

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Southmoor

Kindergarten

Ms. Nicole Lovseth Rm 117

Ms. Grace Wingard Rm 120 Ms. Jamie Hencmann 118

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are all thrilled to be joining the new kindergarten team at Southmoor! The kindergarten team at Southmoor is so excited to meet you! Kindergarten is a magical time of discovery, learning, growing, friends and fun. Just like Miss Bindergarten, Ms. Lovseth and Ms. Hencmann and Ms. Wingard are getting ready for kindergarten. Southmoor will have a Meet and Greet Tuesday, August 18, 5:00-6:00. All your kindergarten teachers will be there hoping to meet all our new students and their families!

Kindergarten begins on Monday, August 24. The first 3 days will be ½ days.

Monday August 24 9:00 -11:40

Testing: 12:30-3:30

Tuesday August 25 9:00-11:40

Testing: 12:30-3:30

Wednesday August 26 9:00-11:40

Testing: 12:30-3:30

Thursday August 27 First FULL Day 9:00-3:40

Friday August 28 9:00-3:40

PLEASE fill out the “Going Home” letter and bring that on the first day of school so that we know who is picking up your child on testing days.

Kindergarten Daily Schedule

9:00-9:20 - Morning Meeting

9:20 - 9:30 Skills Block

9:30 - 10:00 - Literacy

11:00-11:15- Recess

11: 15-11:40- Science/SS

11:40-12:25- Lunch

12:25- 1:25-Writer's Workshop

1:25-2:10- Specials

2:10-3:00 - Math

3:00-3:30- Explore / Recess/ Snack

3:30-3:40- Share/Closing Meeting/Good Bye

3:40 - Dismissal

We will meet children on the blacktop just outside entrance to the children's garden. **We will dismiss children at 11:40** out the Peach Street doors and walk to the brick wall. We will keep them until we are sure they have connected with the correct adults. All children will need to be picked up. **We will schedule 30 minute appointments for individual assessments Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 – 3:30.** These appointments give us an opportunity to get to know students, assess literacy skills and math skills so that we can tailor instruction to their individual needs. **Thursday August 27th is the first FULL day of kindergarten.**

This letter will help you to navigate some of the rituals and routines of our classroom. We are so excited to be working with you and your child this year. We believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year we will be communicate with you through our classroom websites, telephone calls, bi-weekly newsletters, and parent-teacher conferences. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at any time. **During your child's assessment time we will have a Getting to Know Your Kindergartener Packet for you to complete. Please look for more information about curriculum and classroom procedures.** We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child!

Please do not hesitate to email us with any questions!

[Nicole Lovseth@dpsk12.org](mailto:Nicole_Lovseth@dpsk12.org)

[Grace Wingard@dpsk12.org](mailto:Grace_Wingard@dpsk12.org)

[Jamie Hencmann@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jamie_Hencmann@dpsk12.org)

It is going to be a fun year full of lots of learning and new adventures. We are thrilled to join you as a partner in your child's education this year.

Here is some information that will help you and your child make this a smooth transition into our school family

Communication

We will use this website to communicate our daily activities, pictures, discoveries, curriculum and important information about our classroom. You may also use this website as a place for you to post questions and discussions. **Please check back often because this site will grow and grow as the year goes on.** Please let us know if this format does not work for you. Be sure your child brings a backpack every day to ensure important notices from school get to you.

The best way to reach us **email:**

[Nicole Lovseth@dps.k12.org](mailto:Nicole_Lovseth@dps.k12.org)

[Jamie Hencmann@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jamie_Hencmann@dpsk12.org)

[Grace Wingard@dpsk12.org](mailto:Grace_Wingard@dpsk12.org)

The Southmoor attendance line is: 720-424-3954

The office number is: 720-424-3930.

Our Kindergarten Websites:

Ms. Lovseth: southmoorkindergarten.shutterfly.com

Ms. Wingard: mightymoose.shutterfly.com

Ms. Hencmann: mooseketeer.weebly.com

Attendance/ Illness

Attendance at school is imperative for your child's success in Kindergarten. It is very important that every child come to school every day that he or she is well. Now is the time to establish the importance of regular school attendance. **Please be sure that children are here and ready to enter the classroom at 8:55. After 9:00 students will be marked tardy and must be signed in at the office.** If your child will be out due to illness or family emergency please call the office at 720.424.3954 to report an absence. Even if you email me to tell me that your child will not be attending school, please call the office as well so it will be an excused absence. If your child is sick, please refrain from sending him or her to school. We do everything in the classroom to prevent the spread of germs. Keep in mind, your child must be fever/vomit free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Drop-off and Pick-Up

School begins at **9:00.M.** Adults are on the playground for supervision beginning at 8:40. You may leave children to play and they will line up to enter the class at 8:55. Kindergarteners enter through the doors in the garden. On rainy or snowy days, please drop off your child in the lunchroom before school.

