

Kindergarten Parent FAQ's

2017-2018

Please read through this at the beginning of the year and keep it handy to refer to it during the year. I will try to communicate often throughout the year. Please feel free to ask questions at any time. Thanks!

Mrs. Joanie Lipp

Home 397-3213, School 376-3183

jlipp@nsschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What time does school start?

7:33 am- Students that ride the Kremlin/Havre bus will play outside or in the gym. Other students may enter the classroom at 7:50.

8:00 am- First bell rings

8:05 am – School begins

2. What time does school end? Kindergarten begins dismissal at 3:40 pm. Class is dismissed at 3:45

3. Where do I pick my child up after school? Students are released from the foyer by the main doors of the building.

4. Can my child eat breakfast at school? Yes, breakfast is served in the cafeteria daily and consists of milk or juice, fruit, prepackaged foods and usually a hot choice such as pancakes or hash browns and sausage. If you do NOT want your child to eat breakfast at school, please let me know in writing before school starts. If your child doesn't eat breakfast, they will still sit at the table with us at breakfast time.

5. Do I need to send a snack to school with my child? No. We will have a snack in the afternoon every day.

6. Will my child be taking a nap at school? We will have a rest time after lunch recess most kindergarten days until Spring. This is not a nap time. However if your child falls asleep during this time, they will be allowed to sleep for approx. 30 minutes. There will not be room for children to spread out a blanket at this time so please do not send one. A SMALL (not bed sized) pillow should be sent to school.

7. What if my child is late for school? We understand that there may be instances when it is not possible to be here on time. However, please try to have your child at school on time so we can begin our day together. If your child is late he or she will be missing many valuable learning experiences which may impact the learning process. Tardies will be noted on report cards and habitual tardiness may affect your child's progress in Kindergarten.

8. What is the attendance policy? Regular, on-time attendance at school is vital to your child's success. Most Kindergarten learning activities take place in a large group setting and involve interaction with classmates. A complete attendance policy is in the student handbook which each child will receive during the first week of school.

IMPORTANT: If you are considering taking your child from school for a vacation during the year please note that most of our instruction is hands-on and interactive and make-up work will not be given. Worksheets for letters we cover while you are gone will be provided.

9. Will my child be eating lunch at school? Yes, we will be serving lunch to all kindergarten students in the cafeteria daily. All students are encouraged to eat independently and try new foods. I will expect children to taste food on their trays and finish their milk. Students are required to have milk unless there is a note from a doctor concerning an allergy. Please send a doctor note concerning other allergies as well.

10. How do I pay for my child's meals? Parents must prepay for breakfast and lunch or send money every day. Payment can be made in the elementary office or parents can also pay for school meals on-line via the Infinite Campus Portal. Katie will be sending parents their Infinite Campus username and passwords. Also check out the school web site at www.northstar.k12.mt.us When you send money to the school, please put it in a sealed envelope or baggie labeled with the child's name and what the money is for.

11. What is the best way to contact Mrs. Lipp? I can be contacted by phone: School 376-3183 before or after school or at home 397-3213. I also check my email frequently: jlipp@nsschools.org. If you would like to schedule a conference to discuss your child's academic progress please feel free to call or send a note and I will do my best to accommodate you.

I will also use a communication app called 'Remind' for announcements and one-one messages. This is a great way to get information from me on a smartphone. I would encourage you to join the class I have created, "Class of 2030". To do so use this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/289h4g> or text 81010 to @289h4g on your smartphone. This will automatically add you to the class.

12. Will my child be bringing home a weekly or daily folder? YES. One of the two folders sent to school will be designated as a "homefun folder". Items on the left side of the folder are things that may be "left" at home. Items on the right side of the folder should be sent "right" back. Please check the folder every night for information that is important.

13. Will my child have homefun in Kindergarten? Homefun (papers to be completed with parent help at home) will be sent home Monday and Tuesday and should be returned the following school day. It is important that children establish the concept of setting time aside to focus on learning at home. Please take time to help with homefun and give feedback to your child about what they are learning.

14. Should I send money to school with my child? There may be times during the school year when a note is sent home with your child requesting money for particular activities. You are not obligated to send money for anything; it is only a request to contribute. Money should only be sent to school in a sealed envelope, Ziploc bag, or inside the zippered pouch in the homefun folder. All money should be labeled with your child's name, grade, teacher's name, and the purpose of the money. Please do not send loose money to school for any reason.

