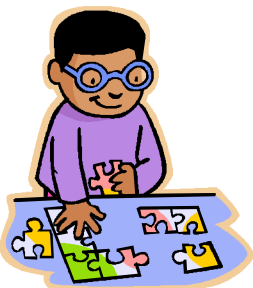


# George W. Watkins Elementary School

## Kindergarten Handbook

Play,  
Learn,  
And  
Grow...  
Together!



## PREFACE

We are looking forward to having you and your child join us at George W. Watkins Elementary School. We realize that entering school is an important event in your child's life. For many, the classroom environment will be a new experience. We understand this, and we will try to provide a smooth transition from home to school. This will be a new and exciting experience for your family.

## **INTRODUCTION TO GEORGE W. WATKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

George W. Watkins Elementary School enrolls children in grades K-5. The Kindergarten is staffed by five teachers (which includes a head teacher) and one full-time paraprofessional and shares another paraprofessional with first grade. Our curriculum is organized around the Virginia Standards of Learning. We use the Scott Foresman reading series and the Harcourt math series in our instruction.

### **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The documents listed below are required before attending school on September 2, 2008. The school nurse needs to receive your child's immunizations and physical by **August 7, 2008** in order to review them before the first day of school. Please make an appointment with your child's doctor or the health department as soon as possible. Due to the large number of students beginning school for the first time, early appointments are filled quickly. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

A legal birth certificate (not a hospital certificate)

A social security card

Proof of custody (if applicable)

Proof of residency (e.g., Voter Registration Card, Utility Bill, copy of Rental Agreement, copy of Contract for Purchase of Home)

Immunizations:

MMR - (Rubella, Rubeola, and Mumps) - two required

Polio - three required - one of which must have been given after the fourth birthday

DPT - (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) one of which must have been given after the fourth birthday

Hep B – three required (for children born after 1-1-94)

A complete physical examination (form provided by the school) which must include (a) an updated immunization record, (b) a screen for iron-deficiency anemia, hemoglobin, or hematocrit, and (c) a urinalysis.

**THE DUE DATE FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS IS AUGUST 7, 2008.**

**The New Kent County Health Department provides the following services:**

The New Kent County Health Department strongly recommends children be seen by their Primary Care Physician to complete immunizations required for school entry at the same time they receive their school physical examination.

**Walk in clinics are held on Thursdays, from 8:30 to 11:00 am. Routine childhood immunizations are available. The parent must bring the child's vaccination record.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO KINDERGARTEN**

The Kindergarten of George W. Watkins Elementary School provides a readiness program designed for the five and six year olds. The goal of the kindergarten program is to help each child develop socially, emotionally, mentally, and physically.

Our focus is to foster in our children a healthy and happy attitude toward school. This will help successfully prepare them for the rest of their academic life.

### **Kindergarten Teachers and Staff**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Head Teacher-                | Melissa Ellis-Johnson  |
| Teachers-                    | Samantha Sartain<br>Laura Williams<br>Heidi Schneider<br>Michelle Cottrell |
| Teacher Assistants-          | Jennifer Ezzell and Shelby Minor   |
| Special Education Teacher-   | Adrionne Mitchell  |
| Special Education Assistant- | Kathy Kornreich  |

## **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**

There will be a kindergarten orientation for parents and students. You will be sent an invitation during the summer. **All student supplies can be brought to school on orientation day.**

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are vital assets to any school, especially George W. Watkins Elementary School. Volunteers perform various duties for our school that include: tutoring students, reading to students, room mother/fathers, coloring and cutting for the classroom teachers, serving on the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and helping with the various school events (bookfair, fundraisers, class parties, field trips, field day).

Bringing your individual talents to our school touches and enriches the life of your child and many others. Become part of a great school, **VOLUNTEER!**

## DAILY SCHEDULE

Each kindergarten class is similar in the daily activities and skills taught. A typical day includes:

**Announcements** Each day begins with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Check In:** Classroom attendance is taken and students participate in early morning table activities.

### **MORNING ACTIVITIES**

**Language Arts:** Within small and large group instruction, each student will work on a variety of skills in alphabet recognition, letter sound awareness, phonemic awareness, journal and creative writing, and art projects.