Kindergarteners are dismissed at 3:40 out the doors facing Peach Street. We will walk them down to the sidewalk and they must say goodbye before leaving. We will have a sign out sheet at the beginning of the year and ask that children give us a high-five or hug before leaving. We like to make this a habit from the first day so that children do not run off in excitement through traffic to greet their pick-up person. You are urged to pick up your child on time. **If your child has not been picked up by 3:55, they will be brought to the office.** If you know you are going to be late, please notify us at 720-4240-3930 so that we can reassure your child. **We can only release children to individuals designated on our classroom pick-up list. If there are any changes in your address or phone number at home or at work, please let us know immediately. It is important that we be able to reach you during the day in case of emergencies.** If you need to make alternative arrangements for your child's transportation, or if your child will be playing at a classmate's house, **please either send a written note to school that morning, or call the school office.**

- **BUS: Kindergarten students taking the bus or attending after school clubs will be escorted by an adult. Please let us know in writing, email or call the office if you wish for your child to ride a bus home. This is important so that we will be sure that your child gets on the right bus and that there is no confusion! The bus driver will not let them off unless there is someone at the bus stop to get them.**

Volunteering

We welcome your contributions in our classroom and our parent volunteers are so valued in our classroom. Please allow us to adjust to being in kindergarten for the first 6 weeks before volunteering in kindergarten. Children need time to learn the routines and rituals of Kindergarten and this takes lots of practice! We could particularly use volunteers during our morning literacy block; please see the sign-up sheet on our class website or posted outside the classroom. We very much value your participation in the classroom, and we hope to see you many times throughout the year! Please indicate on your parent survey how and when you would like to be available. Your involvement will certainly make a difference in your child's education. Thank you for your support! Just a reminder to volunteer at Southmoor, you must have a

background check on file in the office. Please see the office for more information. Please sign-in at the office. It is important for our children's safety that the office staff knows who is in the building at all times.

Personal Items

Each day, your child should bring:

- A backpack, labeled with his/her name. Please bring every day.
- His/her **home folder** (see "Folders and Homework," below)
- A lunch, if your child is not buying school lunch
- **A water bottle with a sports lid, labeled with your child's name (filled with water, please; no juice)**

Please bring in the following to keep at school:

- **School supplies**, we will share these supplies
- **A seasonal change of clothes in a plastic bag, labeled with your child's name.**
- **Rubber-soled shoes for P.E. and Dance. If your child does not know how to tie their shoes, please make this your homework until they learn or provide velcro shoes.**
- Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Sunscreen is a good idea. Please have names clearly printed on; coats, hats, mittens, books, backpacks, etc.
- Please ensure that your child **does not to bring toys or candy to school.**

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is served at 8:30 and is free for any student who would like to eat.

Your child may bring a lunch or opt for school lunch each day. Menus are available at

<http://foodservices.dpsk12.org/menus.html>. You may pay for lunch online at www.mylunchmoney.com.

You may also bring me money in a baggie, labeled with your child's name. If your child's account runs out, we will send a notice home. I will also send home a note with your child's student ID number. Please help your child learn this number to help him/her develop independence and practice working with numbers.

We eat lunch at 11:40 A.M., we will have an afternoon recess and snack. Please see below for more information.

Snack

Each month, we will put out a snack schedule. We ask parents to provide a small, healthy, portable snack each day for the class. Please look for the snack schedule and list of appropriate items. If you have a financial hardship and are not able to bring snack for the class, please let me know privately and I will provide snack for your day.

Thursday Folders, Homework and Reading

Please check your child's backpack each afternoon. On Thursdays please check your child's backpack for their Thursday folder; this folder should come back to school the following Monday Every Thursday, this folder will contain extra information; please be sure to check it. The folder will have two pockets:

Keep at Home

- Notes and reminders from teacher, school newsletters and updates (please see section Newsletters for more information, completed work

Return to School

- Permission slips, homework for the week: Please return by the following Monday. Please add any notes for teachers: absence notices, book orders, etc.

