

ABC's of Kindergarten

A

Absences-If your child is ill, please call the office (402-293-4560) and inform us of your child's absence and the reason for it. This is for your child's safety. If a student must leave early for a doctor's appointment, go to the office to sign him out and the secretary will call him to the office. The district requires a written note explaining the absence when she/he returns to school.

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. Please view school as a priority and children should be encouraged to attend every day except in cases of illness or emergency.

Arrival and Dismissal-Pupils should arrive between 7:55 and 8:00 AM. Students should not arrive prior to 7:55 AM (there is no supervision before this time!) No child or parent should be in the building before this time. School begins promptly at 8:00 AM and afternoon dismissal is at 3:10 PM. Please pick up your child promptly. If you are late, look for your child in the office.

You are encouraged to drop off your child at the front door entrance. Parents are able to walk up with their child for the first couple of days. After the students have a few days of walking up to the room, I would like to encourage parent to let the students walk up by themselves. When picking up your child, please let them or me know where you will be picking them up.

B

Backpacks-To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack. Please have your child remove the notes and papers from the backpack with you daily so that they can share in their accomplishments from school and so you stay informed! Backpacks should be big enough to carry a folder and a jacket for wintertime.

Birthdays-Birthdays are special occasions for young children. We will do special, in class, celebrations for each child on her/his birthday. The district does not allow children to bring birthday treats to school.

Book Orders-I will try to send home a book order once a month 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! Of course, you are never under any obligation to order. If you choose to order, please make the check payable to Scholastic Books. By ordering books for your family, you are also helping to build our classroom library! THANK YOU!

Breakfast-A school breakfast is served every morning from 7:35-7:55 AM. The students may charge their breakfast to their lunch accounts. The breakfast menu generally consists of cereal or muffins with juice and milk. Students who want to eat breakfast should enter school from the front doors, by the gym. Once they are finished with breakfast, they can wait with the rest of the kindergartners.



Calendar-A calendar of events and the monthly school breakfast/lunch menus are available on our classroom website. I will also try to publish upcoming events in our class newsletter. A calendar listing events specific to our class can be found on our class website: <http://kinderspot.weebly.com/>

Computer-We use a variety of age-appropriate programs that reinforce math, readiness and reading skills. Children will work on the computers every once every eight days in the computer lab.

Conferences-Parent/Teacher conferences are held after school (usually from 3:45-7:45 PM) twice a year. Conferences are held in October and March. The school will send home notes to let you know when your conference is scheduled. We will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises.



Discipline-Our classroom 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 establish good order and help the children learn self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their peers through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and responsible actions.

We will talk about what rules means and what we need to do to follow the classroom/school rules. Students who have troubles following the rules will have natural consequences for their behavior. I would like to establish a relationship with you so that I can call and let you know what your child is doing. I think that it is your right to know when your child has a few bad days.

E

E-mail-You can contact me via my email address: jodi.evans@bpsne.net I will check my email on a daily basis. If you need to discuss something urgently, please call me at school instead or send a note with your child.

Emergency Information Paper-Please complete and return the emergency paper promptly (if you did not complete it during registration). **If your home or work phone number changes, or your contact numbers change, PLEASE inform the office as soon as possible so you can be located quickly if an emergency occurs.**

Emergency Closings-If schools are closed for a snow day or any emergency you can check our classroom website for that information. Local radio stations or the local TV stations (Channels 9, 8 and 5) will make an announcement, generally by 7:00 A.M.

F

Field Trips-We plan several field trips that are both fun and educational for the children. Parent drivers are not permitted, so buses will have to be used for transportation. We often need parent volunteers on the trips and chaperones will be chosen on a *first come, first serve* basis. Please return permission slips as soon as possible after they are sent home.

Fire Drills-Fire drills are held on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill. Sometimes these drills cause anxiety for kids, so we spend a lot of time talking about why we do fire drills. We learn that we do them so that we are safe in case there is a real fire.

Friday Folder-Every Friday your child will bring home a Friday folder. This folder will have important school papers and notes from me. Please check your child's folder, initial it and return it with your child on Monday. Make sure backpacks are checked nightly for notes that may come home during the week.

G

Gym-Our class will have gym classes every other day for 25 minutes. The children are asked to wear sneakers on gym days and girls might consider wearing pants or having a pair of shorts to slip on under their dress. Our Gym teacher will be Mr. Brodersen.

Guidance-Our class will be participating in guidance class once every 16 days. Guidance class focuses on Character Counts education and the basic premises of “getting along.” Mrs. Hansen will be our guidance counselor.



Hands-on Learning-I feel that 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 seat work is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Health-Please let me know of any special circumstances which may affect your child. These could include medication that may make him/her sleepy, a death in the family, etc. Also, please let me know of any allergies your child may have, especially food allergies.

Help at Home-I know that your nights are very busy, however it would be very beneficial for your child to have the following skills mastered early on in the year:

**Full name	**Address	**Telephone number
**Parents' names	**Basic colors	**Counting to 10
**Printing first name		

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 extra help at home really makes a difference!



Illness-The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. Please remember that your child may not come to school with a temperature. Children may not come back to school until he/she has been fever free, without medications, for 24 hours.

Independent Reading-Because children learn to read by reading, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving the children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.



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.



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.



Library-The children go to the library three days within the eight day cycle. In the library, Mrs. Potts will encourage them to love reading while sharing stories. The children will have a chance to select a book to borrow for a week.

Lunch-Children may bring a packed lunch from home or eat a school lunch. The lunch menu comes home at the beginning of the month and can be found on our classroom website. The students are also required to know their lunch number, this is something we will work VERY hard on during the first week of school.

