

# KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION



**Classical School**

**Appleton, Wisconsin**

**Kindergarten 2017 – 2018**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Classroom observation policy

Math and reading placement tests for enrolled students

Meet and Greet

Daily school schedule, including arrival and dismissal procedures

Communication at Classical School

Kindergarten supply list

Preparing your child for Classical School kindergarten

Meet the kindergarten teachers

Zaner-Bloser packet for alphabet and numeral practice

## **CLASSICAL SCHOOL FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

Classical School began in the fall of 1999. We currently enroll about 490 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Our kindergarten program is a full-day program. We do not offer a half-day option.

### **CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS**

Parents and members of the community at large often ask if they may visit the classrooms at Classical School to see the program in action. Observations are through appointment. If you would like to arrange a classroom observation, please contact our Program Specialist, Kathy Diedrich, at (920) 997-1399 ext. 3397 or [diedrichkathy@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:diedrichkathy@aasd.k12.wi.us), and she will be happy to arrange your visit.

We welcome visitors into our classrooms, but to keep disruptions for the students to a minimum, we adhere to the following guidelines:

- The teacher will provide a seat for you in a designated area. Please have a seat when entering the classroom. At the end of class, please check with the teacher for an appropriate time to have your questions answered during your visit. You may also stop in to see Kathy Diedrich, or the other designated staff member assisting with the observation, with any questions you might have.
- To enable the children to follow the teacher directives, we ask visitors not to interact with the children who are working independently in the classroom. For example, if a child comes to you with a question while you are observing the classroom, please direct the child to the teacher or aide unless otherwise specified.

### **MATH AND READING PLACEMENT TESTS**

Kindergarten math and reading placement tests for **enrolled students** will be administered by the kindergarten teachers during the summer before school begins. Those students that are enrolled in summer school at Classical School will be tested during the summer school day. An alternate testing time will be offered for those not attending summer school at Classical.

### **MEET AND GREET FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS**

Kindergarten students and their parents will have a chance to meet with the teacher, see their new classroom, and drop off their classroom supplies before the start of school, typically in late August.

### **CLASSICAL STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

Supervision begins at 7:45 am on the playground. Students should not be at school before that time.

The first bell rings at 7:54 am and students should be in their lines outside ready to enter the building at this time.

Students should be in their seats ready to start the day at the 8:00 am bell when classes start. Lunch and/or lunch recess begins at 11:17 am.

School is dismissed at 2:49 pm. To begin the year, all kindergarten students will be dismissed from the school's front door, directly to their parent(s) per the following procedure:

1. Each family will be issued three placards with your student's name.
2. Bring one of the placards to the front door of the building for kindergarten pickup.
3. Gather in the front courtyard area right outside the main office only. The courtyard is the area at the visitor front door entrance/exit where the large planters are located.
  - Remember, 7 – 8 graders are in class during elementary pickup; stay away from the classroom windows bordering the parking lot.
4. Teachers will be standing at the front door and will release children to parents one at a time after they view your placard.
5. Use the yellow-lined walk areas to walk safely to your vehicle.

6. If you have asked one of your older children to pick up your kindergarten student, please have them pick up their sibling inside school near the office. After your kindergartener's teacher releases your student to their sibling, they must exit out the back doors of the school toward the playground. Older siblings may not pick up kindergarten students from the parking lot.
7. If you have older students, plan to meet them outside the back doors of the school or another meeting place away from the front parking lot. Remember, students may not cross parking lots without adult supervision.

## **COMMUNICATION AT CLASSICAL SCHOOL**

Teachers and staff at Classical School utilize a variety of means to communicate with parents.

**Daily:** Completed and in-progress work is sent home daily in a take-home folder. The folder is labeled, with one side containing papers to keep at home and one side containing papers to be completed and returned to school. When students reach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, a daily assignment notebook is also employed to help students and families keep track of work that is due.

**Weekly:** An envelope referred to as the *Pegasus Flyer* is sent home each Thursday containing any school-wide announcements. Parents are asked to remove any items from the envelope, read them carefully, sign and date the envelope, and return it to school the following day with their student. Items that need to be completed and returned to school should be returned in the correct side of the student's take-home folder, as teachers do not check the contents of the *Pegasus Flyer* upon return.

**Monthly:** Each teacher produces and sends home a paper copy of their monthly newsletter summarizing classroom news and progress in subject areas. Classical School also produces a school newsletter, the *Classical Columns*, which is emailed home the end of each month. Each edition features communication from school leadership, including a "Principal's Address" and "Notes from the Classical Charter School Association Board." The *Columns* pulls together important information regarding school events, clubs, the school calendar, and much more. Please contact Kathy Diedrich at [diedrichkathry@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:diedrichkathry@asds.k12.wi.us) with any questions regarding the *Columns*. We ask all parents to read both the classroom and school newsletters carefully each month to remain informed and connected.

