

Welcome to Kindergarten!



2019-2020

Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Furjes,
Ms. Graves, Ms. Hardebeck,
Ms. Jehling, and Mrs. Reames

McKelvey Elementary School
1751 McKelvey Road
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Main Office: 314-415-6500

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are looking forward to teaching your children and providing meaningful experiences to develop a lifelong love for learning. We truly want their first year of elementary school to be a positive experience. Kindergarten is such a fun and exciting year and we are happy we get to share this time with you.

Please read through the following information about Kindergarten at McKelvey. The information provided here will help explain how we run our classrooms and what you should expect this year. Please keep this packet in a safe place so you may refer to the information when necessary.

If you still have questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Birthdays

- In order to celebrate birthdays, we invite you to spend time choosing a favorite book with your child. On his or her birthday, we will read the book as a class. We hope this new tradition will honor the birthday student while at the same time, spread the love of reading. This is an optional activity, please do not feel obligated to participate. Please remember our food policy and do not bring in food treats for students.
- If your child has a summer birthday and would like to celebrate by reading a special book with peers, please send it in around their half birthday.
- If you would like to send birthday invitations to school for a party at home, your child must invite the whole class. If you choose to not invite the entire class, invitations cannot go home in folders. Addresses can be found in the McKelvey Buzz Book, but teachers cannot give out students' contact information.

Braggin' Dragons

- Every morning, students recite the Code of Conduct, pledging to be caring, respectful, responsible, and self-motivated learners.
- When students are caught following the Code of Conduct, they may receive a Braggin' Dragon. This means that they will bring home a slip of paper to talk to you about the great behavior they displayed, while a portion of the slip is turned into the office for a school wide drawing held every morning.

Conferences

- McKelvey boasts 100% participating during conferences. Conferences are a time to talk with your child's teacher individually about their academic, social, and emotional growth.
- Your child's teacher will contact you to schedule a conference time.
- Conferences typically take place in September and March.

Curriculum

- You can access the kindergarten curriculum by going to ParkwaySchools.net. Click on the Parents tab, and then select Curriculum Guide. You can view information by grade level and by content area.

Dismissal

- All kindergarten students are dismissed from the gym. In order to ensure their safety, parents are not allowed in the gym at this time.
- If your child is dismissed for parent pick-up, you should wait on the side of the school building (the playground side).
- If your child is a walker, you may wait in front of the school (near the flag pole).
- Your child will be dismissed as indicated on their transportation sheet, unless a change is indicated by the parent by sending a note, calling or emailing the teacher, or by calling the office.
- In the event of a last minute dismissal change, you need to contact the school office at 314-415-6500.

Field Trips

- This year kindergarten will take multiple field trips. All students ride the bus to our field trip destination, which is chosen based upon our learning at that time.
- Parent volunteers are critical for field trip success! Background checks must be completed for all Parkway volunteers who will be working with and around students, this includes accompanying students on field trips.

All parent volunteers are asked to complete a background check through Parkway's website before volunteering in the classroom or attending field trips. **Parents are strongly encouraged to complete this at the beginning of the year.** Please visit ParkwaySchools.net and click on the "Employment" tab at the top. Then click on "Volunteer Opportunities". Next, please click on "New Registration Link" which will take you to secure website where you will register to be a volunteer in Parkway. Once you have completed the volunteer application, you will receive an email that your application has been submitted and the appropriate background checks will be initiated.

Home-School Folder

- Please check your child's folder every night, and remove any school notes and student work. This is where you will find your child's weekly behavior sheet, homework, and other important information. Daily behavior sheets provide feedback on student choices and peer interactions, and should be signed each night.
- Homework should be returned to school the next day in your child's folder.

Hours

- School hours: 9:05am-4:05pm
- Students are not allowed into the building until 8:50 each morning.
- Please make sure your child is on time to and present for school each day. When students are consistently tardy or absent, they miss out on important learning opportunities.
- If you know your child will be late to school due to an event such as a doctor's appointment, please call the main office and let them know. Additionally, if your child will be absent from school, please call the main office.

Lunch

- Recess is from 12:15-12:30.
- Lunch is from 12:30-12:50.
- In order for your child to buy lunch at school, you will need to deposit money into his/her lunch account. You can do this online or by sending money to school in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front.
- To deposit money online, go to myschoolbucks.com. Creating an account is fast and easy, and allows you to manage deposits and view account balances.
- Students can charge up to \$10 against their account. After charging more than \$10, students are given a sack lunch, which consists of a cheese sandwich and fruit, or crackers and fruit.
- A copy of the school lunch menu can be found on the Parkway website (www.ParkwaySchools.net).
- Each student has been assigned a 5 digit PIN. Please practice this at home.

Rest Time

- For the first half of the school year, kindergarteners will have a dedicated time to rest on rest mats in the classroom. These mats are on the kindergarten supply list, and can be purchased at Target and Walmart. All students are expected to rest, although they do not need to go to sleep.
- Please **DO NOT** send sleeping bags, blankets, yoga mats or pillows.

Snack

- We will NOT have snack in kindergarten. Students are welcome to bring in a reusable water bottle that they can access to throughout the day.
- Please make sure your child eats breakfast every morning. Breakfast is also served in the cafeteria. Please notify your child's teacher if he/she should be eating breakfast at school.

Specials

- Each afternoon from 11:15-12:10, all kindergarten classes participate in Specials: PE, art, music, or library. The school rotates through Specials on a 1-2-3-4-5 day rotation. Please see the schedule below to find out what special your child has on each day.
- Please wear tennis shoes on PE days.

Day	Campbell	Furjes	Graves	Hardebeck	Reames
1	PE	Art	PE	Music	Library
2	Art	PE	Music	Library	PE
3	PE	Music	Library	PE	Art
4	Music	Library	PE	Art	PE
5	Library	PE	Art	PE	Music
Ms. Jehling's students are split among each kindergarten class for Specials.					

Contact Information

You can call, email, or send a note in your child's folder. Email is the quickest and most efficient mode of communication.

Ms. Mary Jehling
Mjehling@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4524

Mrs. Kate Furjes
Kfurjes@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4541

Ms. Alex Graves
Ag Graves@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4505

Ms. Madeline Hardebeck
Mhardebeck1@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4536

Mrs. Lauren Reames
Lreames@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4516

Mrs. Lisa Campbell
Lcampbell1@parkwayschools.net
314-415-4504