

# Welcome to Kindergarten



Laurel Park Elementary  
Mrs. McGahey and Mrs. Schafran  
2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to kindergarten! We are very excited about this year, and we are looking forward to working with you and your child. Please read through the following information regarding some of our classroom policies and procedures.



## Communication

**Laurel Park Communication Folders** will be sent home daily. Every Monday and Wednesday you will find your child's work, school wide letters, flyers, and any other important information. All work sent home in the folder can be kept at home, unless it says SIGN AND RETURN. Please return the folder to school each day. A specials schedule will be added to the back of your child's folder for the entire year. This folder will be used for all absence notes, parent notes, money, behavior updates (as needed), ALL TRANSPORTATION CHANGES, and any other important information that needs to be sent home or reviewed daily.

**Email** - This is the best way to contact me with concerns. Often times, I do not have the opportunity to check my email during the school day, however, I will respond within 24 hours. DO NOT send Transportation changes via email, because I cannot guarantee that we will receive this information prior to dismissal. For all urgent issues, please call the front office (290-2333).

## Our Daily Schedule

Our schedule is posted on our class website. It will remain the same for this school year. Our recess time is from 11:40-12:10, and kindergarten lunch time is 10:30-11:00..

## Homework

As a grade level our homework policy is for students to spend ten minutes reading daily. Please make reading with your child a nightly routine. A reading log will be sent home in your child's communication folder. Please complete both sides of the sheet and return it at the end of each month.



## Lunch/Snack

**After September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, you are welcome to have lunch (10:30-11:00) with your child in the cafeteria. We will have a daily snack time at 2:15 in our classroom. Please send a **healthy snack** for your child to enjoy (**no cookies, cakes, donuts, chips, etc.**). Also, **no juice boxes** are allowed during snack time, **water only**. Students are welcome to bring a water bottle to school to keep in the classroom. Please send a container that does not require your child to unscrew the cap when drinking from it (pop-up tops, straws, etc are preferred). Too many spills have happened with the twist caps.

## Specials

Our specials include: Art, Music, PE, Media, Social Thinking, and STEAM. We will have specials from 1:30-2:15 daily. Our specials calendar will be posted on our class website and in your child's Communication Folder. **Please make sure that your child is wearing tennis shoes each day that we have PE, so that they will be able to participate in class.**

## V.I.P's (Very Important Parents)



Parents, you are a vital part of a successful educational experience! We like to refer to you as VIPs, because you are extremely important to the success of your child and our classroom. After we get settled into our routines, we will have volunteer opportunities (Daily 5 helpers, Read Aloud, Clerical helpers, tracking out helpers, etc.) posted on our class website. Please register in the media center to be cleared as a volunteer. We are currently looking for a Room Parent/PTA liaison for this year. If you are interested in one of these opportunities please email me ([mmcgahey@wcpss.net](mailto:mmcgahey@wcpss.net)). **Please join the PTA and subscribe to the Penguin Press to stay informed and connected.**

## Recess

Our recess time is from 11:40-12:10. We will be having outdoor recess whenever the weather is appropriate. When the weather turns colder, please send your child to school with a jacket, gloves and a hat if necessary. Students without the proper outerwear for the weather will not be allowed to play on the playground. We recommend that children wear tennis shoes each day to school.

## Birthdays and Invitations

If your child brings party invitations to school, please make sure all children in the class are invited. Otherwise, you will need to make other arrangements to distribute invitations. **In an effort to encourage health and wellness, I will not be allowing families to bring in birthday snacks this school year!** There are several alternatives that you may choose from (i.e. birthday pencils, a parent reading to the class, lunch with your child, or stickers to share). Please save all edible treats for your celebrations at home.



**Thank you so much for all of your support! I'm looking forward to a great year!**  
Understanding Writing in Kindergarten

