

Welcome to Kindergarten!

We would like to thank you for choosing Aldo Leopold Community School as the start your students' educational journey. We are all very excited to start to work with your student to help them grow academically and socially.

Kindergarten at a Quick Glance

Classroom Management: In our classrooms, we use the **CHAMPS** approach. This approach is a proactive way of management so basically the students are informed of the expectations prior to lessons, work times, and transitions. We discuss Conversation levels, **H**elp during the lesson, **A**ctivity, **M**ovement that is acceptable, how to **P**articipate so that our class is **S**uccessful .

The **ALDO WAY** is the guidelines for success that are expected throughout the building.

Act Responsible, Live Respectfully, Do Your Best, and Operate Safely.

Snack: We have a daily snack from the class supply. We are an allergy aware school. This means that we are a peanut free/tree nut free so please read the label before purchasing. We can not serve any homemade snacks at school. Everything brought to school for the consumption of the group **MUST** be store bought and in its original package. We also ask that you make choices that are healthy. We do have a small refrigerator to store fresh items so they are welcome. Fruits, vegetables, and cheese are welcome.

Allergy Aware School: In conjunction with our Healthy School Committee we do not use food for rewards. We respect students with allergies and this means we are a peanut and tree nut free school. Please do not send anything with your student to school that includes peanuts or tree nuts. We need to keep all of our student's safe. If you are looking for alternatives to your student's favorites that may include these ingredients please check this link for further ideas.

<https://www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/be-a-pal>

Extra change of clothes: Please send an extra change of clothes with your students in a plastic ziploc bag with the slide closure (it is easier for students to open). In the bag please include shirt, pants, underwear and socks.

Recess: We go out for 30 minutes of recess each day. Please make sure your student is dressed for the weather. In winter they will need snowpants, boots, mittens/gloves, hat, jacket and scarf (optional). Please make sure to label items with your student's name in case they would get lost.

Gym: Students will go to gym class each week please make sure that students wear appropriate shoes that they are able to run around in. We ask that they do not wear flip flops.

Literacy: Building your child's reading skills is truly a partnership between home and school. Reinforcement at home with the skills we are working on at school is an essential part to learning. Some suggestions for literacy work at home are below:

Word Wall at Home: Practice reading, writing, and discovering (build them with magazine letters, find them in print, practice writing them) the following words:

- I
- Like
- The
- See
- Can

Word Family/Rhymes: looking for AT and IN

Have your child listen for and write rhymes for words in these word families
Example: at, fat, cat, sat, rat, etc.)

Reading: Please read with your child 20 minutes each day or evening. Encourage them to point to the words as you read, work on using the pictures as clues to words, make predictions and explore books independently.

Bathroom: Please help your student to get use to using the bathroom independently. They should be able to close the door on their own as well as use the toilet, take care of their hygiene needs and wash their hands without needing to ask for extra help.

Book Bags: Students will be bringing home book bags once school gets underway. We ask that you sit down and read these books with your student. These are books that they have read with us and will be very proud to read to you to show you how much they have learned. Please return the book bag back to school each day in your student's backpack so that they are able to swap out books with new ones.

Library Books: We have library once a week where students are able to check out books and learn valuable skills on how to use the library. Please make sure your student brings their library book back each week.

Background Checks: It is now a requirement that all volunteers or chaperones have a background check on file with the district. They usually take a minimum of at one month to clear. It is best to fill one out at the beginning of the school year if you wish to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone field trips. There are no exceptions, use this form [Volunteer Background Check](#). This information is also available in the office.

Quiet Time: We will start out the year having 15-20 minutes of quiet time each day where students have time to lay down and rest. Please send in a towel or beach towel for your student to lay on during this time. Quiet time will be transitioned out of our day near winter break. Having quiet time helps students to transition into a full day of school.

Volunteering Opportunities:

We welcome all of you to volunteer in our classroom but we do ask that you give the students a few weeks to get acclimated to our routines before you start your volunteering. If you are interested in volunteering on a certain day at a certain time every week please watch for a schedule coming home next week for times that we need extra help in the kindergarten classrooms. Please know that you are also welcome to stop in and help out as you are able and it doesn't have to be during a scheduled time. If you are available to stop by and hang out for a little while or have lunch with your child please feel free but again we do ask for a few weeks just so the goodbyes aren't as difficult.

We appreciate your time and truly look forward to working with your family. Together we can do great things to help your child grow and learn. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions and concerns.

Open House Night:

We will see you all on **back to school night** on Wednesday, August 29th from 4:00-6:00 pm.

First Day of School:

Our first day of school on September 4th! The first day of school will also be picture day. There are retake days as well, those dates will be communicated through the weekly updates at a later date.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Melisa Messenger mamessenger@gbaps.org

Ryan Bartel rjbartel@gbaps.org

Abbie Lambert aalambert@gbaps.org

