



Helpful Tidbits

Dear Families,

This is a time of big changes for you and your child. During “Open House” scheduled this fall each teacher will be discussing many topics in great detail. Until then the following information should prove useful to you and help for a smooth transition.

Please help prepare your child to walk to the classroom **by himself/herself**. There will be multiple staff members in the hallway to offer assistance.

School Supply List- Will be provided at Meet the Teacher (individualized by teacher), your child will need a **REGULAR** sized backpack in addition to supplies on the list provided by your child's teacher.

Remain upbeat and positive. Set your fears aside when your child is around.

Be sure your child is well rested and fed. Your child may be tired, cranky, withdrawn, teary or overly excited during the first weeks of school. This is normal. Please give your child time to adjust.

PBIS- Positive Behavior Intervention & Support We follow the SAIL rules (S-Show Safety, A- Act Responsibly, I-Impress with Respect, L-listen to Learn) Remind your child that **good manners** are expected at school (saying please, thank you and excuse me.)

Quiet Time-each child needs a regular sized rest towel (not beach sized), no mats, pillows or stuffed animals. Later in the year, the children use “quiet time” to read and they sit on their rest towels for comfort.

Conferences-These will be held at the end of first quarter and at the end of third quarter.

Report Cards –Sent home quarterly.

Medication-Dispensed **only** in the school office with doctor's orders (**no** cough drops, sunscreen or bug spray administered at school or in child's backpack)

Arrival-Students arrive between 8:45-9:10 *no earlier* (after 9:15 your child is marked tardy and must get a pass from the office).

PTA-We have a fabulous PTA....please join.

Daily Folder-Sent home each afternoon and needs to be **returned the following day** (even if empty). On Fridays, your child's work from the week will be sent home. If there are forms that require signatures and responses or you have a **note for the teacher** please send it to school **in the folder**.

Personal Belongings-The following items should be labeled with your **child's name**: regular sized backpacks, jackets, rest towels etc. Please help your child choose weather appropriate clothing that they can manage independently. Please do not send your child to school in "fancy" clothes. We work hard and play hard and get messy. Tennis shoes are the safest form of footwear since we go outside for recess everyday! *Please send in a CHANGE OF CLOTHES in a LABELED GALLON SIZE ZIPLOC BAG (shirt, pants, socks and underwear) to be kept at school. Extra clothes may be needed for bathroom accidents, nose bleeds, spills etc.)*

Dismissal/transportation-Parents are responsible for informing teachers as to their child's **dismissal** transportation. We need your child's **bus number/bus stop (cross streets), carpool, walker, YMCA or daycare information**. Children are dismissed from the classroom via the computer. Kindergarteners will be escorted to the bus loading area for the first week of school. Walkers are dismissed from the front of the building on the map. Carpoolers are dismissed from the multi-purpose room (gym). You will need a **carpool card** in your front car window. Carpool and Walker Applications must be filled out. Walkers must be approved by the administration.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES-ALL transportation changes must be in **writing** and come to us **via the Daily Folder** and absolutely **NOT** sent in an email. We are teaching and often cannot check email during the school day.

Appointments-If you have an appointment and need to pick up your child **please arrive early**, the office will call the room and **at the time you arrive**, we'll pack up your child and send him/her to the office. We won't be able to have your child "packed and ready" when you arrive. This has caused problems in the past (us forgetting, parents arriving late, etc.). Also, you are **not allowed** to pick your child up between 3:15 and dismissal (school rule). This is a very busy time in kindergarten and in the office.

Transportation Tags-Your child will be given a bus, carpool, YMCA or walker tag to keep **zip-tied** to his/her backpack for safety.

Show Interest-Ask your child about school activities. Ask open-ended questions that generate verbal expression rather than "yes" or "no" answers. Break the day up into segments. For example, "Tell me about centers, recess, story time, art, music, P.E. etc..."

Check and **empty** backpack **daily**. If you see something inside your child's backpack that was supposed to get to the teacher please remind your child to give it to us on the following day. We are teaching responsibility and have a procedure for checking in which includes children un-packing their own backpacks. Teachers and I.A.s don't have time to unpack backpacks in kindergarten and on many mornings our I.A.s are supervising other classrooms.

Weekly Newsletter- In order for you to stay informed and to conserve resources we will **email** the newsletter home on Friday afternoon.

Lunch-The following are a few suggestions for making lunch a relaxing experience for your child. Our lunch is a **30 minute block**. You may pack a lunch for your child or have your child eat a free café lunch. Please be sure your child can open all items in his/her lunch box (the lunchroom I.A. will have several tables of students to supervise). Keep in mind we can't refrigerate or heat up anything so be sure perishable items are packed in something that will keep them cold/warm. We help the children through the lunch line helping them choose milk, an entrée, a vegetable and a fruit item (or two fruits if they don't like the vegetables).

Please help your child **memorize** his/her Wake County student ID A.S.A.P. This is your child's lunch number and computer log-in and will last him/her until senior year of High School in Wake County.

Snack- We'll have snack time every day in kindergarten so please pack your child **ONE** nutritious snack and a water bottle if you'd like. We can't refrigerate/heat up anything so be sure perishable items are packed in something that will keep them cold/warm. Please pack your child's snack in the **front pocket of his/her backpack** to keep it separate from your child's lunch. We've found this keeps children from accidentally eating their snacks at lunch time.

Inform BOTH the school nurse (via email) and your child's teacher (on the Student Information Sheet) if your child has any food allergies (Dr. documentation is required).

Birthdays- Birthdays are a special time in kindergarten. You may send in a special **NON-FOOD** favor for the class for your child's birthday (pencils, erasers etc...). Also, if your child has a birthday on the weekend or over track-out please choose a day to celebrate and **let us know in advance** which day you choose. Due to **food allergies** we don't have food birthday treats. Hope this information is helpful.

Volunteers- We hope to be able to utilize parent volunteers soon and we will let you know as soon as this is allowed and we get more information.

Field Trips- To be determined...we will know more information in January.

Absences- If your child is absent from school or has an appointment please notify us via email. We will direct you to the Wake County "return to school" protocol.

Olive Chapel Track 4 Kindergarten Team