



**Pilgrim Lutheran School  
Mrs. Kim Drexler, Kindergarten  
2018-2019**

# Welcome to Kindergarten!

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time in the lives of children, especially Kindergarteners! I hope this booklet of information will help you know what to expect in kindergarten this year and answer any questions you may have. Please keep this booklet and refer to it when appropriate, and let me know if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year and helping him/her to achieve his/her full potential using the abilities God has given. Through the remainder of this handbook, I will share some of my beliefs and classroom procedures. With teamwork and cooperation among parents, teacher, students and Christ at the center of all we do and say, we will all have a TERRIFIC year!

## Parent/Teacher Relationship

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through notes, telephone calls, texts, newsletters, progress reports, report cards, and parent-teacher conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You may call or text me at any time but during the school day I may not be able to respond until we have a break.

School Phone: 480-830-1724  
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## Parent Participation

Throughout the school year, there will be a variety of special classroom activities, projects, and celebrations. I encourage you to attend these functions when possible and/or support them by sending needed supplies or treats. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school.

## School Attendance

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. Most kindergarten learning activities are group oriented and involve interaction with classmates. Therefore, it is very difficult to make up work at home. Please view school as a priority, and see to it that your child attends everyday and arrives on time except in cases of illness or emergency. The school day begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m.

## Outdoor Play

The children will be going out for recess and an organized PE activity every day unless it is raining or extremely hot. Also, we are fortunate to have a variety of playground equipment, including several pieces for climbing. Please keep all this in mind when helping your child to select clothing and shoes each day. Please refer to the parent handbook for specifics on the dress code. It is critical that you send a water bottle with them. Most of the time I will keep the water bottles at school during the week and send them home on Friday's for a good washing. If you would rather me send them home daily, please just let me know.

## Money

Periodically, it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope or Ziploc baggie with the following information written on it:

- Your child's name
- The amount of money
- The purpose for the money (book order, lunch order, field trip, party, etc.)

This will help me keep track of what I receive.

## Book Orders

Your child will be bringing home a form to order books several times during the year. If you wish to order, simply fill out the form(s) and send the correct amount of money or a check made out to Scholastic Book Order in an envelope. These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their

child at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on books, we earn bonus points which are used to purchase books for classroom use. Of course, you are never under any obligation to order.

## Birthdays

I know how special birthdays are for you and your child. We will recognize birthdays at school in an appropriate manner. Please let me know ahead of time if you wish to send in a special snack for the class on your child's birthday. We will enjoy this snack after our lunch period. (If you like, summer birthdays may be celebrated on the "half" birthday!) It is our policy at Pilgrim that treats brought from home must be store bought, not homemade.

## Snacks, Water Bottles, and Lunches

Each morning before recess the children will have snack time. Please include a HEALTHY snack/drink in your child's lunch for this time. Examples of acceptable snacks would be fruit, crackers, cheese, 100% juice, pretzels, granola bars, yogurt, etc. I WILL NOT permit chips, candy, soda, sugar drinks, and other junk food for snack. The exception to this is birthday treats!

The children MUST have a water bottle at school! It's Arizona and they need to stay hydrated! Please make sure the bottles are labeled with your child's name.

Please be sure your child has an adequate, healthy lunch each day. I will expect the children to eat a good share of their lunch, and to take uneaten parts of the lunch home. If you send a dessert, I will monitor to be sure they are eating their "main course" first! Most anything goes for lunches. We have access to a microwave so warm-ups (left-overs, mac'n cheese, etc.) are allowed. Please make sure to send a **cold pack** in each lunch along with anything they may need to eat their lunch. That would include, forks/spoons, plates/bowls, napkins, etc. We have some utensils available if you forget, but please don't make it a habit.

Change of clothes: Please make sure you send a change of clothes in a gallon baggie with your child's name on it for those "just in case" times.

## Church Attendance and Singing

Several times throughout the year the Kindergarteners along with the Cherub Choir are scheduled to give praise to our Lord in the church services here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The children work hard at learning the songs, and are excited to participate in worship. Please make every effort to get your child to the rehearsals and services. It makes a difference if even one or two voices are missing! If you are unable to bring your child to church during one of our scheduled singing services, please be respectful and let me know ahead of time.

