

~ ABCs of Kindergarten~

~A~

Absences and Tardies

If your child is going to be absent, please contact the office at 563-263-3264. If your child is tardy, he or she must check in at the office before coming to class.

Attendance

A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key.

~B~

Backpacks

Please send your child to school with his/her backpack every day. It must be large enough to hold a 2-pocket folder.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. We will celebrate on your child's snack day. Please no cakes, candles, or balloons.

Book Orders

Every month I will send home a Scholastic Book Club catalog for you and your child to look over. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices— what a great way to build your home library. If you choose to order, please make the check payable to BHCS (Bishop Hayes Catholic School).

~C~

Calendars

Each month you will receive a snack calendar for our class. Please note your child's day to bring nutritious snacks for the class. You will be notified of any allergies. Any special classroom happenings will also be noted on this calendar. You will also receive a school menu calendar each month.

Communication

It is extremely important that you and I maintain ongoing communication to ensure the success of your child's kindergarten experience.

Cooking

Most weeks, we will have a cooking experience as part of our curriculum. Donations of food supplies will be appreciated.

Curriculum

The Kindergarten curriculum includes the following series:

Handwriting- Zaner-Bloser, Math- Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley, Reading- McGraw Hill, Religion- Sadlier, Science- Scott Foresman, Social Studies- Harcourt, Brace.

~D~

Discipline

Our class is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior, to treat others as Jesus would want us to.

~E~

Every child is expected to do their personal best.

~F~

Flip Flops

Our school day is full of activity. Because of safety issues, students will not be permitted to wear flip-flops to school. These can be hazardous when climbing on playground equipment or playing a game in gym class. Please dress your child in sturdy shoes each day.

~G~

Get ready for a GREAT year!

~H~

Hands-on Learning

The best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Help at Home

Before school begins in August, help your child know the following: Full name, Address, Telephone number, Parents' names, Basic colors, Counting 1-10, Printing first name beginning with a capital letter and the rest in lower case. When time permits, work on these skills also: Reciting the alphabet, Shape names, Birthday (month & date), Identifying numbers to 10, Identifying letter names, Tying shoes. Your help makes a difference!

Home and School

As parents of a Bishop Hayes student, you are automatically a member of the parent-teacher organization, Home and School. Please watch for information on meeting times and get involved.

~I~

Illness

Although I strongly encourage your child to be at school every day, there are times when he/she may be ill with a fever, bad cough, or vomiting. If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him or her at home. Call the office to report the absence.

~J~

Journals

One strategy that will be used to help convey the vital concept that "print conveys meaning" is the frequent use of journal writing. In these journals the kindergartners combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. As the children are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will move from drawings and "inventive" spellings towards more conventional writing.

~K~

Kindness

Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

~L~

Literacy Centers

During literacy centers, children practice reading and writing skills while the teacher works with individual children or small guided reading groups. The center activities are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation.



Monkeys

Our "monkey" theme this year will bring lots of fun activities!

Math

The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude toward mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We use a hands-on, problem solving approach.



Newsletter

Check your child's Thursday folder for our classroom newsletter to keep you updated on activities, upcoming events, and other important information. The newsletters will also be available on my Kindergarten website which is linked to the Bishop Hayes website, www.bishophayescatholicsschool.com.



Open Door

Please feel free to contact me by phone, email, or note to schedule a time to meet if you have any questions or concerns.

O What a Beautiful Morning...

We want a positive start to each Kindergarten day. Help us by saying goodbye to your child in the school lobby or in the gym. Let your child know they are going to have a great day at school. Please do not follow your child or the class to the classroom in the morning.



Parent Involvement

Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. We are happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom. I will try to let you know at least a week ahead of time if I need help. Requests for help will be published in notes home to you. I hope you can come and join in the fun!



Questions

At some time during the year, I'm sure you may have unanswered questions. Please feel free to call me at school (563-263-3264), email, or you may send a note in your child's folder, and I will send you a response.



Recess

The children will play outdoors each day (unless the weather is bad). Please keep this in mind when helping your child to select clothing and jackets for the day. If your child is too sick to play outside, he/she is too sick to come to school.

Religion

Religion is an important part of our day, not only through the printed curriculum but as we incorporate God into all we do. Our overall theme for the year is "Kindergartner APE (Always Praying Everywhere)."



Science

The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses, general health, and the four seasons.

Sharing Circle

We will have a sharing time every day to encourage oral language development and to practice good listening skills. Watch in the fall for your child's assigned time.

Social Studies

The kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Holiday celebrations will also be highlighted. Activities will help the children engage their natural curiosity for the world around them.

Supplies

A supply list will be available at registration in July. You will receive a note if supplies need to be replenished during the school year.

~T~

Teamwork

Educating a child is best accomplished by parent and teacher teamwork. By working together, we can give your child the best possible start in school. Be sure to keep me posted on any changes or happenings in your child's life that could be affecting schoolwork or behavior.

Themes

Many of our classroom activities are planned around literature and themes (The Kissing Hand, Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom, apples, post office, weather, etc). Instruction of reading and various language experiences, phonics, math, writing, science, and social studies are integrated in the themes.

Toys

Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings will be hurt.

~U~

Unique

Kindergartners learn that they are special and unique. They have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others. They will share their culture and learn about different cultures within the class.

~V~

Visitors

Bishop Hayes has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office and wear a visitor badge. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

~W~

Website

You may access our school website at www.bishophayescatholicsschool.com. Once at our school website, you can access our class by clicking Classroom Websites, then click on Kindergarten.

Wish List

Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials (such as coffee cans and extra dry erase markers, wiggle eyes, cotton balls, etc.) These needs will be posted in notes home. Extra items that you think we might be able to use are also welcome. Check with me first.

Writing

Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is important to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.

~X~

X-citing, X-cellent

With your help, this will be an exciting and excellent year!

~Y~

Year One

Kindergarten is one of the most important years in your child's life. I will do my best to make Kindergarten a year of fun, friends, memories, and learning.

~Z~

Zzzzs

Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day.