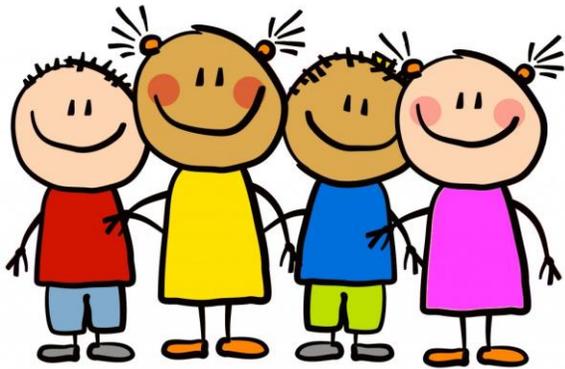


Our Day in K



Classroom
Handbook

Prepared by
Mrs. Aldinger

2022-2023

Dear Parents of Kindergarten Students,

It is my privilege to teach Kindergarten at Star of Bethlehem and to work with you throughout the year to provide your child with the best learning environment possible.

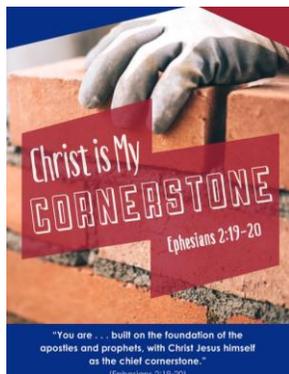
We have a school wide theme this year of "Christ is My Cornerstone". We will stress this throughout the year as we build each day around God's Word.

The Kindergarten year is an exciting year of growth for children. The growth will be evident in their reading skills, writing skills, knowledge of numbers and most importantly their knowledge of Bible stories and what each means to them.

I look forward to greeting the students each morning and engaging them in hands-on activities throughout the day to create a love for learning.

I have put together this handbook to give you a glimpse into a Day in K. If you have any further questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ's Service,
Becky Aldinger



Arrival/ Start of Day -

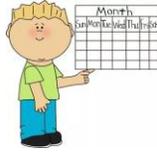


Students are welcome to enter the school building at 7:45 am. At that time they will be allowed to come down the hallway and enter the classroom. The children will empty their backpack, hang their backpacks up, and then come into the room where they will turn in their library bags and then put their reading bag and folder into their mailbox bin.

They will then be allowed to play with various tubs as we wait for school to start. All students are expected to be in the classroom before 8:05 am. Those students who are later than this time will be marked tardy.

At 8:05 am there are morning announcements over the intercom. We join the school in prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and hear about events going on that day. We also hear those students who are celebrating a birthday on that day.





Our Day -

Each day begins with song and then moves on to sharing time and calendar. During calendar time we work with months of the year, days of the week, today's date, the weather for the day, and how many days we have been in school. Each day we count the number of days that we have been in school. As the number increases we count by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s to reach the number of days.



This time is followed by journal writing. Throughout the year the children will work through many stages of writing beginning with just pictures and moving to full sentences by the end of the year. Journals are a great way to show this writing progress.



Christ light is our time when we focus on God's Word. In Kindergarten the children are taught lessons from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each lesson has a memory treasure that we will focus on. These memory treasures will be sent home via an envelope to be placed in their memory treasure box. Families are encouraged to review these passages often. In Kindergarten it is not necessary for the children to memorize and recite these passages in class.



Following Journal time we have recess. . Students will have the opportunity to run and play with their classmates.



After recess we have a snack time. Children are asked to bring their own snack for eating. It is best if the snack can be packed in a pocket of the backpack separate from their lunch so the children are able to quickly decide what should be eaten for a snack versus what is for lunch.



After snack we move on to our Reading block of time. Our reading program, Superkids, incorporates word work, reading and writing. Through explicit and systematic phonics instruction, children learn the letters of the alphabet - one sound for each letter and how to blend the letter sounds to decode words. Children will put the phonics elements to use as they read decodable texts. They will have fun while learning as they get to know each of the Superkids!



