

The First Big Step

A Kindergarten Handbook



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BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

N84 W16579 Menomonee Ave. • Telephone: (262) 255-8440

The Menomonee Falls Board of Education shares the same goals for your children and is sincerely dedicated to providing the best educational program for all our young people.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Benjamin Franklin School

Kathleen Marks.....Principal
Michael MockertAssociate Principal
N81 W14701 Franklin Drive • (262) 255-8470

Shady Lane School

Andy Heinowski.....Principal
W172 N8959 Shady Lane Boulevard • (262) 255-8480

Riverside School

Kathy MylesPrincipal
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Valley View School

Mary Dohmeier.....Principal
W180 N8130 Town Hall Road • (262) 250-2620

A Statement of Philosophy

The School District of Menomonee Falls believes that a Kindergarten program in partnership with parents and teachers should foster an environment which provides children with an atmosphere conducive to their emotional, social, and academic success. The program should reflect learning experiences for children that motivate and challenge their individual interests at a developmentally appropriate level.

The emotional, physical, social, and academic needs of children should be met in an atmosphere that promotes a positive self-concept. We understand that each child enters school with varying past experiences and that individual differences must be treated in a positive and productive manner. We realize that all children are continuously learning and that this learning should be directed toward meaningful outcomes.

We believe that kindergarten children should:

- Develop a positive self-esteem that enables them to grow emotionally, physically, socially, and academically.
- Develop independence and self-discipline.

- Be challenged at an appropriate learning level.
- Integrate the knowledge they have acquired into life experiences.
- Be provided with opportunities to explore, to discover, and to be creative.
- Practice communication skills; learn how to express ideas and feelings appropriately, and be a good listener.
- Experience opportunities to develop gross and fine motor skills.
- Develop a concern for others and a respect for individual differences.
- Become aware of cultural, physical and aesthetic aspects of the world around them.

WHY . . .

Kindergarten Curriculum

Our kindergarten program is designed to provide a basic foundation for each child's education. It is a program geared to make the transition from home to school as smooth as possible, and to make each child's first experience with school a successful and happy one. The following areas are an important focus of our kindergarten program.

Social-Emotional Development

When children work, play, share, and interact with others, they become aware of their feelings, thoughts, rights, and responsibilities. Meaningful interaction with others encourages growth and maturation. The social-emotional development part of the District's curriculum interprets progress in this area.

Physical Development

Physical development in kindergarten is a directed, purposeful activity focused upon the development, care, use, and movements of the total body. Instruction strives to help children gain strength, endurance, agility, coordination, and flexibility required for a successful and happy present and future life.

Academic Development

The academic development in the kindergarten program encourages children to experiment and discover through actual performance of activities; it provides children opportunities in sequential math and reading readiness skill development as well as the ability to understand directions and carry them out to completion; and it allows children to further their knowledge of the world in which they live.

WHO . . .

Who May Come To Kindergarten

To be eligible for kindergarten in the Menomonee Falls Public Schools, a child must be five years of age on or before September 1. Proof of age must be submitted by presenting one of the following: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or affidavit.

Parents whose children become five years of age after September 1 of the current school year may apply for early admission to kindergarten. A written parental request for consideration of early admission should be made to the principal of the elementary school where the child would attend. This request should state specific reasons for consideration for exception to present entrance dates.

After review of the written request, the principal will contact the parents explaining the procedures involved.

GETTING READY . . .

Getting Ready For School

To help a child develop a positive attitude toward school, there are some things that would assist a child's early adjustment to school.

Assist your child in being able to communicate first and last names, street name, and telephone number.

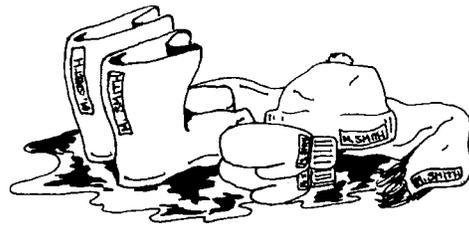
Take your child back and forth to school, before school opens, to become familiar with the safest way to walk. Help your child to understand that it is safest to cross only at places where a crossing guard is on duty.

Remind your child to board and to leave the bus safely. Also, it is important to follow the bus driver's instructions and to recognize the home surroundings and bus stop.

Help your child to arrive at school as close to the starting time as possible. Parents are required to notify their child's teacher in writing if the child is going any other place than home. Bus drivers will be informed of this change in procedure.

In order that your child can transport papers to and from school safely, we encourage you to provide your child with a backpack, large enough to hold a pocket folder, and shoes during winter.

It is important that your child be able to take off and put on outer clothing, including boots, **WITHOUT ASSISTANCE**. You can help by purchasing clothing with buttons and zippers large enough for easy fastening, plus boots large enough for the child to manage easily.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME ON ALL OUTER CLOTHING WORN TO SCHOOL, so that it can be easily and quickly identified.

MONEY . . .

If you give your child money to take to school, please put it in a labeled envelope or coin purse. Include your child's name, teacher's name and room number, and the purpose for which the money is intended.

BIRTHDAYS . . .