BOOK BAGS: please look for book bag homework information to go home mid- September!

Homework: We notice a HUGE difference in the students that practice at home with their parents as well as at school! Homework is sent home so you can review skills with your child that we are working on in class. Your child should complete their homework under the supervision of you or another homework partner. For many students, homework will be something new this year. They will need your help and encouragement. Because the expectations of kindergarten have risen considerably, it is essential that you work with your child at home. You are your child's first and best teacher!

Reading: Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will do this year. Studies have shown that those children whose parents are actively involved in the reading process will become the best readers. Studies have also shown that those children who have not learned to read well by 3rd grade will struggle throughout school. Both you and I have an extremely important task to undertake. But don't worry, I'll help you every step of the way with suggestions, reading logs activities, and take home leveled readers. Together, we will see great things this year!

If you and your child are having difficulty with the homework, or if you need any supplies for the work, please let me know! This homework is not meant to be a chore; rather, it should be a fun opportunity for your child to practice and to share what we are learning in the classroom.

Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday, it is ok to send pictures of your child's baby, toddler, and childhood years to help tell the story of his or her growth. If your child is having a birthday party at home and would like to invite classmates, we would be happy to send invitations home for you, provided that every child in the class is invited. We wish to avoid the disappointment of being excluded. If you wish to invite only some students, please mail invitations from home. We can distribute a mailing list upon request. **If you would like to bring a treat for your child's birthday please bring mini cupcakes or cookies ONLY! Please do not send juice or cakes.**

Supporting Our Children

We look forward to working with you and your child this year, and we hope that Kindergarten will offer a positive experience and a love of learning for each child. In order for this to happen, family understanding and support is necessary. Please email us, call before or after school, or send a note in with your child if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Let's work together to create the best possible environment for your child!

In Partnership,

Ms. Lovseth, Ms. Wingard and Ms. Hencmann

Going Home Note

Childs Name: _____

Kindergarten begins on Monday, August 24. The first 3 days will be ½ days.

Monday August 24 9:00 – 11:40	Testing: 12:30-3:30
Tuesday August 25 9:00-11:40	Testing: 12:30-3:30
Wednesday August 26 9:00-11:40	Testing: 12:30-3:30

Dismissal will be out the door on Peach St. We will hold children until you come to get them and we know who they are going with! Students enrolled in the full day program will not be able to ride a bus home these ½ days.
Please tell us who will pick up this child at 11:40 August 24, 25, 26

Name & Relation to child

Thursday August 27 First FULL Day 9:00-3:40

Friday August 28 9:00-3:40

We will walk the children down to the side walk by the brick wall. Children will be instructed not to leave before telling us who is there to get them.
Students riding the bus or attending Kaleidoscope Corner will be escorted to the bus or lunchroom. No child will be dismissed without an adult. It is **CRITICAL** that parents let us know **IN WRITING** how they plan for their children to get home anytime that the plan for your child changes.

_____ My child will be picked up at 3:40 on Peach Street by

_____ My child will go to Kaleidoscope Corner at 3:45.

My child will get on School Bus# _____ at 3:45.

Bus Stop (Important!) _____

Other plans:

Please let us know in writing or by email when and if this changes!

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Classroom Behavior

We work hard to establish strong rituals and routines from the first day of kindergarten to make the classroom a positive and safe place for all. In our classrooms we believe in positive reinforcement. If there is a recurring issue we will make contact with you to discuss how to best help your student succeed in school. Problems are looked upon as just that--problems to be solved. We teach and model with the students on how to talk to one another using "I statements". We also teach the children about being a bucket filler and filling each other's buckets. Look for more information about how to be a bucket filler.

Our classroom has three basic rules:

- 1. Safety first - always!**
- 2. Respect.**
- 3. Perseverance.**

We talk about respect in three ways:

- a. Respect others.**
- b. Respect yourself.**
- c. Respect the environment.**

We talk about perseverance in three ways:

- a. Never give up**
- b. Mistakes are the portals to discovery**
- c. Hard work equals success**

We encourage Mighty Moose behavior by rewarding children for positive behavior. We may also send you a note, email, or phone call home to report good behavior, but you can assume that if you are not hearing from me, your child is doing well.

We will provide more details about PBIS and behavior during Back to School Night!

By signing this agreement, you indicate that you understand the classroom rules. If you have comments or questions, please contact us.

Name _____

Signature_ _____