Following Superkids we will have Phy-ed or Music. Music will taking place on Tuesdays and Thursday. Phy-ed will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with music will taking place on Tuesdays and Thursday.



Following Phy-ed or Music we will have Math. During Math a large part of the year is spent working with numbers 1 - 20. Being able to count items accurately, write the numbers, take numbers apart (break into groups), and addition/subtraction of numbers is a large focus. In addition we work with measurement, shapes, time and money.



Following our Math block of time we will have lunch. Children are welcome to bring their own bag lunch to school or may choose to take hot lunch. Hot lunch is free to all students. There will be a slip coming home each Friday in the family folder asking parents to mark lunch choices for the week.

After lunch the children will have free play time, followed by reading a book.



We will then have our second recess. Please note that children must have a jacket to wear if the temperature is 50 degrees or below. During winter children will need boots, snow pants, waterproof gloves/mittens, and a hat for recess time. On rainy days, this recess will be in the gym.



Following recess, the students will be doing reading centers. During this time children will be moving to a writing center, word work center, sight word center, Chromebook center, listening center and make use of RAZ kids reading. Finally every two - three days they will visit the teacher table where they will work in small groups to read books. These books will come home to be read to you.



The focus of the kindergarten science and social studies curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live and our interactions with it. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented including the study of habitats, weather, the five senses, our body, states of matter, space, structure/function and the four seasons. Activities will help the children focus their natural curiosity for the world around them as they study communities, landforms, our national symbols, presidents and holidays.



Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and eventually sentences. Your child will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment in writing is paramount to your child's progress in writing.

Other Items - Communication

Book Bags/Folder Your child will be bringing home a book bag each day. This bag will contain books they have selected from our classroom library that they would like to read with you. At times they will want to have you read to them. As the year progresses they will be bringing home books that they want to read to you. Each day a slip should be filled out verifying that this reading was completed. In addition you will be expected to review the Bible lesson that we are covering in class each week. This will also be recorded on the reading log. This is the only homework that is expected to be completed at home in Kindergarten.

Each Kindergartener will also have a folder that is brought back and forth in their backpack each day. This folder will contain work that the child has completed. Notes regarding the student work may also be included. Please be sure to check this folder daily for any sheets, and have your child tell you about the items.

Family Folder/ Newsletter Each Friday a family folder will come home with your child. This will contain the school newsletter, the kindergarten classroom newsletter and any other school announcements. Please make sure to look through the contents of this folder each weekend, sign it, and return it with your child on Monday. The Kindergarten newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in our classroom. This is a great way to stay abreast of our curriculum, classroom news, special activities and upcoming events. Look for this in the family folder each Friday.

Website Star of Bethlehem has a website at starofbethlehem.org. Check in regularly to find information about curriculum, special events and school news. You can find information pertaining to kindergarten at starofbethlehem.org/kindergarten.

Absences If your child is absent from school for any reason, please call the office before the school day begins to inform them of this. If you know ahead of time, you can contact me via email to inform me of the absence, or send a note to school with your child.

Dismissal Students who are riding the bus will be dismissed at 3:07 pm. All children who are not bussed to or from school are dismissed at 3:10 pm. Parents are asked to inform the school (via a written note, personal contact with the teacher, an email before school begins for the day to the teacher, or via a phone call to the office). **If no written note or phone call is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.**



Communication

Communication is vital throughout the year. You can contact me at my email address baldinger@starofbethlehem.org. I try to check my email daily. Keep in mind, however, email is never checked during the school day. If you need to discuss something urgent or inform me of changes in transportation, please call the office instead. If you prefer to contact me via the telephone you can use the following numbers: School 262-786-2901 Personal # 414-722-1807. Please note that after 9 pm I will not check my phone messages until the following morning.

