

EUGENIA B. THOMAS K-8 CENTER

The ABC's of Kindergarten



A

Absences: It is important that your child be in school every day. However, if it is necessary to keep him/her home, please send a letter or email the following day stating the reason for the absence. If a note is not received your child will be marked with an unexcused absence. Please note, after 5 consecutive days you must send a doctor's note.

Arrivals: School starts at 8:20 a.m. and dismissal is at 1:50 p.m. **Please have your child here by 8:15 a.m. each morning.** If your child is late, he/she must go in the office to receive a pass to class. First Day of School: You are welcome to walk your child to the classroom, but after the first day, please drop your child off in the kindergarten hallway, where they will be taken to their arrival room, and will be supervised until the teacher picks them up.

B

Book bags: Your child must bring a book bag to school every day. In their book bag, they must have the home learning folder (first day of the week), large zipper case with supplies and a sweater in case they get cold. Please make sure you label your child's book bag as well as all supplies. It is important to check your child's book bag on a daily-basis. Please remember rolling book bags are not permitted.

Before and After-School Care Program: The Before-School Care Program is offered from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in room 101. The Before-School Care fee is \$4.00 a day. A variety of After-School Care programs are offered for the students.

C

Cafeteria: Miami-Dade County Public Schools offers **FREE** breakfast for all students. The Lower Academy Café is open for breakfast for the students from 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. In addition, students will go to the Lower Academy Cafe for lunch daily. **The cafeteria lunch cost is \$2.25 per day.** It can be paid on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. We recommend that you pay either weekly or monthly. The teachers will collect any lunch money on the first day of the school week. We have pay plans where parents have the option to pay online. Visit our website for more details. Students also have the option to bring a lunch from home. All Kindergarten classes usually go to lunch between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Clothing: Students need to wear their uniform daily. Please label all sweaters, jackets, shirts, lunch boxes, etc. with the name of your child. We recommend that a change of clothes be kept in your child's book bag for unexpected accidents.

Communication: Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to write a note in your child's agenda or email your child's teacher. The school number is 305-592-7914. Email works best for your child's teacher. Our email addresses may be found on the school's website. Also, messages to the teacher need to be written and not verbally given to the student or any staff member.

Conferences: Parent-Teacher conferences are held as needed. In the conference, we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule conferences at any time during the year. Also, keep in mind that we cannot have a conference with parents when they are dropping off or picking up their child.

D

Discipline: Establishing good classroom discipline is essential to each child's success. Every child should feel that the classroom environment is safe and secure. Please help us by reviewing the classroom rules with your child.

Dismissal: Children are dismissed daily at 1:50 p.m. A staff member will go to each classroom and pick-up the bus students. The After-School Care Program Activity Leaders will also come around to each class and pick-up the After-School students. The students who are picked up by their parents are taken to the front of the school by the teacher. Parents should stay in their cars and the students will be taken to the car. On rainy days, parents will be allowed to pick students up from their classrooms.

E

Emergencies: You will be contacted by the teacher or office staff, if your child is injured or ill at school. Student/Data/Emergency Contact Cards are distributed on the first day of school. Students are expected to return the cards to school completed on both sides and signed, the following day. **It is very important that you keep your contact phone numbers on the Emergency Contact Card up to date so we can reach you, should the need arise.**

ESOL/ELL Testing: Your child will be placed in a classroom according to his/her ESOL/ELL level.

F

Folders: Each day your child will bring home a **folder or folders** which contain either notes from school, work that has been completed from the past week or the home learning packet for you to review. **These folders need to be returned each day. Also, please make sure you check the folder on a daily- basis.**

H

Home Learning: Home Learning is sent home every week. All home learning will be a review of the topics covered in class and should be returned on Monday of the following week. The writing section of the home learning is to be done in the writing journal purchased from the supply list. This must then be attached to the home learning packet. Please note that home learning is progressive and should be done in parts throughout the week, not all in one day.

Students must also read for a minimum of 30 minutes every night and record the stories in the Reading Log provided. As your child's first teacher, it is important that you, as the parent, model reading habits while at home and, that you read aloud to your child/children at home every day. As you read to your child, stop often to talk about the story. You should ask:

- What do you think might happen next?
- What would you do if you were...?
- How would that make you feel . . . ?
- What makes you feel sad? Happy? Scared? Frustrated?

I

Identification (ID) Badges: The school will be providing your child with a school picture ID. It will be used to check out books from the Library/Media Center. In case your child loses this ID, there will be a replacement cost.

Illness: It can be very difficult to decide when your child should stay home, BUT please keep your child home from school when they are ill. If they have a temperature the general rule is not to return to school until the fever has subsided for 24 hours. This practice prevents other children from becoming ill and helps to keep the sick child comfortable at home.

Immunizations: Please make sure that your child's immunizations are current.