Also keep in mind that regardless of singing schedules, consistent church attendance for your family is encouraged. How important it is for each of us to gather with fellow believers around the Word of God! We have several opportunities each week for worship and Bible Study. Out of Christian love and concern for the spiritual welfare of our school families, the staff does record church attendance. If we have concerns in this area, we will speak to you personally about them.

## Classroom Management

At Pilgrim Lutheran School we honor the Bible to be the inspired word of God. We uphold the teachings of this Word and are eager to learn more about God and his plan of salvation for all people. This attitude is reflected in our lives as Christians. As Christians our desire to please our Heavenly Father comes out of our love for Christ and all he has done for us. Using the guidelines set up for us by God, in the Bible, certain rules and procedures will apply. This will allow each school day to run smoothly, so that learning may take place and we may glorify God with our words and actions.

The 5 basic classroom rules are...

- \*Show God's love in EVERYTHING we do.
- \*Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- \*Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- \*Use quiet classroom voices.
- \*Be respectful of others and the classroom.

We do a lot of redirecting in Kindergarten but continual failure to uphold these rules will result in consequences. The consequences will depend on the situation. We will follow a discipline system and the following are possible consequences.

- Mild warning
- Practice the correct behavior
- A private discussion with the teacher
- Walking laps
- Loss of privilege or privileges
- Removal from the group

The ultimate goal of our program is to teach children how to be self-disciplined. When teachers or the director discipline students, they are showing that they care too much for them to let them behave in a way that is not God-pleasing and want to take the time and effort to help children learn how to behave in a God-pleasing manner. This is done in partnership with the home. Certainly it is critical that school and home cooperate in helping the child learn self-discipline. Teachers are encouraged to partner with families to address specific discipline issues within the classroom.

Generally speaking, discipline is part of the classroom management and is handled by the teacher. The exceptions to this are probations, suspensions, and expulsions, which involve the principal and/or school board. Under most circumstances, discipline follows a progression until the desired outcome is reached. This progression would include discussions with the child, teacher, parents, pastor and Pilgrim School Board as appropriate.

Disciplining is a teaching or leading process. Pilgrim's discipline program is based on the proper application of Law and Gospel. The law condemns and curbs a person's sinful nature as it shows the undeniable need of the Savior. But, it is the gospel (good news) of Christ which changes the heart and motivates a person for true discipleship. Simply put, the discipline program at Pilgrim is reflected in these three objectives:

1. To teach and model appropriate behavior.
2. To stop inappropriate behavior.
3. To promote personal responsibility and accountability.

In efforts to teach and model appropriate behavior, intervention before a problem exists is one of our goals. Positive guidance and techniques which involve being sensitive to the classroom environment and situations that arise are a critical aspect of prevention. More specifically, staff members focus on:

1. Prompting appropriate behavior by talking about expectations.

2. Positively reinforcing children's behaviors by calling attention to children's appropriate behaviors.

However, if a child with inappropriate or uncontrolled behavior (i.e. biting, hitting), demands an excess amount of staff or administration energy and time at the expense of other children, the following steps will be followed:

1. Parents will be initially informed of the situation with a phone call by the teacher.
2. A conference will be held to discuss documented concerns (parents, teachers and principal if needed).
3. Additional meetings will be set with the teacher, and/or principal regarding any cancellation of enrollment prior to cancellation.
4. Failure to correct inappropriate behavior(s) will lead to dismissal of child (cancellation of enrollment).

All children are expected to obey and show respect to all those in authority. Hebrews 13:17 serves as a guide "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you... Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Children are also expected to be considerate, kind, and courteous toward each other at all times. Matthew 22:39 states, "Love your neighbor as yourself." 1 John 1:9-10 tells us, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."