Report cards/Conferences

Report cards are issued four times a year. These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. Grading is done with assessments that include samples, written notes, checklists and tests. Progress will be reported with the symbols B – Beginning, D- Developing and S- Secure in the skills. Parent/Teacher conferences are held in November. At these conferences, we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises.



Classroom Management

Each child is expected to show Christ's love to all of his classmates and respect the teacher's rules set for the class. As a reminder to the children of these expectations we will be using a daily behavior chart. Each day the children will begin with 5 small pom poms. Throughout the day when they are having trouble following a rule, they will be asked to turn in a pom pom to a teacher. At the end of the day they will color a dog on their chart which will show you how they did that day. If colored purple, they had a PAWSitively Perfect Day, losing no pom poms. A blue dog will tell you they had a Dog Gone Great Day, losing only one pom pom. A green dog will tell you they had Bow Wow behavior, having turned over 2 pom poms. An orange dog will tell you they had to turn over 3 pom poms - having a Stop and "Paws" day. Finally, a red dog would tell you that they ended the day having lost 4 pom poms - a "Ruff" day. Each night you are asked to please initial the dog dish and return the chart to school.

Children will receive points for purple and blue days. These points will be used to get coupons used for classroom things such as bring a stuffie, wear a hat, choose where you sit, and many others.

If any difficulties arise we will work together as parents and teacher to resolve the situation. Communication will be important. If your child comes home and tells you of an issue please inform me, so that it can be dealt with at school. Thank you!



Book Orders Every month will receive book order forms via email. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices – what a great way to build your home library! Ordering is done online. Information regarding how to do this is included with each book order.

Birthdays

If your child wishes, he/she may bring treats for the class. For those children who celebrate summer birthdays, they may bring a treat on their half birthday or during the month of May.

Field trips

We will be taking field trips during the school year. Please take note of the following dates:

Sept. 20 - Walk to Firestation/ Police station

Oct. 18 - Lindner Pumpkin Farm

(Drivers needed)

Nov. 9 - Schlitz Aubudon Center

(Chaperones needed - travel by bus)

Feb. 1 - Mad Science in school field trip with preschool

May 3 - Sunset Playhouse (this cannot be scheduled until Jan. 3) (Drivers needed)

May 24 - Milwaukee Public Museum

(Chaperones needed - travel by bus)



Parental Involvement/ Royal Reader

Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! There are many opportunities for volunteering in our classroom, and the help is very much appreciated! If you are interested in helping please let me know. There will also be several dates in which parents are typically invited into the classroom for activities such as **Donuts with Dad** on **Feb. 22** and **Muffins with Mom** on **April 19**.

Another way to get involved is to become a royal reader. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we will have a **Royal Reader** for our book time. There will be more information about this during the first week of school.

Finally, mark your calendars for **March 24** which will be the evening for the **Kindergarten Play**.

Singing for church

The Kindergarten class will be singing for church at various services throughout the year. In addition they will also sing for several of our Wednesday morning chapel services. Information about these dates will always be included in the Kindergarten newsletter several weeks in advance.



OUR DAY IN K

Time	Activity
7:45	Students may begin entering the classroom
8:05	All students are to be in the classroom at this time/ Morning Announcements
8:20	Calendar/Phonics activity
8:45	Journal time
8:55	Christlight
9:15	Work time for Christlight
9:30	Recess
9:50	Snack time
10:05	Superkids
11:00	Phy-ed Mon, Wed, Fri Music Tues, Thurs
11:20	Math
12:10	Join in lunch time prayer; wash hands
12:15	Lunch (eat/ talking time/ quiet time/ wash hands/ play time)
12:50	Book read
1:00	Recess
1:20	Reading Stations Rotation
2:05	Social Studies/ Science
2:35	Writing time
2:50	Pack up/ Sing closing song

3:05	Bus riders dismissed to the hallway; Then extended care is excused
3:07	Car riders dismissed

