

Ms. Homan's ABCs OF KINDERGARTEN



A is for Attendance, Allergies, Agenda Planner and AR

- Attendance: Your child's progress both academically and socially is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness or early checkout is critical.
- Allergies: If your child has any allergies, please make sure I am aware of them. For food allergies, you may send a few special snacks that I will hold for when there is a birthday or other celebration that has a treat that is not safe for your child, and I will provide the snack that you sent from home to your child.
- Agenda Planner: Every day, your child will bring home his/her agenda planner. This is the main way I communicate with you about your child's school day. Please sign the planner and write your child's dismissal plan in their agenda every night.
- AR: The Accelerated Reader (AR) goal for Kindergarten students is 15 points with 80% Comprehension. Many Kindergarten books are worth one half of one point. If your child is ready to be quizzed on a particular book that you have read to them, please write the title AND author of the book and/or the quiz number on their AR sheet. Please keep AR Sheet in the binder. Students will NOT be allowed to test if you have not filled out their AR sheet. Students achieving 15 points with 80% comprehension will be invited to a special celebration at the end of the year.

B is for Birthdays, BINDERS, and Buffalo PRIDE

- Birthdays are very important to children. You may want to send a special treat to celebrate. I will set up a special time to celebrate a child's summer birthday in May.
- Book Orders: Each month I will send home Scholastic Book Order Forms. You may order your child books by returning the paper forms with a check or you may order online using our classroom code.
- BINDERS: Your child will bring home schoolwork and notes in the pocket of their binder. Please take out the work that you have reviewed and help your child to bring it to school everyday.
- Buffalo PRIDE: Buffalo PRIDE, our parent/teacher organization, meets the 1st Tuesday of the month usually at the VCMS gym. Meetings begin at 6 pm. This is a good way learn more about our school and also a great way to earn **Informational PI time**.

C is for Clothing, Clinic Aide, and Conferences

- Clothing: Please be sure to check the uniform policy found in the student handbook, and send an extra uniform outfit in a Ziploc bag with your child's name in case of accidents. It is a very important to label all clothing with your child's name, especially all jackets/sweaters/sweatshirts.
- Clinic Aide: Mrs. Wickers is our clinic assistant. If needed, she will take care of your child until you can be reached to pick him/her up from school. Be sure the school always has updated numbers to reach you.
- Conferences: I will meet with you in the Fall and Spring regarding your child's progress, or at any time you have concerns, please contact the school to set up a time for us to meet.

D is for Discipline

- Discipline: Our school wide behavioral management system uses a clip chart where your child can see their progress throughout the day. Daily behavioral will be reported in your child's binder to inform you of your child's behavior at school.
- Special area teachers may also send home notes to you as needed.

E is for E-Mail

- E-Mail: I can be reached through the school website. I check my e-mail daily, so this is another way you can communicate with me. If you have to get an important message to your child regarding an after school change in plans, please call the office before 2pm if possible, 259-7700, and they will notify me of the change. Andrea.homan@tvcs.org

F is for Field Trips and Fire Drills

- Field Trips: Throughout the year, I will schedule field trips to enhance our curriculum. Permission slips and requests for any associated fees will be sent home prior to each trip. It is very important for the permission slip and money to be turned in by the "due date" to allow your child to participate in this event. Requested volunteers going on the trip must have a completed and approved volunteer application on file.
- Fire Drills: We practice fire drills once per month. Our class will line up and walk directly out a side door near our room. Students practice walking silently and we remain in line until the all clear signal is given.

G is for Guidance Counselor

- Our school guidance counselor is Mrs. Garvey, and she is always available to help with any issues or concerns that you may have about your child, and helps us to learn how to handle small problems ourselves with the help of Kelso the frog.

H is for Handwriting and Homework

- Handwriting: Kindergarteners will be practicing forming letters in the traditional block style manuscript. A special part of kindergarten is learning how to write your first and last name correctly. Please spend time at home helping your little one master this task. Make sure only the first letter is capitalized! Thank you for your help.
- Homework: Homework will be given Monday through Thursday to help strengthen the skills we are working on within the classroom. All homework will be sent home on Monday, to give parents flexibility to plan how your child completes the work and is due on Friday.

I is Instructional Assistant

- Instructional Assistant: Mrs. Meister is our classroom assistant. She helps during the Literacy learning activities, and with various activities in the room. We are so lucky to have her help in our class!

J is for Joy

- We have so much fun learning and growing. Kindergarten is always full of joy!

K is for Kindness

- Students in our classrooms are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others with kindness and respect.

