

COKATO ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP



WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2033!
WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

The first day of kindergarten will be one of the most exciting and important days in your child's life! The first day of school pictures, meeting new friends, meeting his or her teacher, and taking a huge step towards becoming more independent are all amazing experiences for parents as well as the children.

Cokato Elementary School knows how important the first day of kindergarten is for every student and the caring adults in their lives. To help make the first day and all the remaining school experiences successful, please review the information in this booklet with your child.

I welcome you and your child to the Dassel-Cokato Public Schools. I want to assure you that Dassel-Cokato Schools' commitment to your child will not end on the first day of kindergarten, but will continue for his or her entire school career. We look forward to many wonderful years of learning and growing together.

Sincerely,

Brian Franklin
Principal



WHY KINDERGARTEN?

The purpose of kindergarten is to provide a basic foundation for your child's first step into formal education. Kindergarten is structured to help make the transition from home to school go as smoothly as possible, and to make each child's first experience with school a successful and happy one.

The kindergarten program is designed to help build a good self-concept, providing each child with many experiences of success. Kindergarten children will work both independently and cooperatively with others in a group. The program will provide opportunities for social and emotional development, inspire language development, and expand physical and mental growth.



In kindergarten, a child prepares not only for his/her future years in school, but also for the rest of his/her life. Every child is different. All children learn different skills at different times and mature at different rates. If your child doesn't develop at the same rate as your neighbor's child or a brother or sister, do not be alarmed. Your child is an individual.



Sometimes a child has not matured enough to have a successful educational experience. Past experience has shown that if there is any doubt as to whether or not a child is mature enough, it is best to allow him/her another year of growth before entering kindergarten.

YOU CAN HELP!

In a school family the size of ours, everybody needs help!

- Become acquainted with the teachers and assistants who will be working with your child.
- Keep a copy of the school calendar nearby; know which days your child will be in or out of school.
- Review school and bus schedules in advance, so that everything will go as smoothly as possible on the first day of school.
- Prepare for your parent/teacher conference. Have questions ready; share with the teacher your child's joys, worries, strengths, and areas of need.
- Consider becoming a school volunteer. Contact Kim Pennala at 286-4100 extension 1369.
- Attend Open House and Kindergarten Orientation to learn more about your child's day.
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.
- Regular attendance is extremely important. Call the school if your child will be absent. Also, continual tardiness can also impact your child's education. Please be sure your child arrives to school on time. School starts at 8:00 a.m.!
- Keep the teacher informed of childcare arrangements, and send a note if a change occurs.
- Send a note if your child will be picked up at school or will go home with another child. If there is no note, your child will be sent home as usual.
- You are always welcome at Cokato Elementary! Remember to sign in and sign out at the office and wear a visitor's badge while you are here. If you are taking your child home prior to the end of the school day, you must sign out your child in the school office.
- Before purchasing clothing, check to be sure that fasteners are easy for your child to manipulate.
- Write your child's name on all school supplies and backpacks.
- Practice naming the upper case and lower case letters of the alphabet in random order with your child before the start of school next fall. At the end of kindergarten, they will be assessed on reading nearly 40 words. Encourage them to count as high as they can also and identify numbers in random order up to or past 100!



KINDERGARTEN CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS!

_____ Our child will be 5 years or older by September 1.

_____ Our child has taken part in **Early Childhood Screening** in Dassel-Cokato or another district.
This is a Minnesota requirement.

_____ We have returned all required paperwork to the school office prior to the start of school.

- Our child's immunization record. **The school is required by law to send children home on the first day of school if the immunization paperwork is not in our office.**
- Health and Emergency Information Form (found in health packet)
- If relevant, authorization form for medication that will be administered at school (found in health packet)
- If relevant, the transportation emergency form for special needs students (found in health packet)

_____ When asked, our child can say his/her first and last names and the names of his/her parents.

_____ Other adults easily understand his/her speech.

_____ We have purchased the following school supplies and labeled them with our child's name:

- 1 box of 24 crayons. **Not jumbo.**
- Towel for resting.
- 1 large backpack - no wheels, please.
- 1 large eraser
- 3 boxes of crackers
- 1-4 oz. Elmer's glue
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 plastic school pencil box (approx. 8x5)
- Headphones (no earbuds) for the computer lab in a Ziploc bag with child's name on it
- 1 box Crayola Markers (thick or thin)
- 1 pair tennis shoes
- 4 pencils
- 2 Expo dry erase markers - low odor
- 1 Blunt end Fiskars Scissors
- 2 boxes of Kleenex



_____ We have discussed how my child is getting to school with our child prior to the start of school.

_____ Our child can independently use the restroom.

_____ Our child can dress independently (put on, fasten, take off, zip, and hang up outer clothing).

_____ When printing his/her name, our child attempts to use both upper and lowercase letters. (see enclosed handwriting model for letter formation that is consistent with our teaching)

_____ We have noted that Kindergarten students first 2 days of school are appointments with teachers, not full student school days. Kindergarten students start their full days the third day of the school year.



DASSEL-COKATO TRANSPORTATION

Please call Holt Transportation and Tours at 320-286-5315 if your child will not ride the bus. Bus passes will no longer be issued. Students will only be allowed to get on/off the bus at their designated stops. District bus routes are currently at capacity. Students will only be allowed to ride to/from their designated stop.

Please be aware that times of pick-up can vary slightly. Drivers can be early if one or more students are not riding the route. Please have your child at his/her stop 5 minutes before the appointed time.

Be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

If your child should miss the bus, bring him/her to school. Please help your child know the danger of running after the bus.

Discipline problems should be reported to the bus driver. If the driver cannot resolve the problem, please call Cokato Transportation at 320-286-5315 or Nicole Carlen at 320-286-4100 x 1005.

Please discuss the bus rules with your child before the start of school.

1. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language,
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any object.
8. No tobacco, drugs, or alcohol are allowed on the bus.
9. Do not bring any weapon or dangerous objects on the bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.

A CHILD'S LIFE IS LIKE A PIECE OF PAPER ON WHICH EVERY
PASSERBY LEAVES A MARK

~ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERB



Thank you for attending our Kindergarten Roundup. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have. Your child's smooth transition from home to school is very important to us.

The Staff at Cokato Elementary School