

May, 2017

Dear Kensington Parent,

The transition to Kindergarten is a major one for children and their families. During the first few days of school, your children will bring home information from their teachers about the specifics of their classes, and other information about the school year. Before then, here are a few things that you need to know:

**Class assignments:** At this time we expect to have three kindergarten classes. **The Kindergarten day is from 8:15-1:30pm.** You will be notified if there is any change. Class lists will be posted on the windows on the patio side of the MPR on Friday, August 18, 2017 at 4:30. **The first day of school for the 17-18 school year is Monday, August 21, 2017.**

**The first day of school:** Every day, including the first day, your child will line up in front of his/her classroom. Please plan to wait with your child until the 8:15 bell. There is no supervision provided on the Kindergarten yard before school. When the bell rings at 8:15am the teacher will open the door and let the children in. Do not expect to accompany your child into the classroom. This can be difficult (especially for parents!) on the first few days, but please be assured that our Kindergarten teachers are all very experienced at helping the children through this huge transition. At the end of the school day, please wait for your child outside the classroom. If your children go to after-school care, they will be picked up by the after-school program.

**Snacks/lunch:** Please pack a healthy snack and a lunch for your child every day. It works best if your child can open all containers, and if the food is not messy. Send spoons or forks if needed. Please do not send food that requires heating. Teachers do not allow desserts, sugary snacks, or Capri Sun drinks. Often, there is a child with nut allergies. If this is the case, the whole class will be asked not to pack nuts or nut butters in children's lunches. If your child has food allergies, please let the teacher and the office know in writing **before** the first day of school.

**Backpacks, lunch bags, and school supplies:** Every child will need a backpack that can easily accommodate a 10 inch by 12 inch folder. The backpack is used for snack/lunch bags, for sending school work to and from class, and for storing your child's jacket. We prefer that your child does not have a backpack with wheels; it will not fit in the shared cubbies.

**School supplies:** During the first few days of school, teachers will send a list home of the required school supplies. It is not necessary to have them the first day.

**Lunch and milk money:** During the first few days of class, information will come home about how to buy lunch and milk. A lunch menu is sent home at the beginning of each month and is on the school website.

**Clothing:** The kindergarten yard at Kensington can be chilly. Please send a jacket with your child on days when it may be cold. Please label all clothing. Send a change of clothes in your child's backpack if your child is prone to accidents.

**Attendance:** If your child will be absent, please call the office or send a note to your child's teacher. Family trips are not excused absences. Please talk with your child's teacher in advance for trips that will be 5 days or more to request an Independent Study Contract. Please see attached attendance policy for information about excused and unexcused absences.

We hope this information will be helpful. Please be sure to check the school website, [kensingtonhilltop.org](http://kensingtonhilltop.org), for general school information and an electronic copy of our school handbook.

We look forward to welcoming your kindergartener and your family to Kensington School this fall.

Judy Sanders  
Principal