

General Kindergarten Information

2013-2014



Lunch

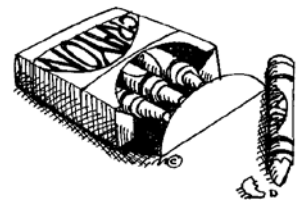
Kindergartners eat lunch at 12:20 every day. If you'd like your child to eat school lunch, you may pay towards their lunch card in the office, or fill out the application for Free or Reduced Lunch. Lunch costs \$2.25. Milk costs \$0.50 when sold separately. A school lunch menu will be sent home monthly.

If your child brings lunch from home, please be sure to include an ice pack if there is anything that needs to stay cool.

NOTE: If you turn in an application for Free or Reduced lunch, it generally takes about 5 days for processing. In the meantime, please have your child bring a lunch or bring in lunch money to the office.

Supply Fees

School supplies have been purchased for each student in the class. Each class is asking for \$20 per student to cover supply costs. Please bring in supply money as soon as possible. You can write checks payable to "Earl Boyles Elementary". If you need to pay in installments let us know and we can make arrangements. All supply fees should be brought to the school office.



Rockin' Readers / Homework

We have a school-wide reading incentive program called "Rockin' Readers". In this program, kindergartners are expected to read or be read to at least 10 minutes a day. They are to keep track of time spent reading on their Rockin' Reader game board and parents are expected to initial each box on the game board to verify the child's time spent reading. Please keep Rockin' Reader game boards in your child's daily folder for safe keeping. At each smiley face, kindergartners receive a reward.



Birthdays

On each child's birthday, they will have a special day at school! We will sing Happy Birthday and he or she will wear a birthday crown.



- Please let me know if your family does not celebrate birthdays.
- If you would like to send treats on your child's birthday, the treat must be store bought (not made at home) and you must let the teacher know at least one day before.



Toys/Sharing

Please make sure your child does not bring toys to school unless it is his/her week for sharing. We will start weekly sharing in late September ("Class Star").

Snacks

- We will have snack time every afternoon.
- **Please send a healthy snack for the whole class once a month. The snack must be store bought, not made at home.**
- Please do NOT send chips, candy or cookies.

Here are examples of healthy snacks vs. not healthy snacks

Healthy ☺	Not Healthy ☹
Crackers Fruit String Cheese Baby Carrots Raisins Graham Crackers Granola Bars Animal Crackers Cereal	Cookies Potato Chips Candy

A monthly supply of snack, for example, would be 1 box of crackers. If you'd like to bring fruit (which kids LOVE!), please rinse it and have it prepared ahead of time.



Volunteering

Unfortunately due to budget cuts, we no longer have kindergarten assistants. Volunteering is more important than ever and it would be truly appreciated! We are looking for parents to volunteer in the classroom on a consistent basis. If your schedule allows you to have a regular time (weekly or daily) to help and if you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible and we will work out the details. We will host a volunteer orientation during the first month of school.



Field Trips

We will go on at least one field trip this year. When we have details, information and permission slips will be sent home. We typically go to a pumpkin patch in the fall and the zoo in the spring.

Clothing

- Bathroom accidents happen sometimes. Please keep an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack just in case.
- We will use paint and glue in the classroom regularly. Please make sure your child wears clothes that can withstand stains.
- Flip-flops and slip on sandals are not allowed at school.
- Spaghetti strap shirts are cute, but not allowed at school.



After School Dismissal

Unlike other grades, Kindergarteners are picked up inside the school. If you are picking up your kindergartener, please wait along the wall ACROSS from Room #1 between 3:10-3:15. The teachers will call kindergartners to come to the door and meet you.

Kindergarteners who ride the bus will be dismissed from Room #2 and will be walked out to their bus by a teacher.

If your child rides the bus, the bus driver won't let Kindergartners off of the bus unless someone is there to walk with them. Please be sure an approved adult meets your child at the bus stop.

