

August 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Gardnertown Leadership Academy. My name is Mrs. Galati, and I will be your child's kindergarten teacher. This is an exciting time as you prepare to send your child to kindergarten. Hopefully this letter will provide you with valuable information and answer some questions that you may have.

- **SELF-HELP SKILLS** – It is very important that your child be able to manage their own clothing. They need to be able to manage belts, buttons, snaps, and zippers. If your child does not already know how to tie their own shoes, please practice this skill at home. This skill requires a lot of practice, and takes a long time to master. They need to be able to take care of themselves in the bathroom including wiping, flushing, and washing hands. Your child also needs to be able to open their lunchbox and backpack. It is a good idea to have your child practice opening and closing these items at home before school begins.
- **CLOTHING** – Your child should be comfortably dressed for school each day. When helping your child to dress, please keep in mind that we sit on the rug every day. If wearing dresses/skirts, you may want to put a pair of shorts underneath. The class has gym two days out of each six-day cycle. We also play outside everyday (weather permitting). It is important your child wear appropriate shoes with rubber soles or sneakers to fully participate in gym and outside activities. Sandals, flip flops, and slip-on shoes are not safe for active play and should not be worn to school.
- **CHANGE OF CLOTHES** - Accidents sometimes happen, so please send in a change of clothes for your child. Your child will be more comfortable in their own clothes if an accident does happen. Please put the spare clothes in a large Ziploc bag, label it with your child's first and last name, and send it to school with your child. Please be sure to include underwear and socks. If your child does have an accident, please remember to send clean clothes to replace the ones used. All clothing will be returned at the end of the school year.
- **HOMEWORK** – Kindergarten children are expected to do homework. Homework will begin in mid/late September. When your child completes their homework, please check it and sign it. Daily reading at home and occasional family projects are also part of the homework program.
- **LUNCH**- Your child will be able to either eat a school lunch or bring lunch from home. A cafeteria menu calendar will be available online. Please notify me if your child has any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

- BRINGING THINGS TO SCHOOL – Unless requested, please do not have your child bring toys to school. If your child wears jewelry, please understand that there is a possibility that it may get lost or broken so it is best to leave valuable items at home.

- BIRTHDAYS – If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday in school, please contact me a week before so we can choose a date that fits in our schedule. Parents of the birthday child will supply the items needed for the celebration. Birthday celebrations take place at the end of the day. If your child has a summer birthday, contact me at the beginning of June to set a date if you would like to have a school celebration. If you do not want your child to attend birthday celebrations due to religious reasons, please let me know. Your child may visit another classroom during these brief times. Parents do not attend birthday celebrations.

- CLASS RULES – We will begin the school year by focusing on the rules for our classroom and for our school. These rules are all based on good manners and respect for one another. One of the key factors to a happy and successful learning environment is an atmosphere in which all children feel physically and emotionally safe and secure. Discussing and enforcing the following rules can achieve this. Please review the following rules at home.
 - Listen to the teacher
 - Raise your hand
 - Keep your hands and feet to yourself
 - Use good manners and kind words
 - Walk quietly in the hallway
 - Always try your best

You will receive a great deal of information about school programs and procedures during the first few weeks of school. Although it may seem overwhelming, it is important to check your child's backpack and folder daily and read all of the information sent home so that you remain informed.

A typical school day is long and structured for a young child. You can help your child adjust smoothly by maintaining regular routines at home. Please encourage good eating and sleeping habits so your child is ready for each school day. One of the most important factors in your child's success is your positive attitude towards school and education. I look forward to meeting you and your child!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Galati

Supply List

Mrs. Galati's Kindergarten Class

* Names are not needed on supplies unless indicated.

- Backpack - Please label with name, teacher, and bus number
 - 2 plastic pocket folders – 1 red, 1 yellow
- Ten Elmer's glue sticks (please no gel sticks, it gets too soft and is hard to work with)
 - 2 cans of Playdough
- Change of clothes labeled with your child's name (pants, shirt, underwear, socks)
- 1 set of headphones for computer use (no earbuds, not wireless, standard 3mm cord – round adapter)
- A labeled, refillable water bottle with tight fitting lid (please no open mouth bottles, they spill easily – a bottle with a straw is best)