

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Sandown Central School community. We are glad that you will be joining us in Kindergarten. In our classrooms, we build our community of friends, through hard work, respect and cooperation. We also strive to build a partnership with our families with ongoing communication throughout the year.

It can be an exciting but overwhelming feeling sending your child to Kindergarten, whether it is your first child or fifth child. Your little one is now big enough for school. We understand that your child's anxiety stems from wondering if they will make friends, what the teacher is like, and whether they will have fun. We are confident that we are prepared for all of these feelings and any other emotions that your child may have. We also understand the anxiety that you, as parents, feel. Here are the most frequently asked questions from Kindergarten parents. We hope these questions and answers help you to better understand the Kindergarten program at Sandown Central.

Q. Do I need to pack a snack every day?

A. Yes. Please send your child with a light and nutritious snack. Snack time only last 10-15 minutes so 1-2 snacks will be sufficient.

Q. Does my child need a water bottle at school?

A. Yes. Please send a water bottle for your child (labeled) each day of school. Feel free to send an additional drink for snack/lunch.

Q. Does my child eat lunch at school?

A. Yes – only if your child attends **FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**. A school lunch calendar will be sent home at the beginning of each month. At the beginning of the year, more information will be sent home about how to establish your child's online school lunch account. Please also remind your child of what they are having for lunch (hot/cold) each morning. Thank you!

Q. What time is the school day?

A. Full day Kindergarten is the length of the regular school day. Arrival is 8:50 and Dismissal is 3:20.

AM Kindergarten 8:50 – 11:20

PM Kindergarten 12:50 – 3:20

Q. Does my child go out to recess every day?

A. Yes. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for recess depending on the weather. We encourage your child to wear sneakers in all types of weather because they are the safest footwear for the playground. During the winter months please send your child in a warm coat, boots, hat and gloves EVERY DAY. If you would like your child to play in the snow, please send their snow pants in a separate bag (ex. Reusable bag). Half Day Kindergarten will provide their recess schedule at the beginning of the year.

Q. I am driving my child to/from school. What is my responsibility?

A. We have a valet service. Please drive your child to the back of the school and stay to the right (kindergarten drop off lane). Please stay in your car with your child buckled, until an adult opens your child's car door to assist them out and direct them to the kindergarten door. At the end of your child's kindergarten day, please remain in your car until an adult approaches your car with your child. Dismissal nametags for your vehicle will be provided at the beginning of the school year. Please adhere them to your passenger side visor. This routine applies to both FULL DAY and HALF DAY kindergarten.

Q. What specials do my child attend and do they have one every day?

A. In addition to the curriculum taught in the classroom, kindergarten students also attend Music, Art, Gym, FLES, Technology and Library. Students have specials every week. Please send your child in sneakers and comfortable clothes on the day they will attend Gym. Your child will receive a specials schedule at the beginning of the school year. HALF DAY students only attend FLES and Library.

Q. What is the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?

A. You may contact your child's teacher by email, and they will respond within 24 hours during the school week. If it is an emergency, please call the school at 887-3648.

Q. How will I know what kind of progress (social/academic) my child is making?

A. We believe communication is key. Individual parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall. Your child will receive additional progress reports and report cards throughout the year. At any time of the year you may contact your teacher about any questions or concerns you may have.

Q. How do I change my child's dismissal plans?

A. Please fill out the PUP (pick up patrol) form on line located on Sandown Central website.

Q. Where is the bathroom?

A. We have our own bathroom right in the classroom.

Q. Should I send in an extra pair of clothes with my child?

There are many different accidents that can happen in a kindergartner's day. Please send in an extra outfit (pants, shirt, underwear) and socks. The clothes should be in a bag with your child's name on it.

Q. Should my child bring a backpack to school every day?

A. Yes, a backpack is suggested. Children will be bringing homework, projects and important notices home frequently. Please label the backpack (and any other items such as lunchboxes, coats, etc.) on the *inside* with your child's name or initials.

Q. How will I receive information about what is happening in my child's classroom?

A. Your classroom teacher will share information through a communication folder and newsletters.

Q. I would like to volunteer in the classroom. How do I let you know?

A. The first six weeks of school is dedicated to building our classroom community through getting to know each other and the routines of the classroom. After that is established volunteers are more than welcome. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to volunteer. If you would like to be a school-based volunteer and work in the staff room (copying, laminating, etc.) please contact the Principal at the beginning of the school year.

Q. I would like to be involved with the PTA. Who do I contact?

A. The PTA will send home a letter in the fall.

Q. What happens when there is a two-hour delay?

A. The arrival is 2 hours later than normal. We don't have AM recess or snack, but lunch is at the regular time. There is **NO AM KINDERGARTEN** on a two-hour delay.

Q. What should I do if my child will be staying home sick?

A. Please call the school in the morning and tell someone in the office that your child is out ill.

Q. What happens if my child becomes ill at school?

A. Mrs. Hatton will call you. If you are not available, she calls the next person listed on the emergency card. It is very important that you fill out the emergency card with complete and accurate information. Should any information change over the year, please let the office and your child's teacher know.

We look forward to a wonderful school year. We hope we have answered your questions. If not, please do not hesitate to email or call. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Staff