## Curriculum

### Christ Light:

Each morning we begin our day with our Lord through devotion and our Bible lesson from our Christlight books. This year we will be studying New Testament lessons. Our afternoons also begin with devotion and prayer, and we end the day with a unified school prayer lead by our principal. Chapel services will be held with the entire school body on Fridays at 8:30 in the church. We would love for you to worship with us too.

### Math:

A lot of our afternoon is devoted to math. We follow the Saxon Math series, but spend most of our time traveling through math centers. The math centers give children the opportunity to use the theories that we learn into practice. They will

be developing fundamental skills in addition and subtraction, patterning, problem solving, estimating and predicting, graphing, telling time, counting coins, comparing, measuring, numeral recognition, one-to-one correspondence, sequencing and number sense.

Most of our activities do not involve worksheets. They are hands on activities so please do not get worried if you do not see lots of papers coming home.

### Language Arts:

Most of our day in Kindergarten revolves around developing literacy. Many subjects make up the language arts curriculum:

**Shared Reading:** Shared reading is an interactive part of the day in which the students and I read texts together. These texts can be big books, poems, charts, etc. During this time I model first, and then students share in the reading by reading it with me. This helps early readers build sight vocabulary, helps all readers develop fluency, and builds a sense of community as we reread favorite texts.

**Daily 5:** This is an exciting way to teach reading and phonics meaningfully. We will begin the year studying letters and their sounds, then work our way into learning word families. The children will learn about the phonics elements they need, based on their developmental level. During Daily 5 the children will be doing sound sorts, word sorts, building words, and playing games to reinforce the concepts learned.

**Reading:** The study of individual words is very important, however, we don't want students to think that reading is only about "sounding out." We will also stress reading for meaning. In guided reading groups children will use meaningful literature rather than a textbook. They will be taught to read words using pictures and semantic cues, as well as phonics. As the children learn to read, much of their reading time will be spent in independent reading at his/her level. They will also frequently read with me so I can assess their reading level, and give individual instruction.

**Writing:** Students will be writing daily in their journals. This may begin with picture writing, and then move into letters and words as they develop their writing skills. I will model writing for the children in our morning message and in mini-lessons, and we will work into interactive writing and writer's workshop. The children will frequently have opportunities to share their writing with each other in the "Author's Chair."

### Social Studies/Science:

Social Studies and Science will be taught in units or themes. We will use books, pictures, experiments, and hands-on activities to explore the world God has given us.

### Art, Music, P.E., Spanish, Computer

We will have a formal art class each Friday afternoon, but the children will have ample opportunities to be creative in the Imagination Station, and in extension activities from other subjects.

Twice a week the Kindergarteners have a 20 minute music class with Mrs. Stevenson. There they will learn basic music theory, fun songs that put music theory into practice and they also have the opportunity to use rhythm instruments.

We have an organized PE class on T/TH. We will spend 30 minutes a day learning a specific skill and then play a game to reinforce the skill. We will also have a week of organized intermural T-Ball games In the spring we will be preparing for the K-3 Track Meet.

### Learning Centers

Spread throughout the classroom will be a number of Learning Centers. These may include: Art Center, Block/Building Center, Puzzles/Games, Listening Center, Discovery Center, Writing Station, Math Tubs, ABC's, Library, Read Around the Room. These centers will promote discovery, exploration, creativity, motor skills, problem solving and literacy skills, and are subject to adaptation throughout the year, taking into account our themes and the skill levels of the children. They will be used at several times during the school day, including during Math and Guided Reading times, as well as Center times and Fun Fridays.

## Homework

Many of you will cringe at the thought of having to do homework with your Kindergartener, but I feel like it's important. Your child's homework will not take up a long period of time nor should it result in you pulling your hair out! I simply am asking for two things. One that you make time to read our leveled reading books each night with your child. Pick two or three of the books, first you read the book, pointing to each work, and then have them re-read the book to you. Simple! Secondly, I would highly encourage you to spend some quality time with them. Take a walk, play a game, prepare dinner together, sit and talk! Your child needs to know

that they are a priority in your life. I know we are all busy, but they are our most important investment!

Enjoy your time with them!

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In His Service,

Kim Drexler

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