L is for Lunch

- Lunch: Our lunchtime is 11:26-11:51am each day. You are welcome to stop by and enjoy lunch with your child; remember to sign in at the office first. Please assist your child in learning their lunch number and following the lunchroom rules.

M is for Media Center, Money, and Math

- Media Center: The class will go to Media (library) for story time. Children will bring home books from the library and when returned, they may check out another one. If you would like your child to take an AR

test on the library book, please remember to read the book at least twice before requesting that they take the test.

- Money: Please send all money to school in an envelope with your child's name on the outside of the envelope and indicate what the money is for.
- Math: We use Houghton Mifflin Harcourt math program: Go Math. Please review the daily papers with your child. Your child will have math homework on a regular basis.

N is for Newsletters

- Newsletters: A newsletter will be posted to the classroom webpage at the beginning of each month updating you on what we will be learning. Special events will also be listed in the newsletter. Please take a moment to read it when it is posted on the website.

O is for Open Communication and Outdoor Recess

- Open Communication: Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child throughout the year, and I will set up a time to meet with you. I feel it is my job to work together as partners to help your child have a successful kindergarten year.
- Outdoor Recess: We will be going outside daily from 12:30-12:55, weather permitting. Please make sure your child has a school uniform jacket whenever appropriate and always has closed toe and heel athletic shoes on.

P is for Parent Involvement and Progress Reports

- Parent Involvement: Please be involved in your child's Kindergarten year as much as you can. We love volunteers! This will convey to your child that you value education. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. I am always happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom. Please check your child's agenda planner for notes about events in our classroom.
- Progress Reports: Progress Reports will not be sent home. However, you can view all grades on Skyward. Kindergarten will usually post grades at the mid-point and the end of each 9 weeks.

Q is for Quiet Time

- Quiet Time: Kindergarten classes have a designated Quiet Time each day. Students will rest on their mats while they listen to an audiobook or quiet music for approximately 30 minutes. The rest time shortens throughout the year. Later in the year, this quiet time turns into a quiet reading time as children choose books to enjoy while they rest.

R is for Reading and Report Cards

- Reading: The most important thing you can do for your child is to read with him or her. Show that you love to read through modeling. As we learn how to read in the classroom and students continue to practice at home, they will become lifelong learners and readers!
- Report Cards: Report cards are now standards based and will come home four times a year. If you have any questions regarding your child's report card, please contact me, so I can discuss it with you.

S is for Snacks, Specials, Sight Words, and Student of the Week

- Snack: Each child will be responsible for bringing in their own snack daily. Please send a healthy snack in a separate bag from your child's lunch.
- Specials: The children go to specials every day. They have PE every day from 9:30-10:00, Computer Lab on Tuesday & Fridays from 1:30-2:00, Music and Spanish are on Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 and

Thursday from 1:00-2:00, Art is on Monday from 1:00-2:00. Our Special Area Teachers help make sure that we are educating the “whole child” and reaching our unique learners.

- Sight Words: The students will be learning new sight words each week. Please see the newsletter for sight words that your child will be assessed on during each 9 weeks. Sight words help the children develop fluency in their reading. Please practice them daily with your child.

T is for Toys

- Toys: Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school. Toys are special to your child, and may be lost or broken while at school.

U is for Unique

- Each child in the class is unique and wonderful. In Kindergarten, we learn about how we are unique and special, and we celebrate our differences and similarities. We also learn about the different cultures within my class. Please let me know if you would like to share something special about your culture with the class.

V is for Visitors

- Visitors: All guests are required to check in at the school office with a photo ID. It is important to remember that even if you are a frequent visitor, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

W is for Website

- Website: Our school website is www.tvcs.org. You may select the Elementary tab, then Teacher Connection and then click on our class for our specific class website.

X is for Experiences

- Experiences: Kindergarten is such an exciting time filled with experiences where we learn about the magic of books, letters, numbers, poetry, songs, science, social studies, art, music, Spanish, P.E., computers and how to behave in school!

Y is for YOU!

- You can help to make your child feel successful this year by reading together each night. Remember to check your child’s folder and agenda daily. Remember to discuss the school day by asking questions like “What did you do in math today?” “What was the best part of the day?” and “Which friend did you play with today?”

AND Z is for Zzzzzzz's

- Zzzzz's: It is so important for your child to be alert and ready to learn each day. Set a bedtime and be consistent with the bedtime routine. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift that you can give to your child.
- Five to six year olds need 10-11 hours of sleep per night according to six years of research by Richard Ferber, M.D., author of *Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems*. It will help your child to be attentive and prepared to learn each day!

Thanks for choosing TVCS for your child's kindergarten year. We are so glad you have joined our VCS Family!