Wednesday Folders

- Every Wednesday, your child will bring home a folder with any important information from the school and the classroom (for example, weekly newsletters, correspondence, reading logs, etc.)
- Please clean out the folder, sign, and return it the next day.

Daily Folders

Every day your child will take home his/her folder. This folder will be turned in at school every day and checked for notes each morning. If you have any notes or info to send to the teacher or the office, please put it in this folder (otherwise it might sit in the bottom of a backpack and get lost forever!).

I'll also send notes home in this folder, as well as a calendar that will tell you how your child's behavior was each day.

Please check the folder every day and make sure your kindergartener gets it ready to take back to school.

Color Cards & Classroom Management

We spend a lot of time in kindergarten building a community and learning how to get along well with others. In September and throughout the year we spend a considerable amount of time learning problem solving strategies. Kids also learn how to become good listeners and good helpers. We use a lot of positive reinforcement in class to help kids continue to make good choices at school. Good behavior is always celebrated and rewarded!



Sometimes kindergarteners test their boundaries and for some children it can be difficult to learn how to be a helpful student. Unfortunately, consequences are sometimes necessary.

If your child misbehaves in class, he/she will first be redirected. Then he or she will receive a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, he/she will be sent to time-out or have a natural consequence for their behavior (ie - breaking pencil lead = sharpening lots of pencils).

What does it mean to have problem behaviors in class? Here are some examples:

- Excessive talking during instruction
- Rough play
- Being disruptive
- Defiant or noncompliant behavior
- Misuse or harming of classroom materials
- Physically hurting others
- Saying mean words to others

In the case of bullying, hitting, kicking or any other behavior causing harm to others, children will instantly receive a time out and will most likely lose a privilege.

Both kindergarten classes use “color cards” and a daily calendar to communicate to parents how their child is behaving during school. For each time out in the day, his or her color card will be changed to the next color.

GREEN - Great day!

ORANGE - 1 time out. (Oops!)

YELLOW - 2 time outs (Your child will have to miss 5 minutes of choice time to think about better choices).

PINK - 3 time outs -OR- your child received a “minor”. Students earning a pink card will lose either choice time or recess.

BLUE - 4+ time outs or there was extreme behavior (a referral would be written for extreme behavior). A trip to the office may have been necessary.

Every day, your kindergartener’s calendar will be colored in showing how he/she behaved at school that day. If they had a green card, congratulate him/her for a job well done! We will do the same.

Please check for the calendar every day in your child’s green folder. The color cards are meant to be a communication tool between the teacher and parent.

Time outs happen... if your child has an orange day, ask him/her why. We will always talk with your child about why they had a time out and

they will understand and hopefully correct the behavior. It will be his/her responsibility to communicate the "why" with you. If you have concerns about your child's behavior, we will be more than happy to talk with you about it!

If your child is struggling with adapting to a school environment, we would be more than happy to talk with you and share some ideas to help at home.

School-Wide Behavior Management (B.A.R.K. Expectations)

Earl Boyles has a school-wide behavior management program that we call BARK. BARK stands for "**B**e Ready, **A**lways Try, **R**espect and **K**eeP Safe. We use these 4 "rules" throughout the school to help all students be successful.

Minors/Referrals

Earl Boyles also issues "Minors" to students who need extra help remembering the BARK expectations. Minors are reminder notes that are sent home when your child has difficulty following school rules. Minors can be issued for hitting, rough-housing, foul language, defiance/noncompliance, or other undesirable behavior. Your child will be expected to have the minor signed and returned the next day.

If students earn 3 minors for the same behavior, they will receive a "Referral". Referrals can also be earned for extreme behavior at school. If your child receives a referral, he/she will have to meet with the principal or school improvement coordinator and will have consequences for the behavior.

BARK Cards

Your child will be given countless "BARK Cards" this year. These are small slips of paper that are given to students when they show good "BARK" behavior. We do classroom incentives with BARK cards and there is a school wide drawing each week.