

O'Neill

Elementary

Kindergarten

Handbook

2017/2018

O'Neill Public School  
PO Box 230  
O'Neill, Nebraska 68763

Dear Parents:

Your child is about to start out on a new adventure. This handbook has been prepared as an aid to you. We hope that you find this book helpful in answering questions about our kindergarten program. Please read it thoroughly and keep it handy for next fall.

If you have any questions concerning our program, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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The Kindergarten program is a "learning to be in school" program--to respond and function as an individual in group situations. A major objective and concern is social development and adjustment--learning to accept responsibilities for desired behavior toward others.

From the smaller group of "family," the child enters the larger miniature "society" of kindergarten.

Orientation to the kindergarten room, school building, playground and schedule is the program for the first week or two:

1. his/her room  
his/her place in the room  
room areas and activity areas, materials and supplies
2. restroom facilities
3. playground and equipment
4. adjustment to a schedule

These first weeks have an emotional impact on children. We try to keep everyone happy and excited about learning new things. This is very important and basic to learning. We do fun things and have interesting activities and some center time. Happiness and self-confidence is contagious and results in emotional stability.

The kindergarten society has a variety of personalities each with different backgrounds and cultures. Some children may lack confidence and need to have recognition for their efforts and accomplishments to develop self-confidence.

The kindergarten program develops desirable behavior for group living: getting along with other children, taking turns, sharing and respecting the right of others.

Accepting responsibility for the care of materials and community property are growth factors in kindergarten.

## KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the O'Neill Public Schools that kindergarten be the beginning of formal education. Its purpose is to provide experiences which will enrich each child's social, mental, physical and emotional growth and development.

### BASIC GOALS FOR KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL YEAR

#### Social Habits

- Work and play happily with others.
- Participate in Music Activities.
- Participate in Art Activities.
- Speak clearly in complete thoughts.

#### Work Habits

- Follow simple directions.
- Finish what he/she starts.
- Takes pride and time in doing one's best.
- Clean up and put materials away.
- Make good use of time.
- Depend on one's own listening and thinking skills.

#### Reading Readiness

- Identify the eight basic colors.
- Distinguish likeness and differences in pictures, letters and words.
- Identify capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet in random order.
- Print the capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet on lined paper.
- Print first and last name.
- Recite nursery rhymes and fingerplays.
- Identify rhyming words.
- Tell a story in sequence.
- Understand left to right sequence.
- Participate in the READING MASTERY READING PROGRAM

**\*\*The Reading Mastery program is made up of the following components: Group Expectations, Seatwork, Mastery Tests, Curriculum-Based Assessments and Fluency Check-outs. Group Expectations are: sit tall, eyes on the book, answer on signal, inside voices. Seatwork is done daily and is part of the Reading groups. After every 5 lessons, a Mastery Test is given. After Lesson 108, Fluency Check-outs begin. Curriculum-Based Assessments are given after each 20 lessons starting at lesson 20. There will be more information given about the Reading program when school begins in the Fall.**

## Math

Count to 30 or above.

Identify numerals to 30 in random order.

Recognize circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles.

Count by 10's to 100.

Count by 5's to 100.

Identify a penny, nickel, and dime.

Develop a basic understanding of measuring with non-standard units.

Develop a basic understanding of patterns

Participate in the SAXON MATH PROGRAM

## PERSONAL NEEDS

Your child will feel more comfortable in school if he/she can take care of basic personal needs.

1. Knows first and last name, address, and telephone number.
2. Use the bathroom properly and wash hands afterwards.
3. Put on and take off outer clothes without help. (zipping/buttoning)
4. Tie shoes and put on boots when needed.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Supplies need to be brought during the first week of school. Please mark all supplies with your child's name.

1. Book bag/back pack (No book bags with wheels, please! They do not fit in the cubbies or lockers.)
2. Pencil box
3. Paint shirt--one that is easy to put on. (Not vinyl)
4. 4 glue sticks (one at a time)
5. 4 #2 pencils
6. A box of 8 crayons for the 1st semester and a box of 16 crayons for the 2nd semester
7. 2 large boxes of Kleenex
8. A bath towel to rest on (no blankets, pillows or mats)

## ALL I EVER REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN

*Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.*

*These are the things I learned: share everything, play fair, don't hit people, put things back where you found them, clean up your own mess, don't take things that aren't yours, say you're sorry when you hurt somebody, wash your hands before you eat, flush, warm cookies and cold milk are good for you, live a balanced life, learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.*

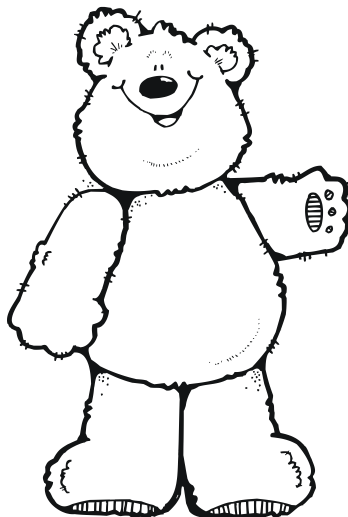
*Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody knows how or why, but we are all like that.*

*Goldfish and hamster and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup --they all die. So do we.*

*And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest world of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.*

*Think of what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.*

*\* Taken from the book All I Ever Really Needed To KNOW I Learned In Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum.*



## PARENT INFORMATION

This section will hopefully answer some questions you have about school. Be sure to discuss with us any other questions you have.

