

## Welcome to Kindergarten!

We hope you are as excited about the upcoming year as we are! We are looking forward to a wonderful experience with your child. We will be having our Kindergarten Orientation session on **Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in our cafeteria.** Just as you did for registration night in April, please enter through the gym entrance. The cafeteria will be set up into four areas – one for each Kindergarten teacher so that you can meet your child’s teacher, as well as the other students and their parents in your child’s classroom this year.

In addition to what was shared with you on the registration night, the following information should prove helpful to you during this school year:

### **First Week Schedule:**

- **Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> - Last names A-L**
- **Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup> & Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> - Last names M-Z**
- **All students everyday starting Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.**
  
- **Supplies:** Your child should have a **large backpack** to carry things to and from school. Make sure his/her name is clearly marked on the outside. Attached is a list of supplies we would like every kindergartner to have at the beginning of school.
  
- An **art shirt** will be worn whenever we are involved in those “messy” projects. Any old shirt will do. We suggest you cut the sleeves off about halfway so that they won’t drag across the work area. Please send something that does not have to be returned. Your child’s name should appear in large letters.
  
- **School Breakfast/Lunch:** Kindergarten will eat lunch around 11:00am. Free/reduced lunch forms are available on-line and will be sent home if requested. If you feel your child would qualify for this program, sign up on-line as soon as possible.
  
- **Snack:** Each day, the children will have a snack time in the afternoon. Please send a **healthy** snack with your child **each** day.
  
- **Birthday’s:** Every child will have a **birthday celebration** day. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on a date mutually determined by the teacher and you.
  
- **Party Invitations:** All party invitations may be passed out in school ONLY if there is one for (1) all students, (2) all boys in the class, or (3) all girls in the class. We will not be able to distribute invitations to students in other classrooms.
  
- **Parties:** We will celebrate Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine’s Day with special parties and fun. If you do not observe these days, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you to make other arrangements.

- **Toy Policy:** Toys from home are not permitted in the classroom except when being used in conjunction with Show & Tell.
- **School Bus:** Any bus problems should be directed to the transportation department at 273-1033 ext. 6900.
- **Labeling:** Please label all items of outerwear clothing including boots, gloves, hats, sweaters and snow pants. We often have many of the same items. Labeling can eliminate confusion and/or tears.

### **Clearances:**

- Clearances are required to chaperone field trips or when working with or supervising students. Four clearances are required: **PA Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse, FBI Fingerprinting, and a Tuberculosis (TB) Test.** More information can be found at <https://www.generalmclane.net/volunteers/>. If you attend to volunteer or chaperone at all during your child's elementary school years, we would encourage you to get these completed and submitted now. They are valid for five years. Contact Sarah Grabski at the Education Center, [sarahgrabski@generalmclane.org](mailto:sarahgrabski@generalmclane.org) with questions.

### **Specials Classes:**

- Each classroom will have their own rotation of specials each week. Your child's teacher will let you know the schedule so you can plan accordingly.
- **Physical Education:** Students will have two gym classes each week. We do not change clothing for gym. Make sure your child wears sneakers on gym days.
- **Library:** The children will go to the library for the purpose of checking out books. Please see that your child has their book in their backpack that day to return it to the library. If your child does not return their book, they will not be able to take another book until that book is returned. You will be issued an obligation to pay for books that are not returned by the end of the year.
- **Art and Music:** Our kindergarten children will have art and music every week on Wednesday. Please make art day a "dress down day" just in case!

### **Attendance:**

- **Absences:** If your child is absent from school for any reason, a written excuse is required. You may email an excuse to [eeattendance@generalmclane.org](mailto:eeattendance@generalmclane.org) or send one in with your child. Absences due to any kind of trip must be pre-approved using an Educational Trip Form obtainable at the office or on the General McLane web site.
- **Early Dismissals:** If you plan to pick your child up at school for an early dismissal, send an email to [eeattendance@generalmclane.org](mailto:eeattendance@generalmclane.org) or send a note in with your child.
- **Dismissal Changes:** If you plan to pick your child up at dismissal time differently than you normally would, send an email to [eeattendance@generalmclane.org](mailto:eeattendance@generalmclane.org) or send a note in with your child. *Otherwise, your child will have to go home as usual.*

It is our sincere intent to provide your child with a happy, comfortable learning environment. Should any problems arise, please let us know immediately. This can be done by note, email, or by phone. Do not allow difficulties to grow and become a bigger frustration. Sometimes situations can be a misunderstanding or misinterpretation and we want to work with you to solve any issues that arise.

Thank you for sharing your child with us. We look forward to an incredible year together!