**Math:** Students will receive instruction that reflects the math objectives in the Standards of Learning. Skills are taught using manipulatives and paper/pencil activities.

**Circle Time:** Students participate in: The daily weather chart, calendar instruction, days of the week, seasons of the year, thematic stories, poems and songs.

**Lunch:** This is a highlight of every day. After a thirty minute lunch, the children all return to the classroom for afternoon activities.

### **AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

**Science & Social Studies:** Students receive instruction on the Standards of Learning in both Science and Social Studies.

**Resource:** Students will receive instruction in art, music, physical education, library and guidance.

**Centers:** Students may select a center in which they wish to work: blocks, housekeeping, computers, puzzles, manipulatives, puppets, listening and a variety of other centers.

**Snack:** Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home for snack time.

**Recess:** Students are allowed 30 minutes of free play on the Kindergarten playground.

## **STATE ADOPTED KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS OF LEARNING**

### **ENGLISH**

#### **Oral Language**

The student will:

- K.1 demonstrate growth in the use of oral language.
- K.2 use listening and speaking vocabularies.
- K.3 build oral communication skills.
- K.4 hear, say, and manipulate phonemes (small units of sound) of spoken language.

#### **Reading**

The student will:

- K.5 understand how print is organized and read.
- K.6 demonstrate an understanding that print makes sense.
- K.7 develop an understanding of basic phonetic principles.
- K.8 demonstrate comprehension of fiction and nonfiction.

#### **Writing**

The student will:

- K.9 print the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet independently.
- K.10 print his/her first and last name.
- K.11 write to communicate ideas.
- K.12 explore the uses of available technology for reading and writing.

### **MATHEMATICS**

#### **Number and Number Sense**

- K.1 The student, given two sets containing 10 or fewer concrete items, will identify and describe one set as having more, fewer, or the same number of members as the other set, using the concept of one-to-one correspondence.
- K.2 The student, given a set containing 10 or fewer concrete items, will
  - a. tell how many are in the set by counting the number of items orally;
  - b. select the corresponding numeral from a given set; and
  - c. write the numeral to tell how many are in the set.
- K.3 The student, given an ordered set of three objects and/or pictures, will indicate the original position of each item, first through third, and the ordered position of each item from left-to-right, right-to-left, top-to-bottom, and/or bottom-to-top.
- K.4 The student will investigate and recognize patterns from counting by fives and tens to 30, using concrete objects and a calculator.
- K.5 The student will count forward to 30 and backward from 10.

#### **Computation and Estimation**

- K.6 The student will add and subtract whole numbers, using up to 10 concrete items.

#### **Measurement**

- K.7 The student will recognize a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter and will determine the value of a collection of pennies and/or nickels whose total value is 10 cents or less.
- K.8 The student will identify the instruments used to measure length (ruler), weight (scale), time (clock: digital and analog; calendar: day, month, and season), and temperature (thermometer).

- K.9 The student will tell time to the hour, using an analog or digital clock.
- K.10 The student will compare two objects or events, using direct comparisons or nonstandard units of measure, according to one or more of the following attributes: length (shorter, longer), height (taller, shorter), weight (heavier, lighter) temperature (hotter, colder). Examples of nonstandard units include foot length, hand span, new pencil, paper clip, block.

**Geometry**

- K.11 The student will identify, describe, and draw two-dimensional (plane) geometric figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).
- K.12 The student will describe the location of one object relative to another (above, below, next to) and identify representations of plane geometric figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle) regardless of their position and orientation in space.
- K.13 The student will compare the size (large, smaller) and shape of plane geometric figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).

**Probability and Statistic:**

- K.14 The student will gather data relating to familiar experiences by counting and tallying.
- K.15 The student will display objects and information, using object graphs, and pictorial graphs and tables.
- K.16 The student will investigate and describe the results of dropping a two-colored counter or using a multicolored spinner.

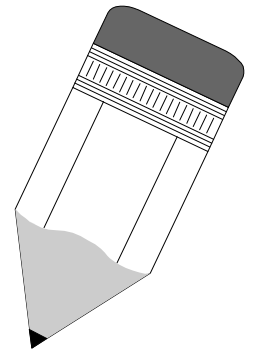
**Patterns, Functions, and Algebra:**

- K.17 The student will sort and classify objects according to similar attributes (size, shape, and color).
- K.18 The student will identify, describe, and extend a repeating relationship (pattern) found in common objects, sounds, and movements.