1. You and your kindergartner may have a few misgivings about starting school. This is natural. Keep a cheerful, positive attitude and reassure your child he/she will like this change in his/her life.
2. Encourage your child to talk about what he/she does in school and appreciate the papers he/she brings home.
3. All visitors are required to report to the school office upon entering the building. They must sign in and will be given a Visitor's pass to keep on their person while in the building.
4. Scheduled parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall and winter of the school year. You will be contacted for a date to discuss your child's progress. Please feel free to make an appointment for a special conference anytime you feel it is needed.
5. The most important day in a child's life is his/her birthday. Celebrating with school friends is a nice way to make the day special. If your child wishes to bring treats for the occasion he/she is welcome to do so. Summer birthdays can also be celebrated early to avoid disappointment. (NO invitations may be passed out at school, unless the whole class is invited).
6. Any time there is going to be a change in who picks up your child after school, we would appreciate a note from you letting us know of the change.
7. Should your child need to bring money to school, please put it in a sealed envelope. On the outside write his/her name and what the money is for.
8. The kindergarten will have four parties during the year; Halloween, the 100th day of school, Christmas and Valentine's Day. A special note will be sent before each party. Room mothers will be needed for the Halloween and Valentine's Day parties. We will be asking for Volunteers when school starts.
9. The children are taught manuscript writing. We will send a handout home at the beginning of the school year explaining how to make the capital and lower case letters. If your child is writing, please check his/her letter formation and watch him/her as he/she prints a letter.
10. Book orders will be sent home approximately once a month. You are under no obligation to purchase books. There are usually several good selections available. We have many of these, if you wish to preview them before you order.

11. Please be prompt when picking up your child. If you are going to be late, please call the school.

12. Sometimes there are schedule changes. We will send notes home ahead of time to let you know of these changes, if at all possible.

13. Thank you for reading our handbook. We are looking forward to working with you and your child next fall.

#### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

The following suggestions have been made by kindergarten teachers and elementary principals as ways in which you, the parents, may be most helpful in making your child's stay in kindergarten a successful one.

1. Your child needs plenty of rest and relaxation. He/She should get a full twelve hours of sleep every night. His/Her weekends should not be too exciting and should not tax his/her energies too much.

2. Whenever your child has been absent or tardy, please send a written excuse to the teacher or principal stating the cause.

3. When your child has been absent from school because of a contagious illness, you should have him/her checked by your family doctor or by the school nurse for re-admittance to school.

4. Help the school prevent the spread of colds and communicable diseases by observing your child carefully each day for red eyes, nasal discharge, fever, body rash, skin eruptions and upset stomach.

5. It is important that your child attend school **REGULARLY** and without tardiness whenever possible.

6. It is important to you and to your child that you attend parent-teacher conferences.

7. Whenever your child brings home a piece of art work, or some other school work which he/she has done, praise it highly and show him/her that you are interested in what he/she is accomplishing at school.

8. You should notify either the child's teacher or the school principal if you find it necessary to keep your child home for a prolonged time.

9. The school should be notified of any change of address or telephone number.

10. **MARK YOUR CHILD'S NAME** on all coats, snow pants, boots, color boxes, paint shirts etc., which he/she brings to school.



11. Read to your child daily to interest him/her in books. Encourage him/her to look at books and to tell the story to you.

12. Always take a positive approach to school. This will definitely have an effect on the student's progress and attitude.

13. Teach your child to dress himself/herself and then allow him/her to do so patiently. Teach your child how to use Kleenex tissues and where to dispose of them. Help your child learn to tie his/her shoes, and zip/button his/her coat.

14. After the first week or so of school, encourage your child come into the building by themselves. This will help develop self-confidence and self-esteem.

15. Do not have children bring things to school, unless they have been requested by the teacher for a project or show and tell.

19. Encourage your child to work with crayons, scissors, and glue. Use large sheets of paper which are at least 9"x12". Praise his/her work. Ask him/her to "tell you about his/her story."

20. When your child counts, he/she should be taught to count objects so the number words means something to him/her. (the #1 means 1 object, etc.)

21. Help your child become familiar with the names of the days of the week.

22. Familiarize your child with nursery rhymes, poems and stories.

**NOTE:** All children will not be able to do all of the above experiences, nor should they be expected to do them. Experiences that are done together as a family in their everyday living are the most helpful.

# FINAL REMINDERS

## PLEASE BRING TO SCHOOL:

**\*\*\*It would be helpful if you label each item with your child's name.**

1. 4 glue sticks (one at a time)
2. a paint shirt (preferably one that is self-doing)
3. a box of 8 crayons
4. a pencil box
5. 2 pencils
6. 2 large boxes of Kleenex
7. A small bath towel for resting

## WHEN SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL:

To: Teacher's name

For: (example) book money--Make checks payable to the name on the order.

Class: Kindergarten

From: (your child's name)

## PRINTING GUIDE:

When holding the pencil, hold the pencil between the thumb and index finger. The middle finger goes behind. This is very important.

## DISMISSALS:

School Day 8:00 am - 2:30 pm Mondays  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm Tuesday-Friday

**\*\*\*Kindergarten will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. August 17th to September 1st\*\*\*\***

**Beginning September 5, 2017, Kindergarten will dismiss at the regular time.**

Schedule changes due to early dismissals and late starts happen periodically throughout the year. We try our best to let you know ahead of time, and we appreciate your help and cooperation.

Your phone number will be added to the call list of our automated phone system. You will receive recorded phone messages notifying you of upcoming events or schedule changes. Information will also be broadcast on KBRX radio.

Thank you,  
Paula Evans  
Sarah Havranek  
Heather Larsen  
Ashley York