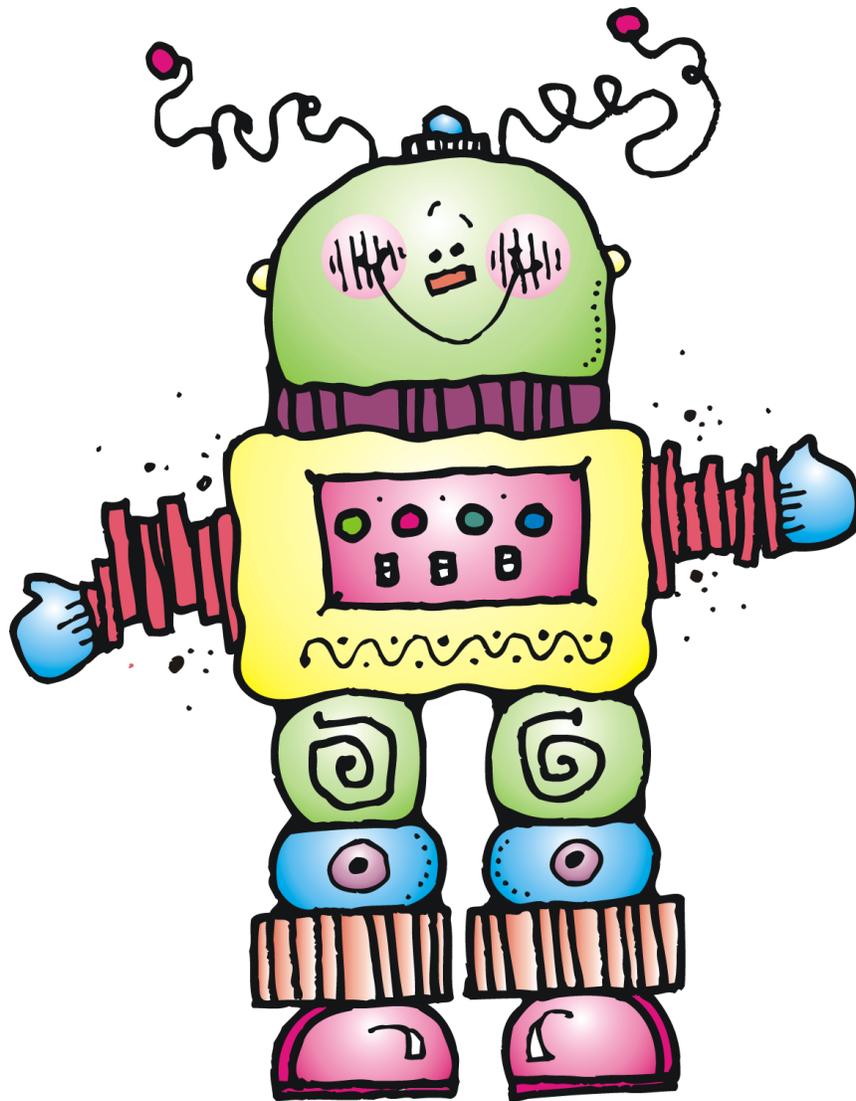


STEM Lab School
The ABC's of Kindergarten
Handbook



2018-2019

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Attendance is very important! If your child misses school, please remember to call the office to let them know he/she will be absent. The attendance line is 720-972-3340 (option 6). Most of our Kindergarten experiences are group oriented, involve interaction with classmates, and hands-on materials. Therefore, it is next to impossible to make up work at home!

B is for backpacks & book orders. Please send your child with his/her backpack everyday and check them after school each day! Book Club orders from Scholastic will be coming home each month. Families can order online and for every book ordered our class receives free books. Check our website for teacher codes.

C is for communication and conferences. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through notes, email, telephone calls, newsletters, progress reports, and parent teacher conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. There is no need to wait until parent conference day if you have a concern about your child's progress. Feel free to send me an email, call me at school, or send a note to school in your child's folder.

D is for distractible items, such as toys, should be kept at home. Each classroom will have designated show and tell times when an item may be brought to school.

E is a reminder that in an emergency, it is important that we have current contact telephone numbers. Please inform us if address, e-mails, home, work, or cell phone numbers change throughout the school year.

F is for folders! Folders are our primary means of communication. The folders will be our ways of making sure things get to and from school. Anything you need me to see, including money, should be in the folder.

G is for gym class or P.E. Please make sure your child wears sneakers to school for P.E. Girls may also want to wear shorts under dresses or skirts on these days.

H is for homework! It is to reinforce the skills we are working on in school. Nightly homework should be finished along with your child reading or being read to for 5-10 minutes. Homework will be sent home on Mondays and will be due on Fridays.

I Be INVOLVED in your child's learning! Always remember you are a teacher too! There is no one who is more influential in your child's life than you!

J is for joining the STEM PTO! Throughout the school year there will be a variety of special school activities, celebrations, and meetings. We also have several fundraisers to help support our school. I encourage you to attend all functions and become involved!

Kindergarten students are at an age where they should understand acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The first couple weeks of school, we will establish the rules for our classroom. All learners will be responsible for demonstrating the 4 C's: Composure, Compassion, Communication, and Collaboration.

L is for library books! We will be visiting the library daily. If a book is not returned they will not be able to check another out. Children will learn how to use the library independently as well.

M is for money! On many occasions it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school. Always send it in a sealed envelope with the following information on it: name, amount, purpose, and teacher's name.

N is for Nurse! (AKA-Health Aide) If your student requires medication to be taken at school please make sure that you fill out the necessary forms in the office. Our health aide handles all medication. Also, if there are any allergies that we need to be aware of please let us know.