Lunch Money-Your child needs to have a positive lunch account. If you need to send money to school, please send it in an envelope with your child's name written clearly on the front. Have your child give their money to me when they get to school. You can also drop the money by the office. You will get a lunch note sent home, when your child's account is getting low on funds.



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

Music-Our music teacher, Mrs. Hambeck, will be teaching the children the basics of music education and will be sharing many wonderful songs! We are scheduled to have music every other day for 25 minutes. Of course, we will be singing and enjoying music daily in the classroom.



Newsletter- A class newsletter will be sent home every Friday, the newsletter will contain information that you and your Kindergartener will need to know and share. Reminders, family activities, calendar events, etc. will be provided for you in the newsletter. The newsletter will also be posted on our classroom website.

Nurse-We have a health para, Mrs. Lostaglia. She will tend to minor scratches and scrapes, as well as sudden illnesses. For more serious injuries, she will contact you.

Please be sure to send in any change of contact numbers in case she needs to get in touch with you. We will be screening your child's height, weight, vision, hearing, and teeth at the beginning of the year.



Oh, Wow!!!!-You will be constantly amazed at the changes your child will be making this year. We will be learning and growing DAILY! Kindergarten is the best year of your child's learning career. It is the year all of their learning beliefs are set in stone. Please help me in making this a very fun, beneficial, exciting, and positive year!



Parent Involvement-Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! We are always happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom and school functions. I hope that you can come and join in the fun!

Parent Teacher Organization-Bertha Barber school is very lucky to have such a wonderful PTA. The PTA has done some outstanding things for our school. PTA is always looking for volunteers to help with school functions. Please volunteer some time to help our school out!

Parent/Teacher Relationship-I believe a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through notes, telephone calls, e-mails, newsletters, our class website and parent-teacher conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Parties & Celebrations-There are three main parties each year---which will be decided between myself and the room parent. The room parent will organize these events and coordinate volunteers and donations. All are welcome to participate in the festivities! We will celebrate all of the holidays, but some will be done as classroom parties.

Playground Procedures-Please review these playground safety procedures with your child:

1. Slides are for going down, not up
2. No rough play. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
3. Do not leave the playground.
4. Rocks and woodchips stay on the ground



Questions-Since so many of you are new to Berth Barber this year, I'm sure that you may still have some unanswered questions. Please feel free to call me at school 402-293-4560(between 7:30-8:50 a.m. or between 3:15-4:00p.m.). Or you can always write a note or email me at: jodi.evans@bpsne.net



Recess- The class will be going out for recess everyday unless it is raining or extremely cold, below 20 degrees including wind chill factor. Please keep this in mind when helping your child to select clothing for the day. For the most part, if your child is well enough to be at school she/he is well enough to participate in outdoor recess, if properly dressed. In the winter, students are allowed to bring their snow gear. We ask that they bring extra shoes and socks to change into.

Report Cards-Report cards are issued every nine weeks. These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. Please remember that as the year progresses so do my expectations.

Restrooms-We have a bathroom in the classroom, using it frequently takes away valuable learning time. Your child will be permitted to go as needed, but there will be bathroom breaks throughout the day. Please talk to your child about basic bathroom rules.

Room Parent-The room parents' job is to be available to help coordinate parties and activities. Being a room parent is a great way to be involved in your child's school life. Room parent's work closely with our school's PTA.



School Rules-Our school has three rules that are followed school wide. They are:

- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful

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 objects in the sky and plants, the five senses and general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Shared Reading-Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-readings, children read more and more of the text, until they are able to read the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

Snack-Snack time is optional. We will have snack every morning. A healthy snack would be best (no candy)! Please send dry goods, as liquids may spill and stain our rug.

Social Studies-The kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Activities will help the children focus their natural curiosity for the world around them.



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. Books are okay to bring in, but please make sure that they are clearly marked with your child's name

Tardies-Your child is expected to be in the classroom by 8:00. We do keep track of your child's tardies, so it is VERY important that your child is at school on time!

Transportation-If you plan to change how your child goes home at the end of the day you must send a written note or call the office when changes are necessary during the day. Do not rely on your child to tell me this information, because children often become confused and relay messages incorrectly. If no written note or call to the office is received, your child will be sent home by her/his usual method of transportation.

Treat Cart-Each month, the student are able to purchase treats. Notices will come home the night before to remind you and your child what can be bought and the amount of money that will need to be brought. It's up to you as a parent, to choose if you would like them to purchase a treat.



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



Visitors-Bertha Barber has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office. Bertha Barber welcomes and encourages family involvement. 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. Please also take into account that visits should be kept short, so the learning atmosphere is not interrupted.



Webpage-Our class has a website which can be accessed at <http://kinderspot.weebly.com/>. Check in regularly to find information about curriculum, special events and school news. I will be featuring photos of our weekly activities--it's the next best thing to being in our classroom each day! Please promptly return the web permission form, which permits me to include your child's photo and first name on our website.

Writing-Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. 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 paramount 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.

Water Bottles-Students need to perform at their best. In order for their little brains to be working they need water! I would like to suggest that each student bring their own water bottle to school each day. I will provide their first water bottle. The water bottle will come home on Fridays and will need to be brought back to school on Monday.



X-cellent year-This will be an excellent year for your child. Kindergarten is full of many firsts in your child's life. I am so excited that I will get to share those with you and your family. Please remember to let me know if there is ever anything that I can do to help you out!



Younger Siblings-It is in your child's and the program's best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.



Zzzzs-Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. A kindergarten room is a busy place and you will probably find your child exhausted at the end of the day. 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!