

Summer 2017

Dear Families,

The beginning of the new school year will be here before you know it and we at Berlin Elementary realize that you may have many questions. We hope you find the following information helpful.

There will be three Kindergarten classrooms this year. They will be taught by Mrs. Fran Mason, Mrs. Hooks, Mrs. Kasey Hannigan and Ms. Hansen.

Children should bring an **adult-size** backpack everyday, so that both hands will be free to get on and off the bus. The backpack needs to be large enough to hold a lunch box, sneakers, winter clothing including snow pants, books, art projects and papers, etc. Each student will be given a **homework folder** to help organize papers and projects going home every day. This folder will go into the student's mailbox each day, even if it is empty, so **please send every day!**

Children may purchase a lunch or bring a lunch from home. Students who prefer to bring lunch from home may purchase a carton of milk if desired. Please send ANY money in an envelope with your child's name (first and last), grade, and write "lunch money" or "lunch milk" clearly on the envelope.

We will have a short break in the afternoon for snack each day. It is an important break in our day since our lunch is scheduled so early. Snacks should be high in nutritional value (for example: fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, yogurt)...rather than chips and candy. Children only need ONE snack since we only spend a short time on snack. If you chose to send in a snack drink it should be juice, water or milk. A carton of milk may also be purchased at snack time. Snack milks are not included as part of the free and reduced food plans.

For safety reasons students should wear sneaker type footwear every day. We will be going outside and also enjoying "movement" activities in the classroom. Please try to have your child wear shoes that they can put on independently; slip on and Velcro work best.

Please send your child to school in clothes that they can manage. This will be helpful when getting ready to go outside for recess or going home. If your child has a difficult time with buttons and snaps, zippers, an elastic waist may be a better option.

Please send in an extra set of clothes (in a shopping or Ziploc bag with your child's name on it) so that they can go to the Health Office to clean up and change without having to call home for a change of clothes. If clothes are borrowed from the Health Office, please wash and return them as soon as possible (except for underwear).

We will be attaching a bus name tag to your child's backpack on the first day of

school to help us get all of the kids on the correct buses at dismissal. Please leave the bus tag on your child's backpack for the first couple of weeks. We will change the tag if your child's bus information changes.

A Kindergarten Visiting Day is scheduled for September 5th. See attached

Kindergartners first day of school will be **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th.**

Your child's teacher(s) for Kindergarten will be Mrs. Hannigan and Ms. Hansen

What Your Child Will Need in School...

1 adult-sized backpack

1 box of #2 pencils

1 package of CRAYOLA TWISTABLE crayons

8 ELMER'S glue sticks

2 Large boxes of tissues (to share with the class)

1 adult sized T-Shirt to use for an art smock (slip over head-no buttons/ties)

1- 2 pocket folder for Science

***may need a restock of tissues come winter time**

Please do not send in supplies that are not on this list (notebooks, scissors, rulers, ect.)

You can organize a special "work space" at home for those supplies if your child wants them.

Special Notice:

There are children in our school who have severe allergies to peanuts, peanut products, other nuts, and even tree nuts such as acorns. In addition, packaged foods that were manufactured alongside a product that contained peanuts can be dangerous to some children (e.g., plain M&M's cannot be eaten because they are made in the same facility as the ones containing nuts). Strict avoidance is the **ONLY** way for these children to prevent an allergic reaction. A reaction can be triggered not only by eating nuts, but also by touching, smelling or coming in contact with any item containing nuts or traces of nuts or nut products.

Since this allergy can **threaten life** within just a few minutes of contact, the whole school will be taking extra precautions to protect the children who have this allergy. Therefore, your help is also needed. We ask that you talk to your children about this and other food allergies before they come to school. Here are some things we would like your children to know:

- ❖ Children should never share food on the bus or at school.
- ❖ There will be a “nut-free” table in the cafeteria...No peanuts, nuts or nut products will be allowed in that area.
- ❖ All children should eat carefully and neatly to avoid spilling food on their clothing, floors or other places in the school. Even though tables will be washed completely and floors vacuumed or washed after meals, we would like students to tell the teachers if food containing nut products accidentally falls on the floor or touches other surfaces. It may require further cleaning.
- ❖ Food scraps, utensils, wrappers, napkins and trays should be disposed of carefully to avoid contact with clothing, furniture, or other surfaces.
- ❖ All children should wash their hands after eating or playing outside. They should even wash after breakfast at home so they can come to school with clean hands and clothes. Before washing, children should avoid touching other children, clothing, furniture and other surfaces.
- ❖ Many manufacturers are labeling foods to make it easy for parents to choose nut-free products for lunches and snacks.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the Health Office at 658-1500 x 3007. We are looking forward to a wonderful and safe year for everyone.