

Everything you ever wanted to know about Kindergarten... and probably more!

Drop off: Students may be dropped off between 7:00 and 7:50 each morning. Between 7:00 and 7:30, students will be supervised on the outside bleachers. (Before school care is also available, starting at 6:30. Contact the office for more information.)

At 7:30 all students will be dismissed to their classrooms. From 7:30 to 7:50, students will hang up backpacks, sign in, turn in folders, sharpen pencils, and begin working at their tables.

Attendance: Children should arrive in the classroom no later than 7:50 to avoid being marked tardy. If you do arrive to school late, you will need to stop in the office for a pass. Please send a note or contact the office if you know about an absence ahead of time. In case of an absence, missed work may be picked in the office at the end of the day or we can send it home with a sibling if you prefer.

Pick-up: Kindergarten students are dismissed to the outside bleachers at 2:25 (1:15 on half days). Each child will need to check out with me, and no student will be allowed to cross the parking lot alone. Please follow the traffic patterns to pick up your child, or park and walk across the lane of traffic to pick them up. Please send a note if someone "out of the ordinary" will be picking up your child. After school care is available until 5:30 each day.

Assessment: Most assessment in Kindergarten will be in the form of rubrics, developmental checklists, anecdotal records, and portfolios. My priority is making sure that students are mastering new material and skills and progressing throughout the year. The purpose of homework will be to provide supplemental practice of the skills and content presented and explored in the classroom. I will assess homework to determine comprehension and progression of skills. This practice is also a good time to teach and reinforce good study habits and a strong work ethic. Encourage your child to always do their best.

Homework: Homework will be sent home daily. Homework will not be sent home on Fridays to keep the weekend open for family time and learning outside the classroom. Most assignments are due the next day, unless otherwise noted. Monthly book reports will also be assigned, which will require some help from home. Included in our monthly calendar are extra ideas for practice and mastery of "everyday" skills. Please contact me if you have any questions about the homework, or if you have any concerns.

Snack: Please send a healthy snack for your child to eat mid-morning. You may want to include a drink or a cup for water. Please try to keep snacks nutritious and "not too messy", since we have a limited time to eat.

Birthdays: We would like to celebrate with your child on their day! You may send in a special treat if you choose, which will be shared at snack time. We will celebrate summer birthdays at the end of the school year.

Book Orders: Each month, we will distribute book club catalogs that carry great children's literature at very inexpensive prices. In addition, each order earns points that allow us to purchase resources for the classroom. If you choose to participate, please send checks payable to the book club listed on the order form. All orders can be combined on one check.

Library: Every Tuesday we will visit the school library and have the opportunity to check out one book. Students will not be able to check out a new book until the previous one is returned, so please remind your child to return books each Tuesday. Any lost or damaged books will be the responsibility of the child and family.

Newsletter: A classroom newsletter will be sent home every Friday, filling you in on the past week, upcoming activities, special events, thank yous and help wanted ads. I will also include questions that you can ask your Kindergartner to open up discussion about what we have been doing in school. A school newsletter will also be sent home each week.

Field Trips: Advance notice will be given for field trips in the newsletter and separate notices. Watch for information about special dress, bringing lunches, and other important information in these notes. We usually need (and love to have) parent volunteers, but sometimes have limits as to how many volunteers we can bring. I will post these dates as soon as possible so that you can arrange for time off of work if necessary.

Uniforms: Check the Parent Handbook for details on the required uniform. Athletic shoes with socks are preferred to protect little feet from the blacktop and playground. Students may wear Aloha shirts or Aloha dresses on Friday. Once a semester, free dress (non-uniform) passes will be sold as a Student Council fundraiser.

Lunch: You may choose to provide a lunch for your child or purchase a catered meal plan for your child. In addition, you may purchase milk and individual pizzas (Friday only).

Classroom Rules: During the first weeks of school, the class will discuss expectations for our Kindergarten classroom. Our expectations are based around these four agreements:

1. Show mutual respect
2. Use attentive listening
3. Show appreciations/ No put downs
4. Right to pass

Classroom Discipline: Our Savior Lutheran lower grades use a system of colors to show how well the child is respecting teachers, peers, and classroom rules. In Kindergarten, we take a very proactive approach to discipline, keeping the kids engaged, eliminating possible problem causing situations, describing expectations before each activity, and rewarding good behavior. Each child begins with their clip on the color green, which means "keep going, you're making good choices". We will give students two verbal warnings to stop inappropriate behavior. Most times, a quick reminder is all the child needs to reset their behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will move their clip to yellow, meaning "slow down and think about your choices". At this point, the student will privately conference with the teacher to discuss motivation behind the student's actions and expectations from the teacher. If the behavior improves, the child moves back to green. If it continues, the child will move their clip to red, which means "stop and make a new choice". At this point, the child will be removed from the situation and may lose certain privileges. Parents will be notified if a student reaches red. If the behavior is clearly malicious or dangerous, the child will be required to conference with the principal and/ or parents.

Whenever possible, we follow natural or logical consequences for misbehavior. For example, if a student is fooling around with their paint and it spills on the floor, the child will need to help clean it up and will in turn miss out on painting that day. This kind of discipline is aimed at making the child more aware of the consequences of their actions, which can be very difficult at a young age.

Consequences do not carry over to the next day, so that each day your child begins with a "clean slate". We emphasize safety and respect in the classroom, and that it is the child's negative behavior, not the child, that we dislike. Forgiveness is a blessing from God, and Kindergarten is a great time for children to learn how to forgive and be forgiven.

Communication: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. It can be difficult to stop and talk before and after school while I am supervising the class, or during the school day, so the best way to contact me is with a note in your child's folder or through email. Here is my contact information:

Email: hhojnacki@osls-hawaii.org

School phone: 808-488-0000 x. 240

Cell phone: 414-581-0789