



## Mrs. Masury's Kindergarten Newsletter September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to kindergarten! My name is Julia Masury, and I will be your child's teacher this year. This is my fifteenth-year teaching kindergarten at Epping Elementary. In addition, I also taught Title 1 Reading at Epping Elementary for five years and private kindergarten for 19 years. I received my Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Framingham State University and my Master of Leadership in Education through Southern New Hampshire University. I am certified to teach grades K through 8. I live in Raymond, NH with my husband of 38 years. I have two grown children, a daughter who is a surgical technologist at the Elliot Hospital and a son who is a show production assistant in Las Vegas.

Mrs. Stempek will be my classroom assistant during this school year. Mrs. Stempek is new to Epping Elementary however she has been working in early childhood education since 2020 as a kindergarten assistant at Chester Academy. Prior to that she stayed home with her son, Harrison who will be starting kindergarten here as well. She is very excited to meet you all!

Our goal is to help your child feel welcome and comfortable, achieve at high levels, and develop a love of learning. In addition to academics, we will focus on social skills, conflict resolution, communication, problem solving, creativity, self-direction, and critical thinking to build a community of life-long learners.

*Here is some information about our classroom routines and upcoming events...*

### Home-School Folder

Your child will receive a *home-school folder*. Please check it every night and return it **every day**, even if it is empty. This is a convenient way to send home student's work and notices that cannot be e-mailed. We will check your child's folder every day. Please put ALL notes, lunch/breakfast info, and completed forms in your child's *home-school folder* since we do NOT search backpacks. Make sure EVERYTHING is labeled with your child's name including notes. Please do NOT ask your child to hand me notes, rather keep them in their *home-school folder*. Things will fall out and usually no one claims items that are not labeled.

**\*\***Your child's *home-school folder* will contain **3 name tags** for the first three days of school (Thursday, Friday, Monday). Please have your child wear one each day to help school and bus staff familiarize themselves with your child.

### Backpacks

**Each day** please send your child to school with a backpack, **clearly labeled** with your child's name as many children have the same bags. The backpack should be **large enough** to hold your child's *home-school folder*, snack, lunch, and projects. This will help to get notices and papers safely home, especially if your child rides the bus. The backpack should come to school **empty**, except for your child's *home-school folder*, snack, and lunch. Please do NOT send in any electronic devices. We cannot be responsible for loss or breakage. Please let me know if you need help in acquiring a backpack.

### Extra Clothes

Please send in a complete change of clothes, including under garments, in a plastic bag **clearly labeled** with your child's name. This will be kept in your child's cubby in the event of a spill or restroom mishap. Please replace the clothes as needed. During the winter, snow gear may also be stored at school in your child's cubby. Your child will need a pair of dry gloves or mittens for each recess. Please **label** everything as many peers have the same snow pants & boots. Snow gear will be sent home at the end of the week for washing.

### Lunch

Lunch will be eaten in our school cafeteria. Students may bring a lunch and drink from home, or they may get lunch and milk at school. Please apply for free or reduced lunch to guarantee funding for our school, even if you do not qualify. Your child's lunch box and water bottle should be **clearly labeled** with your child's name as many children have the same containers! *Please let me know if your child will get school lunch, just milk, and/or breakfast on a regular basis.*

### Breakfast

Students may also get breakfast when they arrive to school. Breakfast is only served until the late school bell rings. *To prevent any confusions please let me know whether you do or do not expect your child to get school breakfast on a regular basis.*

### Snack

Students need to bring a daily snack and drink. Students may also bring water bottles for the day, **clearly labeled** with your child's name. Please make sure your child knows what he should eat for snack and what is for lunch. Kindergarten students may also purchase snacks through our Classroom Snack Cart. Snacks cost .50 cents each. Please let me know if you need help providing a snack for your child. Lunches and snacks from home will be stored in your child's personal cubby. Students may also choose to have an afternoon snack or eat any unfinished lunch during our Choie Time.

