

The ABCs of Kindergarten at MAES

A-Attendance

Unless your child is ill, please make every attempt to have your child present at school and on time.

Our day begins at 7:55am and the dismissal time is 2:45pm. Students that arrive late are a disruption and waste valuable instruction time for the rest of the class. If your child is going to be out, please provide a written note on the first day that your child returns to school. Please include date, duration and specific reason for absence.

B-Behavior

RODEO (School-wide Positive Behavior Initiative)

Respect Others

Organized and ready

Demonstrate a positive attitude

Engaged

Own your own actions

Every student is expected to follow school and classroom rules. From now to Halloween, more reminders and chances to change behavior will be given before conduct marks are recorded. After Halloween, we expect them to know rules and procedures well enough to follow them without repeated reminders. There will be consequences for students that CHOOSE to continue to break the rules (time outs from recess, silent lunch, lunch detention in office, PE detention in office, recess detention in office, parent contact or in extreme cases a visit to the principal's or assistant principal's office, etc.).

At Margaret Elementary, the administration has determined that deliberate physical contact will not be tolerated. If your student chooses to intentionally hurt another student, the teacher will call the office for the child's removal from the classroom. This will result in parent contact from an administrator and punishment as determined by the administrator. Your child will receive an automatic red on their conduct sheet for the day.

The following chart shows the amount of conduct marks per week that result in an office referral based on the 9-week period.

9 weeks	# of conduct marks per week resulting in an office referral
1 st	6 or more
2 nd	5 or more
3 rd	4 or more
4 th	3 or more

C-Curriculum

ELA Students in kindergarten through second grade are reading and responding to both literature of high quality and informational text. The foundations of reading are laid in print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency. Through extensive reading of stories, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements. By reading texts in social studies, science, and other disciplines, students build a foundation of knowledge in these fields that will also give them the background to be better readers in all content areas.

Math In kindergarten, instructional time should focus on two critical areas. These areas are:

- (1) representing, relating, and operating on whole numbers, initially with sets of objects; and
- (2) describing shapes and space. More learning time in kindergarten should be focused on number rather than other topics.

Science The kindergarten curriculum incorporates developmentally appropriate content, process and application skills, and technology. Content includes concepts such as relating a variety of sounds to their sources; describing seasonal changes in weather; and comparing the size, shape, structure, and basic needs of living things. Students also classify objects using the five senses and use process skills to construct knowledge of their surroundings. Student application of technology includes the use of tools such as hand lenses, computers, different types of media, and the investigation of various scientific concepts. The utilization of process skills to engage learners, explore new ideas, explain findings, extend understanding, and evaluate one's own learning during inquiry-based investigations provides kindergarten students with the necessary foundation for scientific literacy.

Social Studies Kindergarten students are introduced to the world beyond family and home. As students become acquainted with new classmates, they develop sensitivity to the similarities and differences among individuals in the classroom as well as within the school and community. Comparing family traditions enables students to accept and appreciate diversity and gain a sense of purpose regarding their role and the role of others within the community.

Examples for instruction may include assisting in determining classroom rules, taking turns while playing games, and standing while pledging allegiance to the flag. As students gain insight into these and other concepts, they are able to view themselves as effective citizens of a culturally diverse democratic society.

D-Differentiated Instruction

In order to provide the best possible instruction to each child...

Not all children will be on the same page, in the same book, at the same time. Please let us know if you feel your child is really struggling or if he/she is not being challenged.

E-Enrichment

Art

Ms. Watkins will meet with each class once a week for 35 minutes.

Library

Ms. Mikel will meet with each class once a month for 35 minutes.

Counseling

Ms. Beal will meet with each class once a month for 35 minutes.

F- Field Trips

We will have 2 field trips this year.

Our goal is to provide students with “real life” connections to our curriculum.

We have currently planned to go to Bennett Farms and The Birmingham Zoo.

G- Grades

In Kindergarten, typical grades (A, B, C, D, F) are not given.

Ongoing assessments take place so that the teacher can pinpoint areas in need of improvement.

A Progress Report or Report Card will come home every 4 ½ weeks.

From time to time you will see a graded math test or sight word test in their Take Home Folder.

H-Homework

Every week students are expected to complete phonics and handwriting practice in their agenda and on the weekly homework sheet. You should also read nightly and practice sight words, as well. The first homework given will be on our listening and speaking standards.

Your child's teacher will send home a decodable book later on, as well. This may start around October.

I-Illness

Children should not be sent to school if they have thrown up within the last 24 hours or have had a fever within the last 24 hours.

It is important that we all work together to keep our entire class healthy this year.

All medicine must be brought to Nurse Lisa in the original container by a parent or guardian with a completed form and checked in with the office/Nurse.

DO NOT SEND MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD!

Excuses must be sent within three days of returning to school to be excused.

