



**The ABC's of Kindergarten (things that will be helpful for you to know about Kindergarten in Mrs. Burley's classroom!)**



**Attendance-** Your child's regular and prompt attendance is crucial to his/her success.

**Absences-** If your child is absent, please send a note to school when your child returns stating the dates of the absence and the reason for the absence. These notes will be kept in your child's permanent folder.

**Arrival-** Our school day begins at 8:10 and ends at 2:50. Children should arrive at school no later than 8:20 unless he/she has a doctor's appointment.

**Art-** Our class goes to Art for a 40 minute period as an activity on A day. The teacher is Mrs. Brenda Cranford.

**Assessments-** We use several assessments to determine your child's progress in Kindergarten. They are GKIDS (Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills) which is ongoing throughout the school year; LEXIA which is given three times during the school year; and Running Record reading assessments.

## B

**Bookbags-** To help your child carry important messages to and from school, your child should bring a bookbag to school EVERY DAY!!! Please have your child share the contents of his/her bookbag with you daily and assist your child in keeping the bookbag clean and organized.

**Birthdays-** Birthdays are special occasions for young children. We are happy to celebrate birthdays by having "birthday treats". You are welcome to bring/send in cupcakes and other treats on your child's special day. These will be shared during our lunch time or at the end of the day at 2:00. We will celebrate Summer birthdays during the last couple weeks of school. Please do not send in birthday invitations to our classroom unless the entire class is invited. This prevents any hurt feelings from occurring.

**Book Orders-** I will be sending home Scholastic (and other) book orders from time to time for you and your child to review at home. These clubs offer books at a discounted rate. What a great way to build your home library while your child is learning how to read! If you choose to order, please make a check payable to the book club. It takes about a week for the orders to come in.

**Breakfast-** ALL children at Maxwell are eligible to eat FREE breakfast every morning. If your child wants to eat breakfast at school he/she should arrive at school no later than 8:00.

## C

**Centers-** Young children learn through active play. The children will have the opportunity to reinforce math, fine motor, reading, listening, and language arts skills through the use of learning centers.

**Communication-** Throughout the year, I will communicate with you through notes, phone calls, newsletters, report cards, and conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. It is much easier for me to respond to you through e-mail.

Telephone: 706-986-4800  
Email: [burleyd@mcduffie.k12.ga.us](mailto:burleyd@mcduffie.k12.ga.us)

Conferences- Maxwell Elementary officially hosts Fall and Winter conferences. During these times, your child's strengths and progress will be discussed as well as any areas that may need strengthening. Of course, you may call to set up other meeting with me if you feel the need to do so.

Clothing- Kindergarteners are active throughout the day! Be sure to dress your child in comfortable clothing that is appropriate for Kindergarten. ***Please secure drooping pants with belts!!!*** It is a good idea to label coats and sweaters with your child's name.

Conduct Report- A daily behavior report informing you of your child's conduct will be sent home every day in your child's BEAR Book.

Computers- We have four computers with internet access in our classroom. Your child will be taught the appropriate way to use the computer and then be taught to use the age appropriate educational software that is in our classroom. All children have the opportunity to use the computers during center time.

Calendar- A monthly calendar will be sent home informing you of the activities that will take place during the month. This calendar will also be posted on our classroom website.



Dismissal- School is over at 2:50. Early dismissal is discouraged, however if you need to pick up your child earlier, please sign him/her out in the office.

Discipline- We will spend a lot of time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. To establish good order and help the children learn self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and

responsible actions. Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected.



Essential Question- Every week we will have a question that each child is expected to know about something we are studying. For example: "What is the name of our school?" "Why is it important to follow rules?"

Envelopes- Send all money to school in the pocket located in the BEAR Book, in a sealed envelope, or Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name, my name, the amount of money enclosed, and what it is for.



Family Homework Project- A creative activity for your child and family to complete will be coming home once every month. These completed projects will be displayed in our hallway.

Fire Drills- Fire drills are held on a monthly basis throughout the year. All students are taught to the appropriate procedures and are expected to walk quietly and quickly to our designated area.