Parents frequently ask if they may send a treat for the class on their child's birthday. We shall be happy to celebrate your child's birthday and suggest that if you send something, it should be simple.

PARTIES . . .

Special snacks and activities are planned for the holiday season. If you wish to send a class treat for a special occasion, consult the teacher in advance.

GETTING READY TO USE NUMBER AND SHAPES . . .

Parents can provide their children with number experiences in preparation for kindergarten. The numbers 1-20 will be the focus of kindergarten mathematics work and play. Children love to play games that use numbers. Children should be encouraged to write numbers, do counting, and apply numbers to clocks and time, birthdays, and games. In addition, encourage your child's development in understanding concepts such as "more," "less," "larger," or "smaller." Finally, the recognition of shapes – circle, square, triangle, oval – may be nurtured in the home.

GETTING READY TO READ AND WRITE . . .

One of the aims of kindergarten is to develop and strengthen abilities needed as foundations for success in reading and writing. All children learn to do these things at different rates just as is observed in their learning to walk and talk. Readiness for reading and writing is often started at home. Families that provide their children with a "print rich" home help their children on this exciting journey of literacy.

Parents that read with children frequently provide a valuable background for reading and its importance. Reading to children enlarges their vocabulary, stimulates their imagination, and broadens their understanding. The same holds true for writing. Parents that provide their children with writing opportunities provide a rich start for the importance of writing in everyone's life. By having children copy printed materials, writing favorite names and words, and writing notes to family and friends, parents nurture the idea that writing is a fun and important lifelong skill.

GETTING READY TO PRINT . . .

We use the manuscript form of lettering which makes the transfer to cursive writing easier. An important point to remember is that all lines start at the top and go down...another is that **only the first letter of a child's name is capitalized**. If you choose to have your child experience printing, constant encouragement is important in learning correctness in letter formation and how to hold a pencil.

HEALTH CHECKS . . .

GOOD HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

School is a short time away for your four or five year old. Please use the handy checklist!

1. Has your doctor examined your child?
Without good health, learning is difficult.
2. Have you recorded your child's immunizations on the form provided?
State law requires these immunizations for entrance into kindergarten: DTP (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis or Whooping Cough), Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (Chickenpox). The form must be on file before admittance into kindergarten.
3. Has your dentist checked your child's teeth?
Medical and dental examinations are required. An examination during the early summer allows time for correction of health problems before school opens in the fall. Please send all forms to your school before the kindergarten entrance date.
4. Ever pupil entering kindergarten is required to provide evidence of an eye examination by a physician or optometrist by December 31, following their entrance into kindergarten. Forms are available at your school.

Health Habits . . .

Each child needs:

1. Sufficient rest and sleep.
A five-year-old child needs an average of eleven hours of sleep according to child authorities.
2. Optimum nourishment.
3. Opportunity for vigorous activity outside the school day.
4. Each child is expected to use basic health habits, e.g.:
Good grooming Using tissue for covering mouth
Washing hands when coughing or sneezing

HEALTH RULES . . .

When your child is absent, phone the school by 9:00 a.m. When your child returns to school from an absence, a note must accompany the child stating the nature of the illness and the name of the physician if in attendance.

When a communicable disease is suspected, keep your child at home and notify the school.

Every effort is made to prevent accidents. However, in cases of emergency the procedure is as follows:

1. First aid is given as soon as possible.
2. The home is contacted for accidents involving the head or accidents which are of a serious nature.
3. If there is no response at home, the person designated by you will be contacted. A parent will be contacted at place of business if other methods fail.

It is the responsibility of the parent to keep the school informed of any change of home or emergency telephone numbers, and name of family physician.

Final Reminders

REMINDERS FOR THE FIRST DAY

Help your child by:

1. Fostering a positive attitude toward school.
2. Returning the completed physical, dental, and immunization forms before school starts.
3. Encouraging sufficient sleep.
4. Providing wholesome foods for young children.
5. Dressing with appropriate and comfortable clothing.
6. Pinning name tag giving first and last name, address, telephone number, and bus number to and from school (if applicable), securely to outer clothing.
7. Labeling all possessions clearly.
8. Discussing safety precautions.
9. Developing the habits of punctuality and regularity of attendance.

HOW . . .

HOW WE REPORT SCHOOL PROGRESS

We believe that the individual parent-teacher conference is an excellent way to report a child's progress in school.

The main object of a conference is for parent and teacher to achieve a better understanding of the child's needs, interests, and abilities, and to make plans to promote greater growth and development.

During a conference, you and the teacher will discuss your child's adjustment to school, problems and progress. You will see your child's classroom, daily work, and hear about present and future activities. This is the time to plan to ask questions, to exchange helpful ideas and information, and to establish ways that home and school can work together with your child.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if any questions arise before the scheduled conference.

A written progress report will be sent home with your child at the end of each semester.

Special Services...

SPECIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

Some students may need special services for support in the regular education classroom. Those needs can be met by utilizing the services of the guidance counselor, school social worker, and/or school psychologist. Special education programs are available to students who meet eligibility criteria.