## SUPPLY LIST

The following is a list of supplies that your child will need in kindergarten:

- 1 Backpack
- 1 Horizontal Pocket Folder (for homework and school papers)
- 1 Pencil Box
- 1 Towel for rest
- 1 Four panel mat for rest (preferably the red and blue)
- 3 Pencils
- 1 Bottle Elmer's Glue
- 10 Glue sticks
- 1 Box 16 Crayons
- 1 Pair Blunt End Fiskars brand Scissors (no pointed ends)
- 1 100 page marbled front composition book (with sewn binding)
- 1 Large Box of Tissues (Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Container of anti-bacterial wipes (Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Bottle liquid soap (Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Box of quart size Ziploc bags (girls only, Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Box of gallon size Ziploc bags (boys only, Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Box snack size Ziploc Bags (Teacher will collect for whole class use)
- 1 Roll paper towels (Teacher will collect for whole class use)

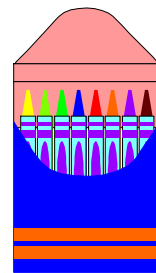


**These Items may be brought on Orientation Day  
Label all supplies and clothing with your child's name**

**Periodically, your child's teacher will contact you when these items need replenishing**

Homework is a continuation of the school day. Your child will need these supplies at home to complete the daily assignments:

- Glue
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Pencils



## ATTENDANCE POLICY

As we begin a new school year, we are looking forward to a positive learning experience for your child. One important factor for your child's success in school is regular attendance. Consistent attendance in the elementary school years sets a positive pattern for future educational and work experiences. For additional information regarding the attendance policy, please consult the school division's Discipline and Attendance Booklet that outlines the division's discipline, attendance, and medication policies.

**A student's absence is not considered excused until the school receives either verbal or written notification from a parent citing the reason for the absence.** The attendance policy specifies that whenever a student has accumulated **five unexcused absences** a letter will be sent to the parent. With the sixth unexcused absence, the parent or guardian will be required to attend a conference with school administrators to resolve issues of non-attendance and an Attendance Intervention Plan will be developed. If there are additional unexcused absences following this conference, the school social worker will refer the matter to the courts according to State Law #22.1-258.

Coming to school on time is also important. Students arriving late must obtain a pass from the main office to enter class.

Thank you for your adherence to our attendance policy. We are confident these guidelines will help us to identify and assist those students experiencing attendance difficulties. As always, we are dedicated to working with you to insure the success of your child in his/her student role.

## BUSES

Please be sure to verify your child's morning and afternoon bus number(s) with his/her teacher. It is very important that we have correct information, especially if your child rides a different bus in the morning than in the afternoon or if your child rides to a location different from your home address. If you have any questions regarding bus numbers or bus schedules, you may contact transportation at (804)966-9670.

# **GET READY...**

## **For Kindergarten**

**In preparation for Kindergarten, practice these skills:**

**READ** Reading time doesn't have to be more than 10-15 minutes each day. Don't forget to discuss the pictures and ask questions about the story.

**TALK** Talking to your child throughout the day about everything you see...on a walk, in the car, etc. Talk about familiar items in your house. Help your child learn the words he or she will be reading one day. For example, a child who has seen a cow will be more likely to understand words like farm, cow, milk, and moo.

**PRACTICE** Practice the following skills with your child in preparation for Kindergarten.

- . Zipping, buttoning and snapping clothing
- . Tying shoe laces
- . Holding and using scissors and pencils
- . Writing first name, beginning with a capital letter and using lower case letters for the rest
- . Caring for self and belongings by going to the bathroom alone, hanging up clothes, returning toys to correct place at clean-up time
- . Placing papers inside folder in orderly fashion
- . Counting by relating numbers to specific groups of objects
- . Playing fair, sharing and being well mannered
- . Open juice boxes and drink pouches
- . Open lunch box and thermos
- . Open food items, containers, Ziploc bags
- . Open and close book bag