

# Dear Kindergarten Families,



We know this is not how you imagined your child's Kindergarten year to begin. We understand that this may be a very stressful time for your family, and we assure you that we are your partners and are committed to creating a great Kindergarten experience for your child.

## First Day of School

Thursday, August 27th is the first day of school. We will begin with a Zoom meeting at 8:00 that morning. We highly recommend making sure one parent or guardian (not a babysitter) is available to be with your child(ren) all day on both August 27th and 28th to support them in their first days of school. Your child(ren) will need support during their first few Zoom meeting(s) and to submit assignments to the teacher in the ClassDojo app. Visit our website for information on how to connect to ClassDojo and Zoom:

<https://sites.google.com/lmsvsd.net/mrsbrocksk>

You can also use the camera on your smartphone scan this QR code and go directly to our website!



## Supplies

Our generous PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) and the school will be providing many supplies. However, there are some additional supplies your child will need at home. If you are able to provide these supplies, we would greatly appreciate it. Your child's teacher will check in with you to see if you will need the school to provide any of these.

- ☐ 1 pair of scissors (rounded tip)
- ☐ 1 box of colored pencils
- ☐ 1 glue stick
- ☐ 1 container of play dough
- ☐ 2 dice (with dots 1-6)
- ☐ 1 pair of headphones with a microphone (optional)

## Technology

Devices for Distance Learning will be available for check-out on August 25th and August 26th in front of Sweetwater Springs. **Please check out an iPad** for your Kindergarten student, even if there is a computer or tablet at home so that we can better serve you. Other supplies will be distributed at this time as well.

### Device Distribution

Pre-K - Grade 2: Tuesday, August 25th (iPads)

10:00am - 2:00pm and 5:00pm-6:00pm

Grades 3-6: Wednesday, August 26th (Chromebooks)

10:00am - 2:00pm and 5:00pm-6:00pm

## Communication with the School

To ensure that you receive important information from the school, be sure that your contact information is up to date. Until you have heard from your child's teacher, please direct your questions to the school office at (619) 668-5895.



### **Communication with the Teacher: ClassDojo**

All Sweetwater Springs teachers in Grades K-2 will be using ClassDojo to communicate with our students' families. Please download the ClassDojo app on your smartphones and/or tablets and be on the lookout for an email from ClassDojo inviting you to join your child's class.

## Virtual Instruction: Zoom

A portion of your child's learning activities will be conducted via Zoom with your child's teacher and classmates. In grades K-2, your child's teacher will use ClassDojo to send you the link, Meeting ID, and password you will need to join Zoom meetings.

Please download the Zoom app on your smartphones, tablets, and computers.  
See our website for support with this.



## **Setting Up a Workspace**

It will be important for your child to have a work station set up in a quiet area with a work surface and a chair where they can sit comfortably for at least 30 minutes if necessary. Sometimes your child will complete work during a meeting, so it is important to have some workspace for writing, coloring, cutting, and gluing. We will also include movement and exercise in our meetings, so your child will need some space near their work area where they can get up and move.

While your child's microphone will sometimes be muted to ensure that everyone can hear, there will also be times when students will be expected to speak, and we will need to be able to hear your child. For this reason, it is necessary that your child has a quiet space and/or headphones with a microphone. During Zoom meetings, students are expected to wear clothing and remain seated and focused.

## **Multiple Students in the Home**

If you have more than one school-aged child, they are likely to be on Zoom meetings at the same time for at least part of the day. For this reason, it will be important that each child has a workspace. If they are in the same room, it will be necessary to use headphones or earbuds with a microphone so that all children can hear their teachers and classmates and also be able to speak and participate.

## **Morning Routine**

Before beginning a Zoom meeting or school work, it is important to have a routine to "get ready for school." This will help ensure that your child is awake and mentally and physically ready to engage meaningfully in learning. We recommend you start easing into aspects of this morning routine now to ease your child's transition to the first day of school. It will be very helpful for your child to know in advance what they will be expected to do to get ready in the morning. Here are some suggestions:

- wake up with enough time to have a relaxed morning
- eat breakfast
- shower or wash face
- brush teeth and hair
- use the restroom
- change clothes



- sit in designated learning area with school supplies

## Fine Motor Skills

In the beginning of the school year, the children will be working on several fine motor skills that will require your support to make sure that they are practicing correctly. When it comes to fine motor, parents and guardians are our co-teachers. Please ensure that your child is using (or working towards) proper technique for the following skills.

- Pencil grip
- Writing letters correctly
- Writing name (1 capital, the rest lowercase)
- Cutting with scissors



When school starts, we will provide instruction and videos to support you. If your child has not been allowed to use scissors up until now, please begin teaching scissor safety (stay seated when holding scissors, point scissors away from the body, and cut only paper).

## When Will We Return to the Classroom?

We do not know at this time when we will be returning to the classroom. However, there are a few things we want you to be aware of when we do return to campus.

- ❖ **Shoes:** Be sure your child has at least one pair of **closed-toed shoes that do not have laces** (for example: Velcro or slip-on).
- ❖ **NO Backpacks:** Kindergarteners will **not** use backpacks.
- ❖ Wearing a mask will help protect all children and adults on our campus, as well as their family members. We recommend getting your child used to wearing a mask for longer and longer periods of time to prepare them for the return to the classroom.



## Bathroom Needs

When we return to the classroom, all Kindergarteners will need to be able to use the restroom independently. This includes taking their pants off, wiping, flushing, being able to button and/or zip pants, and washing hands. It will also be important that your child is getting into the habit of covering coughs and sneezes

with their elbow and is able to effectively blow and wipe their own nose. Distance learning gives us additional time to work on these skills at home.

### **A Note of Encouragement**

We know this is not how you imagined your child's Kindergarten year would begin, and we know this is not easy on your family. Remember, we are here for you and want to make this the best experience we possibly can for you and your child. We are absolutely committed to making Kindergarten a wonderful experience whether we are in the classroom or not. Children follow the lead of the adults around them, so let's make sure your child knows they are supported and that, while some things may be hard, they CAN do hard things. Together we can help your child grow and learn socially, physically, and academically during this time.

Sincerely,  
The Kindergarten Team of Sweetwater Springs

