

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! This year you will see tremendous progress in all areas. Children will become readers, authors, and mathematicians with a repertoire of strategies.

Our school is on a six-day schedule which can get confusing. A master schedule is in this Welcome to Kindergarten folder and there will also be one in your child's binder. Please reference as needed.

Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's academic success. Alone we can only do so much, but together we can do so much more. Please make sure your child completes his/her homework and daily reading. I will have several opportunities to volunteer in the classroom including reading centers, Art Masterpiece teachers, Mystery Reader, etc. All volunteer opportunities will start after Labor Day, including eating lunch with your child. I will send out additional information regarding opportunities as we get closer to Labor Day—stay tuned.

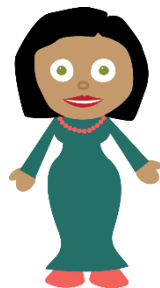
Attached are the Kindergarten policies along with a curriculum overview. Please keep these in a safe place as they are a great reference throughout the year.

Please complete and return the paperwork in the left pocket of the folder by Friday, July 21st. Send in all signed paperwork in this folder. Please put items in the designated, labeled Ziploc bags and put in your child's backpack (i.e., change of clothes bag, coin bag, headphone bag).

I look forward to working with your family! Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Jessica Murphy
Murphy.jessica@cusd80.com
480-424-8558



Kindergarten

Absences If your child is going to be absent, please call the school (480-424-8500). If your child is going to be absent for an extended period (a week or more) please notify me as well as the front office.

Tardies When your child comes to school late, he/she must be taken to the office for a tardy slip. **Please help your child get to school on time because instruction will start right away. School hours are as follows: 8:35-3:05.** Please be sure your child does not arrive on campus before 8:10 a.m. as there will be no supervision before that time.

Dismissal-Please make sure you fill out the After School Transportation Form and turn it into me BEFORE the first day of school. If there are any changes in the usual transportation arrangement, please be sure to contact the office one hour prior to dismissal. I will NEVER send a student home without parent permission. Our parent pick-up area is in the front of the school. Stay in your vehicles or crosswalk area, obey traffic signs, and **always hang the name plate from your review mirror.** These easy steps ensure a smooth and safe transition for everyone involved.

Messages

If you need to get an urgent message to your child or myself, please call the office and they will get the message to me before the students are released. The classroom phones go straight to voicemail, so you will **not** be able to contact me directly by calling the classroom. You may also send me a Remind App message to alert me of any changes for that day.

Breakfast/Lunch

Payments may be made anytime at myschoolbucks.com. Lunch is 11:20-12:00; students eat from 11:20-11:40 and have recess from 11:40-12:00.

Water Bottles

Water is the only beverage students will be allowed to consume in the classroom. Please send your child with a large water bottle. Please label your child's water bottle with name and room number (C8).

Snack

Please send in a healthy snack for your child daily. Fruit snacks, a protein bar, or a snack-size bag of chips or goldfish crackers are all great options. **Please keep the snack separate from your child's lunch.**

Birthday Procedures

To ensure that our celebrations are inclusive of all students and to promote sustainability, the K team celebrates birthdays with a fun read aloud:

Birthday Book: Choose 1

- Child brings favorite book from home for me to read aloud. This will be returned.
- Child picks a favorite book from our classroom library for me to read on his/her special day.

OPTIONAL Goodie Bag OR NON-EDIBLE Treat
Due to several dietary restrictions, there can be NO FOOD items in the goodie bags. Thanks for your understanding with this.

*Birthday invitations can only be distributed at school if ALL students receive an invitation.

See Sample Birthday Letter for additional info.

Volunteers

I LOVE Volunteers! **Parent volunteers will start after Labor Day.**

Sign-Up Genius links will be emailed out for the following opportunities:

- Mystery Reader (one opportunity per family)
- Reading Groups
- Art Masterpiece
- At Home Help

Volunteers must complete a Volunteer Form (inside Welcome to K folder).

Sign-Up Genius

Please sent up an account at www.signupgenius.com. Rice also uses this website for families to sign up for fall and spring Parent Teacher Conference nights.

Visitors

To ensure safety of students and staff, Rice is a closed campus. This means ALL guests, including familiar faces, MUST sign in at the office (obtain a visitor's sticker) to be on school grounds.

Parents are not allowed on the playground before or after school. However, Rice welcomes and encourages family involvement while following safety guidelines.

Lunch with Parents

Parents may have lunch with students after Labor Day.

Newsletter

Please make sure you read the newsletter at the beginning of each school week, as it will inform of you any important dates as well as important school/class information. It will be sent via email. If you do not have access to email, please let me know so that I can send home a hard copy.

Dress Code

PLEASE NOTE: No spaghetti straps are allowed. Please have your child use the 2-finger test when determining if a strap is wide enough. Shorts need to be 4-inches in length. **I highly recommend sending your child in sneakers each day. Even though we do not have P.E. every day, the children will be playing in the wood chips each day at recess.** length. Also, hats are not permitted inside the classrooms. Dress code will be strictly enforced, so please review the student handbook if you need the details.