J--Just Right Books

Studies have shown that those children whose parents are actively involved in the reading process will become the best readers.

Reading to your child and listening to them read to you, taking them to the library and providing quality just right books at home is of the highest importance.

K—Keeping Informed

There are many ways to stay informed!

Remind texts

Emails

Newsletters

Class Websites

School Website

School Facebook Page

L-Lunch

Lunch is \$2.50 and breakfast is \$1.25 for children. Lunch is \$4.00 for guests. We welcome you to eat lunch with your child. Please sign in at the office before meeting us at the lunchroom.

State policy states that no Fast Food wrappers or containers will be allowed in the lunch area. If you come for lunch and bring food, please put it in another container.

Banks, Crowe- Lunch 12:10-12:35

Palmer, Lee, Walker- Lunch 12:15-12:40

M-Money

Any money sent to school must be in an envelope with your child's name, teacher's name, the purpose and amount.

Classroom donation \$40

Agenda books \$5

N--Notes

Please send a note with your child if:

- you know your child will be missing school for an extended period of time.
- a change in afternoon transportation such as bus, car or afterschool care occurs.
- you would like to schedule a conference or have concerns.
- your child has been absent and you have not yet notified the office about the absence.

Watch for notes from the office and from your child's teacher.

Check the Take Home Folder nightly! This will be our primary way to communicate.

NEWSLETTERS WILL COME HOME EVERY FRIDAY UNLESS WE ARE OUT OF SCHOOL. If we are out of school on a Friday, then it will come home on the day we return.

O—Other Items

Parties

No food, beverages, or balloons (cupcakes/cakes, etc.) for individual student birthday parties will be permitted during the instructional day as it interferes with the school learning environment and causes hurt feelings when all students do not have the opportunity to celebrate at school.

Distributing party invitations at school for a home party will also not be permitted.

P—Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mandatory Parent/Teacher conferences will be held this fall (in October)
More will be held in the spring, as well.

During these conference, we will be discussing your child's strengths and weaknesses, homework, behavior and any additional concerns you may have. A sign up schedule will be sent home.

Q--Quiet Time

We will rest for 30 minutes each day.

The children must lie down during rest time, but they do not have to go to sleep. Please do not send blankets or stuffed animals.

Later in the year, we will allow quiet reading during rest time.

R—Report Card

Report cards will be distributed at the end of each nine weeks.

Progress reports will be distributed half way through each nine weeks.

S--Snack/Special Snack

We will have a short snack time every day. PLEASE SEND A LIGHT SNACK AND WATER WITH YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

We beg of you to put their snack in a different container other than a lunchbox. You could use a small paper bag. Young students often get confused over what is snack and what is lunch.

At times, we may give the class a special snack for a reward or we will make a snack to go along with something we are learning. If your child is allergic to any foods, please let me know.

T--Toys

Please note that toys should not be brought to school.

Toys will be taken up and returned at a later time.

We will send a note if we have a Show and Tell Day or Special Reward where students are allowed to bring certain toys.

U--Using the Library

Ms. Mikel is our librarian.

Students will be allowed to check out a book from our school library. However, Kindergarten students will not check out books at the very beginning of the school year just yet. They need a little more time to adjust to all of the new rules and procedures than older students.

Please make sure your child's books are kept safe. The students learn that the books **LIVE IN THEIR BACKPACK**.

Damaged or lost books will result in payment for the book to the librarian.

V—Volunteers and Visitors

If you have time or talents to share with us, please make sure your teacher knows.

Our school policy requires all visitors/volunteers to check in at the school office. Visitor Badges are required if you will be in the school hallways or entering a classroom.

If you would like to visit the classroom please schedule this with your child's teacher so as to not interfere with assessments and other planned, important activities.

W--Wear Proper Clothes

Tennis shoes **MUST** be worn to school daily.

If your child does not have on tennis shoes, he or she will not be allowed to participate in PE or recess.

Please help your child by practicing shoe tying at home. If your child is not yet tying their own shoes, please double-knot their laces in the morning or invest in a pair of shoes fastened with Velcro.

X--Extra Set of Clothes

It is important to keep an extra set of clothing (shirt, pants and undergarments) in a Ziploc bag in your child's backpack at all times.

We use the restroom often, but accidents can happen. We would hate for them to have to sit in the nurse's office waiting for a change of clothes.

Spills also occur at lunch requiring a dry set of clothes.

It is also possible that another child could throw up and it get on your child's clothing.

PLEASE make sure an extra set of clothing is always available.

Y--You

You are your child's first and most important teacher.

We hope that we can work together this year to make your child's kindergarten year a great one!

You are indeed your child's most important teacher. Encourage their education by working with them at home. Ask them questions daily!

We value you and look forward to working with each of you this year.

Z-Zzzzzzzzz

Please make sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night, so that he/she is well rested and ready for the challenges of kindergarten.

This year will ZOOM by, so let's make the most of it.