**Quarterly:** Report cards will be sent home in the Pegasus Flyers at the end of each quarter or mailed home depending on the circumstances at the time of printing.

**Biannually:** Parent/teacher conferences are held twice per school year during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (typically October) and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (typically March). Information on signing up for conference times will be sent home in the weeks before conferences. Additional meetings with teachers may be arranged by contacting your student's teacher.

**Annually:** Each family receives a printed copy of the Classical School Family Handbook in the fall. The handbook contains valuable general information, as well as school rules and expectations and academic policies and procedures. The handbook may also be found on the school website.

### **Ongoing:**

- Parents are encouraged to email teachers with any questions, and most teachers will also use email to communicate directly with parents as needed.
- The Appleton Area School District (AASD) and Classical School use a school-wide email and automated call system to communicate with families. This system is typically employed to announce school closures or delays and to remind families of events, deadlines, or scheduled days off.
- Parents of AASD students are able to access information online about their child's attendance and grades through the school district's student data system, Infinite Campus. Please contact Linda Kempf at [kempflinda@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:kempflinda@asds.k12.wi.us) with any questions regarding accessing Infinite Campus.
- The school website, [www.classicalcharter.com](http://www.classicalcharter.com), contains valuable information regarding the school's curriculum, a staff directory, and links to parent and student resources. Parents may also subscribe to a blog and school calendar on the website. Please contact Joanne Bielmeier at [bielmeierjoann@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:bielmeierjoann@asds.k12.wi.us) with any questions regarding the website.

## **KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST FOR 2017-2018**

- Plastic school box (5" X 8" – no bigger!) – No handles, no zippers (FYI: we will have name-labels for the boxes)

### **Inside the box put the following (remove items from store box/packaging, label each item)**

- \*\* 2 Boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons – regular – each labeled with name
- \*\* Scissors (Fiskars) – labeled with name

### **These items are not put in the school box; these items will be kept in the child's "cubby" in the classroom.**

- \*\* Box of 8 basic colors, thick Crayola washable markers (please no RoseArt, they don't last) – NOTE: does not go in plastic school box, but *should be individually labeled*
- 1 Box of 8 Crayola or Prang watercolors – labeled with name

### **Names or initials should not be on the following items (will go into shared bins):**

- 10 Purple Glue Sticks (no need to write name on these)
- 4 Ticonderoga Beginners pencils (no need to write name on these)
- 10 regular-sized Ticonderoga yellow pencils (No need to write name on these)
- 2 Large pink erasers (no need to write name on these)
- 2 Large family-size boxes of tissues (no need to write name on these)
- 2 Boxes of crackers, cereal, or pretzels for our daily snack (no need to write name on these)

### **Other Supplies – labeled with name:**

- Paint shirt – labeled with name
- Inside shoes used for gym and wet/snowy weather –write name on edge of soles
- EXTRA SET OF UNDERWEAR, SOCKS, AND PANTS FOR BATHROOM ACCIDENTS & SPILLS - inside a Ziploc bag with student's name on the bag.

## **PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

The more you can work with your child to prepare him or her for the Classical School kindergarten academic program, the easier the transition will be. Please take time to work with your child so he or she will be able to perform the following tasks at the start of school if possible:

### **Math:**

- 1) Recognize and write numbers 0 through 10
- 2) Count backwards from 10 to 0
- 3) One-to-one correspondence (Example: When counting 10 items, touch each item one time only as you count it)
- 4) Practice asking numbers that come before and after other numbers 0 through 10 (Example: What number comes before 7? What number comes after 4?)

### **Reading:**

- 1) Recognize and name the capital and lower case letters of the alphabet
- 2) Be able to print your first name using a capital letter at the beginning and lower case letters for the rest of your name
- 3) Follow a small series of directions. For example: Put your shoes on THEN tie them.
- 4) Practice recognizing and printing the letters b, d, p, g, and q in smaller case
- 5) Read stories to your child at home and ask questions during and afterward to help build Comprehension skills)

**Penmanship:**

Handwriting is very important in kindergarten. It is important for children to learn just how to form letters, but also it's very important for them to learn to form the letters correctly. It is beneficial for the student's development in this area if they are practicing skills in the same way at home and school. With that in mind, we would like to ask you to help prepare your child for school by practicing letters with the following guidelines in mind:

- All letters use a continuous stroke whenever possible.
- Letters do not start from the bottom line.
- Each number represents a lift of the pencil.