### Recess

We will be taking our students outside twice per day for recess, except during lightning, heavy rain, or temperatures well below freezing. In that case we will have indoor recess. Please help your child dress appropriately for outdoor play, especially during the winter.

**According to school policy, all students will participate in recess unless they bring in a doctor's note.** Please send your child to school wearing shoes appropriate for climbing and running, especially on P.E. days. Flip-flops are NOT allowed at school. Students with unsafe footwear will *not* be allowed to play on climbing structures for safety reasons. During the winter students need to take off their snow boots when they arrive and after each recess and change into shoes, NOT slippers, appropriate for outdoor use in the event of a fire drill. Kindergarten follows *all* school dress codes and policies as written in your child's school handbook.

### Class Website

Our classroom website is <http://mrsmasuryskindergarten.weebly.com/>. I use this website to share our monthly newsletter & calendar, communicate skills we are covering in class, reminders when items are due, unified arts schedules, as well as information about specific school-sponsored events. Please visit the site at least once every month. You are welcome to share this website with family such as grandparents who may like to see what their grandchild is doing in kindergarten! Only students with signed permission forms will have pictures posted on this website.

### E-mail

I would prefer that most communication be sent via e-mail to become paperless, provide prompt responses, and avoid lost notices. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would prefer paper copies which will be placed in your child's *home-school folder*. My e-mail is [jmasury@eppingsd.org](mailto:jmasury@eppingsd.org) and my voice mail is 679-8018 x3111. I check my e-mail and voice mail daily before school (around 8:00AM) and after school (around 3:30PM). If you need to get a message to me in between those times, please call the Main Office at 679-8018. Absences and changes in dismissal MUST be reported directly to the Main Office. *Please notify the school as soon as possible if your e-mail or any emergency information changes.*

### ParentSquare

ParentSquare is a new way for teachers and parents to communicate. I'm still learning how to utilize it, however I'm planning to send out a weekly post on Sundays to inform you of any upcoming events for that week.

### Class Newsletter & Calendar

Our monthly class Newsletter and Calendar are available on our class website at the beginning of each month to keep you informed as to what our class is learning, upcoming events, and any changes to our daily schedule. You can use this information to ask your child questions about their day and practice learned skills at home. If you request paper copies, one will be placed in your child's *home-school folder*.

### Unified Arts

We will participate in daily Unified Arts programs which rotate on an **A-F schedule**. We will have Music on A days, Technology on B days, Science on C days, Library on D days, Art on E days, and P.E. on F days. Your child's first full day of kindergarten will be a C day. We will have Science. Please have your child wear sneakers on PE days.

### Library

When we have Library, your child will be able to check out books to take home weekly. Your child **MUST** bring the book back before he can check out another. Thank you in advance for helping your child take special care of their library book and returning it in the same condition. We will try to indicate on our class calendar when library books are due back.

### Technology

Students will be issued a personal Chromebook using their school google account, to be used within the classroom and during their technology Unified Arts. Students will practice additional math and literacy skills at your child's skill level using the math and language arts IXL programs. Soon your child will take home information and password logins for [www.IXL.com/signin/epping](http://www.IXL.com/signin/epping) which your child can use at home on any personal computer. IXL is a math and language arts website with an unlimited number of practice questions in hundreds of skills. In math students should complete the P, pre-school level before starting the K, kindergarten level unless directed otherwise. In language arts students should start at the K level unless directed otherwise. Both sites are adaptive and will adjust to your child's demonstrated ability level and will allow me and you to monitor your child's progress.

**Parents are asked to purchase computer headphones.** A form will be sent home in your child's *home-school folder*. These headphones will be labeled and stored at school in your child's cubby and sent to the next grade level. Please let me know if you need help with this purchase.

