

## The Kindergarten Program - 2020-2021

Dear Families,

In anticipation of the new school year, we would like to welcome you and your child to kindergarten! We are looking forward to getting to know your family and working with you to make this a wonderful year. We hope this letter answers questions you may have about the beginning days of school and our general routine. You will also find our lesson plans and all additional information on our PowerSchool Learning page.

### BEGINNING OF THE YEAR GRADUATED SCHEDULE

August 25                      Open House from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm for parents and children.

Time	Last Name Begins With
8:00-9:00	A-F
9:00-10:00	G-K
10:00-11:00	L-Q
11:00-12:00	R-Z

Virtual parent conferences scheduled in the afternoon.  
**No uniforms required on this day.**

August 26                      Class from 8:10 to 12:00 p.m.  
Virtual parent conferences in the afternoons. No lunch.  
**Uniforms required.**

August 28                      Begin regular **full-day** schedule, 8:10 am to 3:00 pm.

### POWERSCHOOL LEARNING

PowerSchool Learning is an efficient, online tool that allows for an easy information exchange for everyone in the entire Holland Hall community. Our PowerSchool page will be the best location for you to find everything we are doing in class and information about upcoming special events. And you can access the page on your phone! If you have any problems accessing the page after the first day of school, contact your teacher.

### SPECIALS TEACHERS

The children will go to two specials each day. The purpose of these classes is to provide art, music, Spanish, and P.E. activities by specialized teachers. Each class is 30 minutes in length. In addition to these classes, we will be meeting with our school chaplain and our librarian on a regular basis.

- Art: Margie McNutt (five times a week, every other week, alternating with music)
- Music: Lori Swisher (five times a week, every other week, alternating with art)

- PE: Brian Underwood and other coaches (every day)
- Spanish: Yolanda Hankins (during one music class, one art class, and one PE class)

## **LIBRARY**

The library is available to all children. We will have a special lesson with Mr. Christian in September to discuss the procedure for checking out a book. After this lesson, the children will be allowed to check out one book at a time. The book may be kept for one week. We ask that you help your child take responsibility for the book by returning it on time and in good condition.

## **ARRIVAL**

School begins at 8:10 am. It is very important that the children arrive in the classroom between 7:55 and 8:10 am each day. They need time to greet friends and put away belongings before our morning math group begins at 8:15 am. The doors are locked before 7:55 am so that teachers can get their classrooms ready before the children arrive. We want to give the children our full attention when they are here. Please give your child a positive start to his/her day by making sure he/she arrives on time. For your child's safety, please follow any and all directions provided by the Primary School office. At arrival time during the school year, a kindergarten assistant will be on the porch to help children out of cars. This service makes parent/child separation much easier! Please drop your child off where the assistant is standing. We will also have another assistant in the hallway to help the children put away their lunch boxes, coats, and backpacks as they arrive.

## **DISMISSAL**

At 3:05 pm, kindergarten students are dismissed for the day. Please refer to the specific traffic instructions provided by the Primary School office. It is a Primary School policy that children may not leave school before 3:05 pm for extracurricular activities. An adult escorts the transfer service and extended care children to the proper place at 3:05 pm. If you do not intend to pick up your child on a given day, we must be contacted before 2:00 pm notifying us of this change. We will NOT take your child's word for it! Any child who is not picked up on time will be taken to our extended day program. You may be charged for this service.

## **SNACK**

We will NOT be providing a daily snack in kindergarten. Therefore, please have your child bring a nutritious snack to school each day, SEPARATE from their lunch box. Some suggestions for snacks include foods that are dry and prepackaged, such as: granola bars, fruit snacks, raisins, crackers, trail mix without nuts, pretzels, etc. Please do not send nuts or products containing them, as some children have severe allergies. Please also avoid sending snacks that are liquid, require preparation time, refrigeration, or microwaving. Your child's snack must be a food that he/she can manage independently.

## **LUNCH**

The children can bring their own lunches and drinks from home or they can eat a lunch prepared by our food service, Flik, using a debit card system for payment. We will be eating in the classrooms until further notice. We cannot warm up food. Please send items with your child that they can easily open themselves. It would be helpful for you to practice opening packages, ziplocs and containers at home before school begins.

## **MEDICATION**

If your child needs to take medicine of any kind during the school day, please bring the medication (in its original container) to the Primary School nurse's office with a note explaining the dosage and time of

day. A permission slip must also be signed. These are available from the nurse. Please let the classroom teacher know any time your child is taking medicine! It is our responsibility to send your child down to the office at the right time. Please do not send any medicine (not even cough drops) in your child's lunchbox or backpack.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

We recognize each child's birthday in our classrooms. We celebrate half birthdays for those children born during the summer months. Your child's teacher will contact you several weeks before your child's birthday to plan a small celebration. You will be asked to provide individually wrapped snacks as the birthday treat. We ask that you do not send goodie bags or balloons.

### **HOLIDAYS**

We have ecumenical celebrations at school. The kindergarten teachers plan the parties. For each party, we will have the kindergarten parent coordinator help organize party supplies. Please do not send unplanned treats for these celebrations.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are a vital part of our overall program. Since it is doubtful that we will be taking physical field trips, we are making every effort to provide virtual trips or alternative experiences for as many of our trips as possible. We will inform you through PowerSchool about these events.

### **VISITING**

Unfortunately, due to current circumstances, parents are not allowed to visit the classroom. We are hopeful that these restrictions will not last long and we can soon welcome you! Please bear with us.

### **BACKPACKS**

We ask that each child have a backpack large enough to hold a lunch box and other items that may come home. **Please refrain from sending backpacks with wheels and from attaching excessive clips to the outside of their backpacks.** In addition, please label all of your child's belongings (backpack, jackets, mittens, lunch box, snow boots, etc.).

### **SHARING THE NEWS**

Later this Fall your child will be invited to find news clippings from a newspaper, magazine, or the internet to share with the class. We will provide more information for you about this activity later. Sharing the news takes the place of any other kind of "show and tell"; therefore, please do NOT allow your child to bring toys or other personal possessions (including jewelry) to school.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

This is another area where we have to make a change. Again, due to the current situation, we cannot allow volunteers. As soon as we are able to reinstate this opportunity, expect a call from our parent coordinator!

We understand that this year is going to be different. We know you are anxious but we have been working hard to make this year just as magical as every other year. See you at the Open House on Tuesday, August 25, between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm.

**Kindergarten Team**