Footwear- Please allow your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active play. Dress shoes and flip flops are not appropriate for the gym or the playground.



Guided Reading- Guided reading is an activity in which the teacher works with a small group of children to develop a variety of reading strategies. Each child in the group is on the same literacy level and will be asked to participate in either pre-reading or reading activities depending on the literacy level of the group. The teacher monitors and evaluates each child's progress during this activity.

Guidance- Our school counselor, Mrs. Pam Walker, will conduct classroom guidance approximately once a month with the children.



Handwriting-We use D'Nealian handwriting in McDuffie County schools. You will receive an example sheet of D'Nealian handwriting in the BEAR Book. Please practice the correct curved strokes with your child.

Homework/Help At Home- Your child is expected to know these readiness skills:

- Full name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Parents' names
- Basic colors
- Counting to 10
- Printing first name beginning with a capital letter and the rest in lower case

When time permits, work on these skills also:

- Reciting the alphabet
- Shape names
- Birthday (month & date)
- Identifying numbers to 10
- Identifying letter names
- Tying shoes

Your extra help at home really makes a difference!

Homework- Homework assignments go home on Monday in the BEAR Book and should be signed and returned on Friday. **Weekly work** that the children complete at school goes home on Friday.



Illness- The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. A child will be sent home if he/she has vomited or has a fever.

Independent Reading- Believe it or not, your child will be reading by the end of Kindergarten! Because children learn to read by reading, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving the children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.



Journals- We write in our journals 2-3 times a week. Kindergarteners combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. As the children are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will develop from drawing and letter strings to "inventive" spellings to more conventional writing. Students will participate in shared writing experiences with guidance from the teacher as well as independent writing experiences.



Kindness- Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, bothering others, name-calling, bullying, and interrupting learning will not be tolerated.



Lunch- Our class eats lunch from 11:40-12:10. Your child can purchase a school lunch or bring a lunch from home. You can view the school lunch menu on the McDuffie Co. School System website. You are welcome to have lunch with your child on any day that you'd like. You may meet us in the lunchroom or in front of the office. There is a designated table in the lunchroom is for students and their guest.

Leader- Every child will have the opportunity to be the leader. We will start in alphabetical order and start over when everyone has had a chance.

Letter Basket- The children are asked to bring something to school each Monday that begins with the letter of the week that we are studying. All items will be sent back home on Friday.



Media Center- The children go to the media center one day a week. Mrs. Eileen Moss, media specialist, will entertain them with stories followed up with an activity or a video. Later in the year the children will have a chance to check out a book to take home for a week.

Math- The Kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We employ a hands-on, problem solving approach.

Music- Our music teacher, Mrs. Robin Johnson, will be teaching the children the basics of music education and will be sharing many wonderful songs! We are scheduled to have music for one 40 minute period on C day. Of course, we will be singing and enjoying music in the classroom as well!



Newsletter- You will be kept informed of classroom happenings through a classroom newsletter. Watch for it in your child's BEAR Book! Monthly newsletters will also be posted on our website.

Nurse- We are very fortunate to have a wonderful nurse, Mrs. Marcia Nichols, at Maxwell Elementary. She will tend to minor scratches and scrapes, as well as sudden illnesses. For more serious injuries, she will contact you. Please be sure to send in any change of contact numbers in case she needs to get in touch with you.



Outside Time- Students get 10-20 minutes of outside play time (weather permitting). Please review the playground rules and consequences with your child.

- Rules:
1. No rough play-- keep hands and feet to yourself.
  2. Always go **down** the slides feet first!
  3. No throwing of sticks, rocks, or sand!

Consequences: First offense- Verbal Warning  
Second offense- 10 minute time out  
Third offense- time out for remainder of play time



Parties- You will receive information about class parties approximately a week before the event. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for more information.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence-Each morning we will recite the pledge of allegiance to the United States and observe a moment of silence.

Physical Education-We have a scheduled 40 minute Physical Education class on B-day. Mrs. India Ann Goodyear is the teacher.

Parent Involvement-We love Parent Involvement! Please be involved in your child's Kindergarten year as much as you can.

PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization)-All parents are encouraged to join the school's PTO and to attend the meetings.