Book Orders

Once a month, I will send an email with a link to order books from Scholastic. There are wonderful age-appropriate books to choose from at a very reasonable price. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You may order online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Please use my class code, M7KZ7 when placing your order so the class gets a free book for each order! **Orders and payment are done online only.**

Box Tops

Box Tops are collected as a school-wide fundraiser throughout the entire school year. Incentives and rewards are given to students individually and as a classroom from the Box Top Fairy quarterly. Box Tops are found on non-perishable items such as Kleenex, paper towels, cereal, Hamburger Helper, and other various items.

Lost and Found

Please label all clothing and supplies to increase the return of any personal item. Please let me know if your child is missing an item and I will check Lost & Found.



Kindergarten

Progress Reports & Report Cards

Students will receive a progress report mid-quarter. Grades will be available for viewing online via Infinite Campus. Your child will be graded by the following codes for both academics and behaviors:

Excelling (E) 90%-100%
Satisfactory (S) 80- 89%
Improving (I) 70- 79%
Needs Improvement (N) 69% and below

Conferences will be held in August and February. Conference days are early release days; dismissal is at 11:35.

Testing

Reading- Assessment of your child's progress occurs bi-monthly throughout the year. These tests will focus of phonics, phonemic awareness, sight words (in isolation) and fluency (sight word sentences).

Writing- Sentence/story writing will be graded weekly.

Spalding- There will be a spelling and phonogram test every Friday starting 2nd Quarter.

Handwriting- Handwriting will be graded for proper Spalding formation on written phonogram tests, spelling tests, and other writing samples.

Math- Assessment of your child's progress occurs every Friday. These tests will focus on hands-on application of different skills.

Behavior & Classroom Management

Rice holds high expectations for both academics and behavior through our school wide program called PBIS. The Kindergarten team uses the "Keys to Success" behavior program that teaches important life skills and qualities that students need to become successful citizens. Students will learn 4 keys: Be respectful, Be inclusive, Be safe, and Be engaged. Each key has indicators which will be taught and modeled extensively throughout the year. Your child will have a weekly Responsibility Chart that also serves as a daily home-school communication tool. Your child must have his/her Responsibility Chart signed daily by a parent/guardian. A detailed letter, along with a sample Responsibility Chart, is provided in this folder. The class will use one chart for the first week of school (Wednesday-Friday) as I model and teach the keys and their accompanying indicators. **Your child will receive his/her individual chart the second week of school.**

Kinder Behavior Incentives

Daily: Students who demonstrate Keys to Success behavior will earn Rhino Rewards throughout the day, along with specific feedback. Students who keep all 10 stars on their Responsibility Chart each day will also get a Rhino Reward.

Weekly:

On Friday, students cash in their Rhino Rewards for Treasure Box prizes or classroom incentives (special jobs). Prizes and incentives start at 10 Rhino Rewards. This helps students practice organizing into groups of 10 and counting by 10's and 1's.

The Treasure Box which is filled with small toys and trinkets. I am always in need of Treasure Box items. The Dollar Tree Target's dollar spot, and Amazon are great places to buy items.

Weekly Key Club Inductee: Each Friday, one student will be inducted into the Key Club for demonstrating excellent behavior or improvement. Instructions will be sent home that outline the week's activities. I am the first Key Club inductee.

Math: AZ Standards

Kindergarten will implement the Math Arizona Academic Content Standards this year. To view and learn more about these standards, please visit the district website at:

Quarters 1-2: (Kindergarten)
<https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/Domain/4550/kinder.pdf>

Quarter 3- Quarter 4: (1st grade)

<https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/Domain/4550/first.pdf>

Reading: Info Reading**Writing: Write from the Beginning**

Kindergarten will implement the ELA Arizona Academic Content Standards this year. To view and learn more about these standards, please visit the district website at:

https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/domain/4554/ela%20teacher%20access/standards/K_ELA_Standards.pdf

Phonics: The Spalding Method

Kindergarten will learn manuscript handwriting formation, saying and writing 70 phonogram sounds, and 20 spelling lists (15 words each) while focusing on blending/segmenting sounds, syllable types, and specific rules and marking. To view and learn more about this program, please visit the Spalding website at:
www.spalding.org

Homework Binders

Your child will bring home a Rhino Binder every day. It is used to bridge the communication between school and home.

Homework and the Responsibility Chart are TO STAY IN THE BINDER. The right side (back) of the binder will be for papers that can stay at home (i.e., class work, flyers, forms, etc.). The left side (front) of the binder will be for papers that need to be returned to school (i.e., homework, PTO RSVP, order forms, etc.). **Please bring the binder to school daily**

Homework Procedures

Your child will be assigned homework Monday through Thursday. The Rhino Binder will contain nightly assignments and our Homework Chart, which outlines the nightly assignments. Homework will always be review work and will correlate with the grade-level objectives.

Your job is to monitor the comprehension of the homework. Accuracy, along with neatness, are prime indicators of excellent homework. If your child does not complete the assignment to his/her best ability, please do not accept this work because I do not in the classroom. High expectations at home will reinforce the same standards at school.

Please fill out the following portions on the Homework Chart each night.

- Title of book
- Sight word/spelling menu option (directions are listed on Homework Chart and Menu)
- Completion time (total # of minutes spent on homework)
- Parent signature/initials

Homework Supplies

I highly recommend setting up a "homework office", a special space for your child that is free of distractions (T.V., siblings, etc.). Keep homework materials organized and readily available. See the Supply List for homework supply suggestions.