15. What if my child is sick? If your child is sick please keep him/her at home. Small children catch germs very easily and illness can spread rapidly around the classroom.

- RASH
- VOMITING
- PINK EYE/CONJUNCTIVITIS
- ANY OTHER SYMPTOMS THAT COULD AFFECT THE HEALTH OF OTHER CHILDREN
- FEVER
- LICE
- DIARRHEA
- CHICKEN POX

If you will not be sending your child to school due to illness please contact Katie and leave a message.

IF YOUR CHILD IS SENT TO SCHOOL SICK, OR BECOMES ILL DURING SCHOOL HOURS MRS LIPP OR KATIE WILL BE CONTACTING YOU TO COME AND PICK UP YOUR CHILD.
PLEASE KEEP ALL PHONE NUMBERS CURRENT SO WE MAY REACH YOU IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

16. What should my child wear to school? Please send your child to school in clothing that is appropriate for play and learning. Items such as jewelry are a distraction to all children and should be left at home. Shoes should be durable and allow the child to run and play at recess. Girls will not be allowed to wear shoes with heels in the classroom.

17. What about “Show and Tell”? Show and Tell will be the second Thursday of every month beginning on September 14th. **Show and Tell should be only one item per week.** Pets may be brought for show and tell if an adult brings the animal to school and takes it back home. Please DO NOT send a live animal, insect, reptile etc. to school with your child. I would appreciate a call or note if you are planning to bring a pet for Show and Tell. Additional Show and Tell dates throughout the year are:

September 14th, October 12th, November 9th, December 14th, January 11th, February 15th, March 15th, April 12th, and May 10th. I will send a note home prior to these dates.

18. Does my child need a backpack? YES. All students will need a functional backpack large enough to hold a 9×12 inch folder inside without folding or bending. Backpacks with wheels are not allowed at school, they do not fit into the school lockers. Backpacks will be used daily to hold your child’s many important papers and projects as well as a daily homefun folder containing homefun and other important notices. Many backpacks look alike; please label your child’s backpack with his/her name visible on the outside. PLEASE BRING THE BACKPACK TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY.

***TOYS, CANDY, and FOOD:** For safety reasons please do not allow your child to bring any toys, candy, or food to school. Toys can easily become broken, lost, or stolen. Teachers will not be responsible for toys brought to school. TOYS CAN BE BROUGHT FOR SHOW AND TELL BUT PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SCHOOL AND I ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. NO TOYS FROM HOME ARE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYGROUND.

19. Does my child need to bring a change of clothes to school? Accidents happen. If your child is prone to bathroom accidents, I would appreciate it if you could send underwear, pants, and socks in a **labeled** Ziploc bag. I’ll keep these in a closet.

20. Can my child ride the bus? If your child isn’t a regular bus student, a written note or phone call to Katie is necessary for ANY reason they may need to be on a bus.

21. Can I bring treats to school for my child’s birthday? You may send or bring treats to school the day of the birthday or another day close to the birthday. The birthday child will receive a birthday crown and be able to choose a game or activity at the end of the day. Summer birthday children and their parents can choose a day during the fall or spring to celebrate their birthday if they want to. Because of our busy schedule, we spend about 20 minutes on a birthday celebration. Some good choices for birthday treats include: cookies, fruit snacks, Rice Krispy treats, fruit, ice cream cups etc. Cake or cupcakes are messy and don’t make good choices in kindergarten.

22. What are the classroom rules?

- Be kind to others
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Follow directions when given
- Finish your work and do your best

23. When will report cards be sent home? Report cards will be mailed home four times per year in Kindergarten. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled after the first and third quarters.

24. What can I do at home to help my child be successful in school? Please work with your child on the following skills at home:

- Sharing
- Cleaning- up
- Recognizing colors and shapes
- Recognizing/ identifying numbers
- Recognizing/ identifying letters and sounds
- Cutting with scissors
- Buttoning, snapping, zipping, and tying
- Opening food items such as milk cartons, cheese sticks, and granola bars,

I'm looking forward to the new school year and working with you and your child. I am available by phone or emails anytime so please don't hesitate to ask questions.

Joanie Lipp

P.S. Teaching children to tie their shoes is not part of current kindergarten curriculum. Please do not send your child to school with tie shoes unless there is a medical reason for doing so. This is especially true for gym shoes. When it is muddy or snowy we change from boots to shoes 4-5 times a day. Taking time to tie shoes that many times a day adds up and can take away from activities such as P.E. Thank you for your attention to this.