L

Library Books: Several weeks into school the children will start bringing home a library book. Once a month they will be exchanging their library book for another one. **There is a replacement cost for lost or damaged books.** The students will be learning to choose which books to check out at their individual reading level. Our goal is to make reading enjoyable!

Lost and Found: We have a Lost and Found bin in the Counselor's Office. We encourage the students to check the Lost and Found collection for any missing items. **Please label all items worn to school with your child's name.** This will help us return a lost article to its owner.

M

Money Collection: On occasion, it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information: your child's first and last name, the amount of money, what the money is for and the teacher's name.

N

Notices: On a regular- basis you will receive information to let you know about what we are learning and to keep you up to date on important events.

Naps: Students do not take naps in Kindergarten.

O

Open House: Open House will be held in late August or in September. During this event, we will go into further details about our individual classrooms, curriculum, schedules, and routines. We will also answer any questions you may have about your child's kindergarten experiences so far. Open House is not a time for individual conferences. However, it is a good day to sign up for conferences.

P

Parties (Culminating Activities): We will have several class culminating activities this year. They are usually held in October, December, and February and at the end of the year in June. The room moms help the teachers to organize these events. Please note that we will not allow any birthday parties.

Parent Portal: Miami-Dade County Public Schools maintains a Parent Portal on its web site which is <http://dadeschools.net>. The Parent Portal provides you with 24-hour access to your child's grades and attendance as well as other valuable resources. The portal is a great way to monitor the progress of your child throughout the year. Please contact us if you need assistance in accessing or using the portal.

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA): The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) works with state and national PTSA to support all schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting youngsters. The association supports the faculty and administration in their efforts to improve educational and extracurricular activities in school. On the first day of school you will receive an application to become a member. Please complete the form with the membership fee(s) and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. We encourage everyone to join and support our PTSA.

Q

Questions: Please feel free to contact us for any questions or concerns you may have. You can also send notes to the teacher in your child's folder. If you need to discuss something that will take some time, please email us, as it is the best way to contact us. Our email addresses may be found on the school's website. We are always willing to help with any questions or concerns you may have.

R

Report Cards and Interim Progress Reports: Student report cards are distributed every nine weeks, four times a year. We now also have electronic report cards available. Please inform us if you are interested in receiving your child's report card electronically. Interim Progress Reports go home during the fifth week of each nine-week period. Both reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives. When a numerical equivalent to an assigned letter grade of "E," "G," "S," "M," or "U," is used, the following apply and shall be communicated to the student and his/her parents:

Grade	Numerical Value	Verbal Interpretation	Grade point Value
E	90-100%	Outstanding progress	4
G	80-89%	Above average progress	3
S	70-79%	Average progress	2
M	60-69%	Minimal progress	1
U	0-59%	Unsatisfactory progress	0

Restrooms: All Kindergarten classrooms have restrooms. Children are encouraged to use the restroom as needed. Unfortunately, restroom accidents can still happen and we will handle the incident as compassionately and discreetly as possible. Please make sure your child has a change of clothes in his/her book bag.

S

Supplies: The supply list is available in the Main Office for pick-up, on our school website. Make sure you **label all your child's supplies**. If the supplies are too heavy for your child to bring, simply send a small amount each day.

Schedules: Each teacher's schedule will vary. However, all kindergarteners will receive: two hours of language arts, one hour of math, 45 minutes of social studies and science, 30 minutes of P.E., 20 minutes of recess and a minimum of half an hour of Spanish daily. More information will be given at our Open House.

T

Tardies: Children will be picked up in the assigned arrival classroom by 8:10 a.m. School starts promptly at 8:20 a.m. and children are considered late after that time. Children who come into school after 8:20 a.m. will need to go directly to the Main Office to pick up a tardy pass.

Toys and Jewelry: Students are not allowed to bring toys or "play jewelry" to school.

Transportation: Please send a written note to the teacher if your child will be going home a different way than usual. Please do not leave a voice message or send an email because there are times when we cannot check our voice message or email before the end of the day. Do not rely on your child to tell us this information because children often become confused and communicate information incorrectly.

U

Uniforms: Uniforms must be worn to school daily unless a written notice is sent by the office or teacher. On the first day of the school week students must wear their formal attire. This consists of the button down white shirt, navy pants and tie for the boys, and the button down white shirt, navy skirt or pants and cross tie for the girls.

V

Volunteers: We LOVE our volunteers! Some things to help with include being an activity helper and/or field trip chaperone. Help from home is also appreciated and it might include cutting, gluing and coloring. If you are available, please let your child's teacher know. Each person (even grandparents) who will be spending time at school must report to the office for a Visitor's pass. In addition, everyone who would like to volunteer in the classroom must attend the volunteer orientation that will be held in September.

W

Web Site: The schools web page is ebtk8.com It contains important information for our parents and community. Our monthly calendar and newsletter is also available on our website.

Z

Zzzzz: Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day. A light healthy breakfast is also beneficial to a successful school day.