For example the capital letter "A" has a 1, 2, AND 3. This means that the pencil is lifted two times while making the letter. The lowercase "a" only has the number 1. This means that there is only one stroke with no lifts. There is another arrow, but not another number.

When practicing at home please do not feel that you must focus on pencil and paper only. There are many different ideas to use when practicing letter/number formation. A few examples include using shaving cream on a table, using a stick and sand at the beach or a backyard sandbox, or using a white or chalkboard. Different ideas make it more enjoyable for younger children and it doesn't always seem like a chore.

**Other areas to practice:**

Practice tying shoes – Unless your child is 100% independent at tying their shoes, please provide shoes with Velcro closures.

Practice zipping coats – Please refrain from sending coats with button-front closures.

---

# MEET THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

## MRS. BOMANN



I am very happy to say I joined the Classical School staff in the autumn of 2012 as a kindergarten teacher in the Appleton Area School District.

I attended college at UW Madison where I received two undergraduate degrees, one in special education and one as a classroom teacher. I first taught in the Edgerton School District and in the Madison School District for a total of 7 years prior to moving to Appleton. I was a special education teacher and a 6th grade classroom teacher (math/science). I have worked with children ages Pre-k to grade 8 throughout the years in different capacities as well. During the summer of 2011 and 2012, I taught the first grade summer school class at Classical School. My oldest children have graduated from Classical and we currently have one child at Classical School.

While still in Madison, Mr. Bomann and I were thrilled to hear about the startup of Classical School and ....the rest is history. We are committed to our school and its curriculum. I gained experience with our reading program and the math program while in Madison and this has been instrumental in the formation of my teaching philosophies. I am always thankful to the group of Appleton area community members that started our school. I am so happy to have the opportunity to teach Kindergarten at Classical and watch the children blossom under this rich program.

I grew up in Sturgeon Bay and enjoy returning to that area with my children to swim and to go fishing. We especially like spending July 4th holiday staying up late and watching fireworks in Door County. Outside of my work, I enjoy taking care of the family and house, reading, walking/exploring, biking, and gardening.

Feel free to make a connection with me as we start the school year. I very much look forward to meeting you and your child and teaching the fulfilling rich Classical School curriculum.

## MRS. NAGREEN



I first became involved in the school after I read a newspaper article in June of 1998. I was looking for something different for my daughter than the traditional public school. I have many of my own ideas about how a child should be educated, and I was thrilled to find a group of people who shared the same basic ideas. I became involved immediately. I am very pleased that I am able to be involved with the school as a teacher.

I was born in Appleton and I have always lived here, other than attending college in Minneapolis. I am the youngest of many children. As a child I enjoyed sports and was an avid reader, but I never really connected with school. Because of a promise I made to my dad, I did decide to attend college. It was there that I found joy in education. My education professors took me under their wings and helped me to develop character and perseverance. They really stuck with me...especially through my student teaching. One of my assignments was to teach an inner city sixth grade class. It was also a language magnet school. This meant that when I taught, the lesson was translated into three different languages at the same time. That was quite the experience.

My first teaching assignment was at Appleton Christian School. I taught 4th-6th grade classes there. I really enjoyed working there, but after my daughter was born, I made a job change to Little Rock Day Care. As the director, I developed an academic preschool and kindergarten program. Because of a last-minute teacher resignation, I started teaching kindergarten until I could find a replacement. I found that I loved it.

I am now entering my twenty-eighth year of teaching. My undergraduate education degree is from North Central University where I also majored in Biblical studies. Quite a few years ago I earned my Master's Degree from Cardinal Stritch College. My degree is designed for teachers who want to stay in the classroom and strengthen classroom teaching skills. I focused on Direct Instruction and my thesis was on Direct Instruction reading success.

Any kindergartener will know very quickly that I love animals. Believe it or not, we have two cats and about a dozen chickens. I have always loved kittens, but the chickens are a relatively new hobby that I picked up about a decade ago. I also enjoy gardening, doing puzzles, officiating swimming and spending time with my own children.

I am looking forward to the school year. I am always excited about teaching children to read and learn math. The Core Knowledge curriculum is fun to teach and enjoyable for the children to learn. I enjoy teaching the children through storytelling. I always enjoy visitors, so feel free to schedule a time and come on in. I love for others to observe what the children are learning so they can see that children this young have a genuine understanding of the core concepts in the curriculum.