### Book Orders

Scholastic Book Orders will be sent home monthly in your child's *home-school folder*. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to build their home library. Book prices start as low as \$1.00! You may return your order form to class in your child's *home-school folder* with a check (no cash) or place your order on-line. If you choose to order on-line you will be able to charge your purchase and select from exclusive on-line products! All orders will help our class earn free books, games, and supplies!

Directions to order on-line will be included with your September Book Order which will be in your child's *home-school folder*. Our class code is GPD46. **September Book Orders** should be placed on-line or returned to school with a check (no cash) by **Friday, September 16**. Orders placed after the due date will be processed in the next month. Due dates for Book Orders are indicated on our monthly class calendar which you can access on our class website,

### Birthdays

Turning 5 and 6 years old is exciting! We acknowledge student birthdays with a birthday song, crown, birthday award sticker, special pencil, and special helper assignment. Please let us know in advance if your child does NOT celebrate birthdays so that we may respect all beliefs. We will acknowledge July and August birthdays during the last week of school.

### Holidays

Holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, and Easter are acknowledged in accordance with the needs of our students. Please let us know in advance if your child does NOT celebrate holidays so that we may respect all beliefs.

### Epping Days

Occasionally we will try to remember to **wear our EES t-shirt** on **Epping Days**, but it is okay if you forget. These days are designed to build community within our school. We try to note Epping Days on our monthly class calendar which will be posted on our class website or in your child's *home-school folder* if you prefer paper copies.

### Picture Day

**School pictures** will be taken on **Wednesday, September 14**. All students will get their picture taken and receive a free class composite picture! Class pictures arrive later in the school year. Please send in a comb or brush for your child if you think it may be needed, however kindergarten students get their pictures taken first thing in the morning. Retakes will be held on Thursday, November 3.

### Open House

**Open House** will be held on **Tuesday, September 27 6:30-8:00pm**. **Please bring your child!** Open House is a time *for your child* to show you the **MANY** things they have already learned in kindergarten, meet our Unified Arts teachers, and attend the school Book Fair!

### Classroom Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering at the school or in our classroom, please contact EES administrative assistant, Ms. Gwen Pham [gwen.pham@eppingsd.org](mailto:gwen.pham@eppingsd.org).

### Discipline

Kindergarten students still need to learn **MANY** social skills and I use any incidents as a learning experience. We use the **Positive Action** program to help children develop their social and emotional learning through positive attitudes and actions. We also have weekly class meetings to discuss any

student concerns and build community within our classroom. Please contact me as soon as possible if your child reports any negative feelings about peers, the bus, or school so I can address them in a timely manner. However, you should first discuss bus concerns with your child's bus driver.

I also include a character-building program called **Bucket Fillers**. Bucket filling is an easy-to-understand concept: Everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds our good thoughts and feelings. When our buckets are full, we feel happy and when our buckets are empty, we feel sad. Children quickly understand that they can fill buckets when they make good choices and do and say things that are kind, considerate, caring, and respectful. They also learn that when they make poor choices they dip into buckets and remove those good feelings. Your child will earn a daily sticker for trying to keep their bucket full each day and additional stickers when going above and beyond classroom expectations. Your child will take their sticker chart home when full and choose a treat from the prize box for all their hard work. This will be done on an individual basis.

We will also fill a class bucket. We can fill this bucket when our entire class is acknowledged for their kindness, cooperation, and hard work by other staff members or unified arts teachers. Prizes for filling our class bucket may include an extra recess, show & tell, pajama day, etc...

We want each child to develop a love of school and learning! However, if repeated modeling, support, and practice cannot help your child interact and work appropriately at school then I will call you to determine a plan of action. If inappropriate behavior continues after you have been notified, then I will contact our principal or school counselor for additional support.

### Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule is posted on our website. We rotate on a A-F schedule. The first full day of kindergarten will be a **C day**. We will have Science. A typical day begins with transition time for children to unpack, check in, eat breakfast if needed, and greet their friends followed by literacy activities until the school bell rings. Your child will learn to be responsible and independently remember and complete their daily jobs. Please continue to practice having your child zip their coats and backpacks, open their snacks, wash their hands, go to the bathroom, and dress themselves at home.

### Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 3:10pm. Children going home in a car are dismissed to the main entrance. You will need to wait in your car in the pick-up line. This ensures safety by minimizing students walking through the parking lot and decreasing the number of adults at the main entrance. Staff will help your child into their vehicle. Children going home on a bus are dismissed to the gym where staff will escort them to their bus. Kindergarten students sit in assigned seats at the front of the bus. An adult must meet your child at their bus stop for them to be allowed off the bus.

**If your child will NOT be following their regular dismissal routine, please send in a signed note in your child's home-school folder or call the Main Office 679-8018. Please do NOT leave a message on my e-mail or voice mail regarding dismissals since I may not be able to retrieve it prior to dismissal.**

### Kindergarten Curriculum

Our curriculum meets State Competencies. This month we will be focusing on learning routines and getting to know our peers as we build community within our classroom. We will also be learning about autumn and life cycles. Many of our reading, writing, math, and science activities for the next several weeks will be integrated around these topics.



Our math programs, Math in Focus & Calendar Math, use Investigation, Discovery, Exploration, and Application to focus on mastery and fluency of number sense. Your child will complete two math workbooks throughout the school year, participate in many hands-on activities, and practice skills using the IXL math computer program.

During Reader's Workshop, our Learning to Read through Reading program develops your child's reading skills using sentence patterns, picture clues, concepts about print, sight words, context clues, phonic skills, phonemic awareness, and comprehension strategies. Our reading benchmark is a Fountas & Pinnell instructional level C, however I will be teaching your child skills to read level D. Level C books have several sight words, some repetitive sentences, some words that need to be sounded out, and some words that can be decoded using context clues. Level D books have more sight words, fewer repetitive sentences, and several words that need to be sounded out or use multiple strategies to decode them. Children reading above benchmarks will be challenged to develop the necessary skills and strategies to comprehend and progress to higher levels.

As part of Writer's Workshop, our Learning to Write through Writing program will help your child become an author and illustrator. Your child will learn to write complete sentences and stories. We will write opinions, a personal narrative, a non-fiction text, a persuasive text, respond to literature, and keep a journal. Students will also develop skills to draw pictures that resemble real life shapes and use real life colors. Drawings of people will consist of thick arms and legs, clothing, facial features, and varied hair styles.

Our phonics programs, Foundations and Sounds First, incorporate phonemic awareness, literacy, handwriting, spelling, and vocabulary skills. A letter describing the program will be sent home shortly. Your child will soon begin writing their name with an uppercase letter and all other letters will be lowercase. Your child will also practice literacy skills using the IXL language arts computer program.

**By the end of kindergarten your child will have been taught** to count and read numerals to 100, name all the letters and sounds, read and comprehend Guided Reading Level C/D books or above, read and spell 50 or more sight words, segment/blend/manipulate sounds to read and spell unknown words, add and subtract within 10, write three different genre books, use details in their illustrations, use lowercase letters in their handwriting, and form complete sentences to include punctuation...among many, many other things!

### **Parent & Student Conferences**

Conferences will be held on **Tuesday, November 8** and **Monday, April 3**. There is no school on these days. As requested by our superintendent, parents are encouraged to include their child in this conference as we discuss their educational progress.

This promises to be a busy and exciting school year and we look forward to you being part of it! If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me before or after school at 679-8018 x 3111 or e-mail at [jmasury@eppingsd.org](mailto:jmasury@eppingsd.org).

I know this is a lot to take in, so this and future newsletters are posted on our class website. *All your child needs* to bring to school in a **backpack** is their **home-school folder**, **snack & drink**, **lunch & drink** if your child is not ordering lunch, and a **water bottle** is optional. Please **label** everything with your child's name and we will provide the rest!

Mrs. Masury 