

Harvest Elementary School

Kindergarten Information Packet

Mrs. Girbach- Room 112

Welcome to kindergarten at Harvest School. This will be an exciting year! Our curriculum offers developmentally appropriate experiences in language, math, fine and gross motor skills, social interaction and school readiness. Children will have a rich classroom experience that is augmented with “specials” classes including art, music, physical education, Spanish, and media.

Attendance

The students are welcome to come into the building at 8:36. School begins at 8:51 and ends at 3:44. Attendance is taken promptly at the beginning of your child’s school day. Children who are late should go to the office to check in before coming to the classroom.

Dismissal Changes

It is the policy of Harvest School that your child be dismissed according to your instructions on the transportation note you filled out the first day of school. Expected changes to dismissal should be written and sent to school with your child. If you have an unexpected change arise, please call the office at (734) 401-4500. The office personnel will get the message to me. For your child’s safety, it is important that we follow this procedure. If your child does not have a note, I will follow our school policy, which is to follow the usual routine.

Half-Days and Early Release Days

Half-day dismissal is 12:10. The following dates are half-days: November 28, November 29, March 14, March 15, June 14.

Early release day dismissal is 1:10. The following are early release dates: October 3, November 7, January 18, February 6, March 6, April 18.

Supplies

Occasionally, I may ask parents to sign-up to donate various items needed in class to supplement our curriculum.

Your child will need to bring a book bag/backpack to school **everyday**. Please make sure the bag is big enough to fit school-size paper and folders, yet not too big (please try to avoid bags with wheels). Please label your child’s bag so there won’t be any confusion if there are duplicate bags.

Your child will be given a BLUE take home folder with his/her name on it. The folder will travel back and forth to school everyday in your child's backpack. If you need to send a note to school, please put it in your child's folder. Students will become familiar with placing notes and things for me in a designated bin. Please remember to check the folder everyday when your child comes home to see if there is paperwork from me or from the office.

Snack

We will have snack every afternoon. Snack time is done as a whole group and children will need to bring their own healthy snack each day. When deciding on a daily snack, please keep in mind that snacks should be nutritious. Please do not send candy.

Your child can get water from our drinking fountain after snack and as needed during the day. It is helpful to send in a water bottle to school with your child daily, filled with **water** only, no juice or milk. Please make sure the water bottle has a sippy/straw top that can be opened and closed easily, this helps to prevent major spills which can ruin projects, books, etc. Please make sure you clearly label your child's drink with a permanent marker. This beverage should be **separate** from the drink in your child's lunchbox.

Lunch

Our lunch will be from 11:10-11:40 everyday. The lunch menu will be available on the school's website. Information on opening a lunch account for your child and making payments is also available online.

Birthdays

A child's birthday is a very special day to him/her. Even though treats and goodie bags cannot be sent to school because of our district's wellness policy, each child will be recognized on his/her birthday with a classroom celebration.

Please do not send birthday party invitations for an out-of-school party to school with your child. This causes hurt feelings if every child is not invited.

Special Class Schedule (schedule to come soon)

Children will attend special classes - physical education, music, art, media and Spanish. The schedule is one that rotates so children will not have a designated day for each class. Please refer to the Harvest website for the schedule every month.

It is important to keep track of the schedule. On physical education days children need to come prepared with proper footwear. The gym floor can be quite slippery so it would be helpful (and safe) for your child to wear gym shoes (no Crocs or flip flops) on those days.

Children will be checking out books from the Harvest media center. Books must be returned on specified media days. If books are not returned, children will not be allowed to check out a new one.

Extra Clothes

It is helpful for children to have an extra set of clothes at school. I have found that there are times when the children fall in mud, get wet in a puddle or spill paint on their clothing. For these reasons, and many others, it is necessary for children to have clothing into which they can change. Please have your child bring in a Ziploc bag with a pair of thin pants, T-shirt, socks, underwear, etc. The bag should be clearly labeled with your child's name. It will go home with your child at the end of the school year.

Parent Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome in the classroom and school! If you are interested in helping as a school volunteer, arrangements can be made through the PTA. If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, I will need a few parents to help with various responsibilities. This will begin in October. Please look for an online sign-up soon.

I will need a room parent who will be responsible for a few events throughout the school year. If you are interested in being the room parent, please contact me as soon as possible. Your help is always greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to this school year and to interacting with you and your child. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by sending a note with your child or emailing me at girbachk@salineschools.org. Communication between home and school is very important and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me. I am excited about the terrific year ahead and can't wait to get to know your child. Let's have a wonderful year together!

Sincerely,

Kristin Girbach
girbachk@salineschools.org