

Ridge Hill School

2022-2023 Kindergarten Orientation



Principal:

Mrs. Stacie D'Antonio

Kindergarten Teachers:

Ms. Lisa Carlson

Ms. Christine Grady

Mrs. Rachel Mastracchio

Mrs. Ellen Coughlin

The goal of our Kindergarten Orientation program is to inform parents and guardians of important information regarding our Kindergarten program. The information will hopefully answer any questions you may have and allow the kindergartners to transition smoothly to our school setting.

Staff

Principal

Mrs. Stacie D'Antonio Email: sdantonio@hamden.org

Kindergarten Teachers

Ms. Lisa Carlson Email: lcarlson@hamden.org

Ms. Christine Grady Email: cgrady@hamden.org

Mrs. Rachel Mastraccio Email: rmastracchio@hamden.org

Ms. Ellen Coughlin (Swol) Email: eswol@hamden.org

Nurse: Laura Baker

School Psychologists: Dr. Jim Young

Social Workers: Ms. Emily Taylor

Speech / Language Clinicians: Mrs. Patricia Amodei & Ms. Emily Weinstein

Art Teacher: Ms. Rachael DaCunto

Music Teacher: Mr. Michael O'Herron

P.E. Teacher: Mr. Alex Camire

Media Specialist: Mrs. Maria Klein

School Climate Specialist: Mr. Jamie Rodriguez

School phone: 407-2035

School fax: 407-2012

Website: www.hamden.org

Information Regarding Everyday Activities:

Materials Students Should Bring to School:

- Book bag (large, no wheels)
- Lunch or lunch money
- Nutritional snack
- Juice/water/drink
- 'Extra clothes'
- Extra clean masks in a baggie

Arriving to School:

- School doors open at 8:30 am. No student is allowed in the building before this time and there is no supervision outside prior to 8:30 A.M.
- Children should arrive between 8:30 A.M. and 8:45 A.M. Announcements are made at 8:45 A.M. After the announcements are finished, any student who arrives to school is late. Please bring your child into school, take him or her to the office to sign in and choose a lunch for the day.
- After 10:15 AM, children can only have choice A for lunch.
- For safety and security, please do not interrupt the class while it is in session. If you need to speak with a teacher, please go to the office and leave a message. If it is an emergency, the office will get the teacher coverage so he or her is available to speak with you.

Snack:

- Time for snack is limited, so we ask that you only send in one nutritious food item and one drink. **Items must be peanut and tree nut free.**
- We do not have a microwave to heat up food nor can we refrigerate foods.
- Please supply a spoon or fork with your child's snack if needed. We do not have these in our classrooms.

- Please separate your child's snack and lunch, as this reduces confusion during our snack and lunch times. It also helps with students who have food allergies.

Wellness/Birthday Policy:

Food celebrations are not allowed during the school day. We encourage celebrating birthdays with items like pencils, crafts, games or special stories. There are only two times during the year where food will be permitted: 1. The Multicultural Fair; 2. End-of-Year Celebration

Clothing / Recess:

- If weather permits, the children will go outside for recess. Children are allowed to go outside as long as the temperature with wind chill is above 17 °F. Please dress them accordingly. The school is air conditioned, so it gets chilly in the building. Keeping an sweater/sweatshirt in their backpack is a good idea.

Bathroom Accidents

- Please put an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack. If a child does have an accident, the teacher sends the child to the nurse with their backpack to get cleaned up.

Letter Days

- All of Hamden elementary schools follow a letter day schedule. The letters are A, B, C, D, and E. Our specials (art, music, physical education, and library) fall on certain letter days. You will receive the schedule the 6th day of school.
- Use your school calendar as a reminder of the letter days.
- If there is a snow day, the letter day which should fall on that day is skipped. That letter day is made up at the end of the year.

Valentine/Birthday Party Invitations:

- Due to state statutes, school personnel are not allowed to give out the names, addresses or phone numbers of students to anyone.
- Parents are allowed to send in completed cards/invitations in blank envelopes- as long as there is enough for everyone in the classroom. This makes it easier when we put them into their classmates' folders. We cannot hand out invitations unless all children are invited.
- If religious or personal beliefs interfere with celebrations of holidays or birthdays, please inform the teacher.

Rest Time:

- Takes place until the end of September.
- Mats are supplied by the school.
- No pillows or blankets are allowed due to lack of storage space in the classrooms.

Dismissal:

- Students who ride buses are dismissed beginning at 3:30 P.M. They are escorted to the bus by a bus monitor.
- Before buses have been called, Kindergarten pickups are then dismissed to the main entrance hallway where they can be signed out.
- For safety reasons no children are allowed to leave early with a parent unless the parent goes to the office to sign out the child.
- Ridge Hill School prides itself on a smooth and safe dismissal. We ask that if there is ever a change in your dismissal plans, parents/guardians must send in a note stating the change. It will also be helpful for the parents of the walkers to send in a list of names of people who have permission to pick up their child at dismissal time during the year.

Miscellaneous:

- Please double-knot shoe laces before students arrive at school.

- Label your child's valuables to avoid confusion among students. Label all clothing, lunch boxes, snack bags and backpacks. (First and Last Names)
- Please help your child choose clothes he/she can easily unfasten and refasten during bathroom time.
- When sending in money for lunch, a book fair, plant sale, etc., please put it in a sealed envelope that is labeled with the child's name and event.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness and the Alphabetic Principle

- Hamden Public School will be using the Foundations and Heggerty programs for all Phonics/Phonemic Instruction.

Reading and Writing

- Hamden Public Schools uses the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Program.
- Teachers will receive consistent professional development on this all-inclusive program.
- The reading block includes mini-lessons, individual practice time and small group and 1-1 instruction.
- Shared reading, writing and Interactive reading and writing are also a part of the curriculum.
- We will also have a writing block in our schedule. We will teach all genres of writing including personal narratives, non-fiction writing, opinion/persuasive writing and 'how-to's'.

Mathematics

- Concepts are covered throughout the school year. Many of the concepts build upon one another. Such concepts which will be covered this year are:
 - Working with numbers: counting to 100, writing numbers 1-20, identifying numbers
 - More/Fewer
 - Sorting and Classifying by attributes
 - Measurement: introduce length and linear measurement through measuring by direct comparison
 - Shapes - identifying, constructing 2-D and 3-D shapes
 - Data Analysis - organizing and interpreting data
 - Addition and Subtraction
 - Sequencing events
 - Solving logic problems
 - Solving story problems

If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher directly; either by leaving message with the office or by emailing the teacher directly. We appreciate your partnership and know it takes a village to raise our children. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your family!