

Mrs. Kohlman's Kindergarten

News & Notes

Dear Kindergarten Families-

We're off to a great start!

The first days of school were filled with a lot of firsts...the first school lunch, the first drama class, the first recess with new friends, and the first time your child was officially called a "Kindergartner"!

Next week we will be learning about more classroom routines, learning about how to use many different classroom tools, including crayons, scissors & glue, and we will review colors!

Thanks for taking the time to come in for Kindergarten Intake Conferences.

If any of your family information (telephone, address, bus number or bus stop) changes over the course of the year, please call the school to let us know so that we can update your child's information. THANK YOU!

Please have your child wear his/her bus necklace every day for the next couple of weeks. It is very important that your child's bus driver have this information easily available during the bus ride home. Thank you!

Every once in awhile a child spills juice or milk or lunch on him/herself...or has trouble getting to the bathroom on time to avoid an "accident"...or gets extra wet out on the playground. For all of these reasons, I would strongly encourage you to have an extra shirt, pair of pants, underwear and socks available to your child every day. She/he can keep these items in his/her cubby so they are handy every day, or s/he can keep them in his/her backpack. If your child needs a change of clothes and does not have any in his/her bag, I will have new underwear and clean sweatpants available for him/her to use. However, I have found that children are much more comfortable wearing clothes that are familiar to them!

If your child does need to use some of our "Kindergarten clothes", please return them the next day so I can wash them and have them

ready for the next child that may need them (you can keep the socks and underwear!) If you have any sweatpants that your child has outgrown I'd be happy to add them to our borrow box!

Today I sent home our first "Great Behavior Awards"!

When your child has a week of great behavior s/he will bring home a "Great Behavior Award" on Friday.

If your child has had a difficult week following our school expectations I will send home a note explaining why s/he is not bringing home a "Great Behavior Award".

The note will have a place for you to sign, and I will look for it in your child's backpack on Monday morning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Global Arts Plus Expectations:
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

Today was also our first Gathering of Kindergarten. Gatherings happen every Friday, generally at 3:20. Please feel free to join us if you can!

Please turn to the back side for more information!

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HOMEWORK News

I will be sending homework assignments home with your child every night but Friday. The homework assignments are designed to help you to know both what your child is learning in school and how well she/he is meeting kindergarten expectations. I expect that all homework will require adult interaction.

Each homework assignment should take no more than 15 minutes and should be an opportunity for your child to "show off" what s/he knows. In other words, I fully expect that s/he will be able to be successful with the assignments that I send home, they should be fairly quick and I hope that they will be fun for you to do with your child. If your child struggles with any of the assignments, please let me know!

Monday we will begin our Homework Routine. Each day (Monday thru Thursday) your child will bring home his/her "Family Folder". The homework assignment for that day will be in the folder and should be returned to school in the folder the following day. Since I do not assign homework over the weekend, folders will not be sent home on Friday. If you send a note for me, or if you are sending lunch money to school, please place it inside of the folder. I check each child's folder every day, and if it is in the folder I will be sure to see it.

We are continuing with our color study next week:

Monday: Please help your child find something YELLOW to wear to school for YELLOW Day!

For more information about our school be sure to visit our website:

<https://www.spps.org/globalartsplus>

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to let you know a little more about myself.

I was born in Mankato, Minnesota and spent most of my growing up years in Richfield.

I graduated from Minnehaha Academy in 1982 and went on to Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois for my college education. While at Wheaton I earned bachelor's degrees in Psychology and in Elementary Education. In 1986, I returned to Minnesota and began teaching first grade in St. Paul at Roosevelt Elementary on St. Paul's West Side. While at Roosevelt I began my Master's Program in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota.

In 1995, I decided to apply to teach at Linwood A+ School and was thrilled when I learned that I had been accepted to teach in this brand new arts-infused program. Also in 1995, I met the man who would become my husband...we were on the dance floor, taking ballroom dance lessons at the old Dancer's Studio on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. That dancer, Max, and I currently live in Eagan, and are looking forward to celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary in October.

In 1997, I received my Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Minnesota.

And now, in 2019, I am beginning another exciting year with the wonderful students and staff at the newly named Global Arts Plus School.

This is my 34th year as a classroom teacher of young children, (900+ so far!) and I can honestly say that I am thrilled to be a part of my chosen profession. There is nothing quite as rewarding as helping a child learn to read, learn how numbers work, or learn how to get along with other children. It is a privilege to work with your child, and I appreciate the trust that you show our staff by placing your child in our care every day. Thank you.

I am looking forward to a great year!

-K Dawn Kohlman-Shemesh