*Quick goodbyes leave dry eyes!*



Routines- Routine guides everything we do in our classroom. Your child will come to know the routines of our classroom as we progress throughout the year.

Report cards- Report cards are issued every nine weeks. These report cards reflect the progress your child has made toward various Kindergarten objectives.

Restrooms-Your child is allowed to go to the restroom when needed. We also go to the restroom as a class 3 times per day. Unfortunately, accidents do happen so be sure to send and a change of clothes.



School Supplies-The children will need the following supplies in Kindergarten:

- \*Bookbag (to carry home those important papers)
- \*Box of crayons (Crayola is recommended)
- \*Pencils
- \*3-Subject Composition Book
- \*Glue sticks
- \*Elmer's white glue (large bottle)
- \*Scissors with a round tip and metal cutting edge (Fiskars brand is best)
- \*Box of tissues
- \*Soap or hand sanitizer

Snacks- I will be send home a Snack Calendar listing the date your child is scheduled to bring snacks. Every child should bring in a snack to share with the entire class (presently 20 students). This should be a healthy snack that is quickly eaten, such as a box of crackers, pretzels, snack cakes, popcorn, graham crackers, cookies, fruit snacks, raisins, etc. Individually packaged snacks are easier to serve.

Sight Words- Your child will learn around 100 sight words by the end of the school year! Four new sight words will be sent home each week. These words are the pre-primer and primer Dolch sight words.

Students of the Month- Two students at a time will be selected as students of the month. Each child will get a chance and we will begin in alphabetical order. A poster depicting your child will be displayed in the hall during your child's designated month. Be sure to come see your child's poster!

Student Teacher- Miss Erin Rogers, a senior at Augusta State University is our apprentice/student teacher. She will be working with our class throughout the school year.



Toys- Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school because they distract the children from learning. The only exception is if I send a note home requesting your child to bring in a toy. Otherwise, the toy will be placed in the "Toy Drawer" and will be left there until the last day of school in May.

Tardiness- Your child will be considered tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when we begin Reading at 8:20. It is extremely important that your child arrives at school on time. Our morning procedures set the tone for our entire day.

Technology- We have a scheduled 40 minute Technology (Computer) class on D day. Mrs. Dorothy Samuels is the teacher.

Transportation- If your child is getting home from school in a different way than the usual way, you will need to send in a Transportation form. Do not rely on your child to tell us this information because children often become confused and relay information incorrectly. If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.



Unique- Kindergartners learn that they are special and unique. Kindergartners have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others.

Unit theme- We will be studying various units and subjects throughout the school year ranging from Our School to Plants.



Visitors- All guests (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the office and wear a guest badge. Guest badges will help identify visitors to all faculty and staff and will help the school create a safe learning environment.



Website- Check out our classroom website at [www.debburleykindergarten.com](http://www.debburleykindergarten.com) Useful classroom information and updates will be provided throughout the school year!

Word Wall- The sight words that we study will be placed on our classroom word wall. Also, frequently used words such as the children's names will also be on the word wall.

Writing- Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.

Wish List- Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials (such as metal coffee cans, paper plates, cotton balls, magazines, etc.) These needs will be posted in the class newsletter as well as on our classroom website. Extras items that you think we might be able to use are always welcome!



eXpectations- I have high expectations for *all* students in my classroom. I expect them to learn, always try their best, and to behave in order to be successful students. "I can't" are not acceptable words in our classroom! Children are always encouraged to be their personal best! Kindergarten is a place where all children develop at different rates and become the best they can be!

eXtra clothes- You may want to send in an extra set of clothes in case of a bathroom accident or a messy spill. This way, we do not have to bother you at work or at home. Please send in clothes appropriate for the season in a gallon sized Ziploc bag with your child's name written on the outside.



Year- We are going to have a busy and fun-filled year- an amazing journey into learning!



ZzZs- Make sure your child gets plenty of rest, especially at the beginning of the year. Children will get very sleepy adjusting to Kindergarten. Setting and keeping a reasonable bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child! It will help him or her to be alert and ready to learn each day! Don't forget a bedtime story!