O is for office check-ins and check-outs! Please make sure to go to our office when you need to check-in or check-out your student. Also, if you are visiting the school please make sure to check-in at the office as well.

P is for PARTY or what we call FESTIVALS. These will be held throughout the year to celebrate joyous events. If you would like to volunteer your time or supplies, look for the emails as they are sent out. We will use signupgenius.com for all festival organizing. The room parent from each classroom will be in charge of creating the sign-up and managing the communication for the events.

Q is for quiet time, everyday after lunch for about 15 -20 minutes. Children do not have to sleep. A rest mat and soft music will be provided for their comfort.

R is for recess! We will be going outside everyday unless it is raining or extremely cold. If your child is too sick to play outside, they are too sick to attend school. Please make sure your child is properly dressed for the weather!

S is for specials! All students will attend P.E. every day. Along with P.E. your child will attend art, and music. Please check the weekly newsletters sent via email to know which specials they will be attending.

T is for tying shoes! Unfortunately, this is very necessary skill that is no longer taught in school. Please work on this with your child at home. Once they become proficient at tying shoes, they will become one of my "Tying Teachers" and assist in teaching other students with learning to tie shoes.

U Each child is UNIQUE and special. They enter my classroom with different skills, personalities, experiences, backgrounds and learning styles. It is my aspiration to foster their individual strengths and help each child develop to his/her fullest potential; academically and socially. My goal is to teach them to fall in love with learning.

V is for volunteers and visitors! We strive to have our Parents as Partners! Please look for monthly emails to sign-up to come volunteer in the classroom. All volunteers and visitors must check in at the office to receive a visitor's pass BEFORE going to any classroom or other rooms in the school. Each class will have one room parent. Our policy is for parents to sign-up for this amazing opportunity through our beginning of the year Student Information/Volunteer Form that will be sent out via e-mail. In order to give other families a chance to volunteer, we do not allow back-to-back room parents.

W is for weekly newsletters. They will be sent home on Fridays through email. The newsletter will contain information about various skills and concepts that was covered throughout the week. The purpose of the newsletter is to assist you when helping your child at home.

X is for having eXtra clothes! Please keep a change of clothes in your student's backpack in case of an accident!

Y is for yummy! Snack time will be everyday in the afternoon. Please remember to send a nutritious snack to school for your child to eat. For example, fruit, cheese, crackers, carrot sticks, pretzels, applesauce, etc. Place snack separately from lunch and show your child where it is in their backpack. Show them everyday for the first week-keep it in the same spot always! (No snack on Wednesdays.)

Z is for ZzZzZz...please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest each night. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine helps children to be alert and ready to learn each day!

Discipline

Our philosophy is that a child needs and deserves positive reinforcement for displaying acceptable behavior. We promote an environment that is nurturing, positive, and safe where your child is respected and encouraged. Our classroom fosters the growth of the children to help them become independent and self-confident. In order to accomplish this we will be using the following system.

- STEM Gems can be earned for students displaying composure, compassion, communication, or collaboration (Four C's). Once they have received 10 STEM Gems they will cash them in for a prize.
- Class Dojo is an online behavior point system. Students can earn positive or negative points during their day. Then they will receive STEM Gems for the positive points they earn for the four C's.

Guided Reading Book Bags

To become fluent readers children need to read and re-read books several times. Due to this your child will be coming home with a guided reading book every day your child's group meets with the teacher. We ask that you listen to your child read the book to you that night and send it back the next day. Please sign on the provided paper in their book bag. They will not receive another book until the previous one has been returned. In order for your child to receive their first book bag you must sign the Guided Reading Book Bag Contract.

Lunch & Recess

Your child may bring a sack lunch or they will have a lunch number to purchase a hot lunch. Parents may load money into their child's account online or pay in the cafeteria during school time. See the kitchen manager if you have any questions.

During the day, the students will have two different recesses. Please make sure they are dressed appropriately for outdoor weather.

Snack/Water Bottles

The students will have snack time every day except on Wednesdays. Please make sure to pack them a snack on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. (We are always looking for bulk snack donations for students who forget a snack. For example; big boxes of gold fish, fruit snacks, pretzels etc.)

Also, we encourage your child to bring a water bottle filled with water to school every day. Please make sure the lid can close completely and it has your child's name on it.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop-Off

First 2 Days of School- You may walk with your child into the building and to their classroom. The doors will open at 8:00am and then close at 8:10am.

Rest of the Year- Drop your child off between 8:00-8:10. **There will not be any adult supervision outside until 7:50.** If you need to enter the building with your child, you will need to check-in at the office first.

The doors will be closed and locked at 8:10. If you are running late, you will need to check-in at the front office before sending your child to class.

Pick-Up

Students will be dismissed through the outside door closest to their classroom. Please wait outside the door for your child.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:

Dismissal- **3:20**

Wednesday:

Dismissal- **1:50**

Assessments and Report Cards

Kindergarteners are formally tested at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. In addition there are ongoing assessments of your child through-out the year. We will be posting feedback on Infinite Campus throughout the units of study for you to be updated on your child's learning.

Report cards are sent home twice a year. They are sent at the end of the first semester (December) and on the last day of school.

STEM GEM of the Week

Every Friday we will be picking the child to be the "STEM GEM" for the following week. He/she will be sent home with a piece of paper to be completed and returned on Monday. On the following Friday, he/she can bring in one show and tell item to share with the class. They will present their paper and show and tell. More information will be sent when your child has been selected.