home every Monday with weekly homework that will be due on Friday. We will not begin sending homework as we will be going over homework in greater detail at Back to School Night.
13. Back to School Night will be on Thursday, August 12th. This year it will be virtual and students will need their school assigned chromebooks in order for parents to access this on zoom. We will be sending additional information home as we get closer to the date. At that time we will go into greater detail about our Kindergarten program and can answer any questions that you might have.
14. Our goal is to provide experiences that will inspire your child to become a lifelong learner. Please feel free to call your child's teacher at school and leave a message with the office any time you have a question (953-8106). You may also reach us by e-mail. Good communication and cooperation help us all!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

