

# Meadowthorpe

2017-2018

## Kindergarten Teachers:

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## Meadowthorpe Elementary School

Principal: Stephanie Urbanek


School Phone: 859-381-3521


School Website: <http://www.meadowthorpe.fcps.net/>


School Hours: 7:45-2:35


## COMMUNICATION




 **Email:** Email is a great way to reach me at school! I try to check my email several times throughout the school day and will respond within 24 hours. Please do not send any personally identifiable or confidential information about your child through email (use initials instead of your child's full name)

 **Newsletter:** Keep an eye out for our classroom newsletter in your child's folder to get an update on topics and events. You can even use the newsletter as a guide to questioning your child about his or her school day. ☺

 **Phone:** The best time to reach me by phone is after school hours. Please understand that my time with your child is extremely important and I will not be free to speak with you if there are children in the classroom. Feel free to call the school office or send me an email if you need a quick response.

 **Parent Teacher Conferences:** There will be two meetings during the school year for parent/teacher conferences. We will meet in both the fall and spring seasons to discuss your child's progress, strengths, areas in which to improve, and much more. Please feel free to make contact anytime during the year if a concern should arise.

 **Schedule:** Once our normal routines have been established, a daily schedule will be sent home. Specials class rotation schedule will also be sent home.





## SCHOOL SUPPLIES





### **Supplies:**

Crayola Crayons, 24 count (3 boxes)  
Crayola Markers, washable, 8 count (1 box)  
Crayola Colored Pencils, 12 count (1 box)  
Yellow #2 pencils (2 boxes, 24 count)  
Large Elmers Glue Sticks (6 pack)  
3 composition notebooks  
Elmer's Liquid Glue (1 bottle)  
\$5 for writing binder/communication folder  
1 package of glue sticks for STEM lab

 **Wishlist:** tissues, Clorox wipes, gallon or quart-sized *Ziploc* bags (plastic zipper top), paper towels, white cardstock, post-it notes, dry erase markers (black), watercolor paint sets, play-doh.

 **Backpacks:** A regular-sized backpack (without wheels) is required to come to school every day with your child. For safety, all students will have transportation tags attached to his/her backpack. Please also note that teachers check folders daily but not backpacks.

 **Clothing Bag:** Please use a gallon size bag labeled with your child's name to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack. Check the clothing often and make sure it is appropriate for the season.

 **Take Home Folder (Yellow Folder):** Every student will have a Meadowthorpe take home folder to be carried on a daily basis. This will be our home/school communication; it is important that you check for notes and clean it out each day.

### **What should I bring to school everyday?**

1. Your backpack (with a change of clothes bag inside and transportation tag attached outside).
2. Your yellow folder with completed homework and any notes/money from home.
3. A smile. 😊



## ATTENDANCE



**Attendance:** Attendance at school is essential for good performance and high achievement. A written excuse, dated and signed by the parent, is required for all absences and tardies on your child's first day back to school. **Teachers are required to make contact with the parents every morning if their child is absent. To save time you may email the office at [Tina.Leininger@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:Tina.Leininger@fayette.kyschools.us) to indicate your child will be absent or late.** Please see the *Student-Parent Handbook* for further details.

**School Tardies:** Instruction in our classroom begins promptly at 7:45. When students are tardy it can disrupt his/her entire morning because their routine is different. If however, your child arrives late, he/she must be signed in by an adult in the office.

**Early Dismissals:** Children are dismissed at 2:35. If your child needs to leave early for any reason you are required to check them out from the office. Teachers cannot, under ANY circumstance, release students from the classroom. When notified by the office, a staff member will walk your child safely from the room to the office. All early dismissals are counted as tardies. Please do your best to schedule appointments outside of school hours.

**Illnesses:** The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when the decision may affect your work schedule and alternate arrangements may need to be made. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she has symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or a fever. They may not return to school until they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours. This helps them feel better quicker and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. A written excuse or doctor's statement is required for each absence the following school day.

**Missed Assignments:** If your child is absent it will be very hard for them to make up their work. Most of what is taught; calendar time, hands-on instruction, small group, etc. can only be completed during the school day. It is because of this that they cannot make up these assignments. Do not be surprised when a limited amount of make-up work/worksheets are sent home. You can however, work with your child at home by completing the weekly homework assignments.



## TRANSPORTATION



**🍎Transportation:** Everything goes smoother if your child consistently has the same transportation. Not only do the children love riding the "big kids' bus," but you will avoid the hassle of the car rider line and your child will arrive on time!

**🍎Transportation Tags:** All students will be given a transportation tag that **MUST** be on their backpacks each day.


**🍎Dismissal Procedures:**


- Bus Riders- Students are not allowed on a bus without his/her transportation tag! If lost or damaged it will be the responsibility of the guardian to pay and replace.
- Car Riders- will be supervised by school staff until you arrive in your car to pick them up. Make sure you have a car rider number that it is visible as you wait in line. Vehicles that do not have a car rider number will need to park and come inside to check student(s) out.
- POST Time (After School Program)- will be with POST time counselor
- Walkers- will meet at the corner of North Forbes and Taylor Drive. Students are eligible to be walkers if they live less than one mile from the school. The adults listed on the back of the transportation form are required to sign the student out at the end of the day.


**🍎Transportation Changes:** Please remember to **NOTIFY ME IN WRITING IN THE MORNING** if there are changes in the way your child will be going home from school. Without written instructions from you, I will send your child home in the usual manner (I cannot accept verbal changes from your child or a sibling). **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE PRIOR TO 1 PM FOR TRANSPORTATION CHANGES.** I cannot guarantee that I will have an opportunity to check my email prior to dismissal. Additionally, substitutes do not have access to teacher email.


## MONEY, FOOD




 **Money:** Whenever you send money with your child please put it in a sealed envelope or baggie that is labeled with your child's name, total amount being sent, and purpose for the money (school pictures, field trip, book club, etc.). Always send money in your child's take home folder not his/her pockets. I check folders daily but not backpacks or pockets ☺. Unless otherwise noted, all checks should be made payable to Meadowthorpe Elementary.

 **Breakfast/Lunch Fees:** Breakfast and lunch are free to all students!

 **What is my child eating?** Please understand that I will not be in the cafeteria to monitor what your child eats. Kindergarten students are still little people and while they may be encouraged to eat everything that is on their tray or in their lunchbox, they won't always be able. ☺ Fast food and canned/bottled soft drinks are not allowed in the cafeteria.

 **Cafeteria Visitors:** You are always welcome to join us for breakfast or lunch. When you arrive, please sign in at the office and wait for us at the entrance of the cafeteria. Please remember that adjusting to school and independence are a big part of kindergarten, be prepared to say "goodbye" and exit the building at the end of breakfast (7:15-7:45) or lunch in a timely manner.

 **Birthdays:** Due to allergies, snacks must be store-bought and peanut free. If your child wants to share a special snack with their classmates for their birthday please contact me in advance to make arrangements. If you are having a birthday party at home, please only send party invitations to school if all children are included. This will prevent the inevitable hurt feelings of those not invited. Due to confidentiality, teachers are not permitted to release student addresses.



## HOMWORK



**Homework:** Homework can be a valuable tool to help students make the most of their experience at school. Homework is reinforcing what has been learned in class, preparing students for upcoming lessons, teaching responsibility, developing self-discipline, and helping students to master positive study habits. Establishing a time and place for homework will show your child that schoolwork is something to be taken seriously and that you are interested in their learning and school experiences.

Most homework assignments should be completed independent of help, after directions have been explained by a parent or guardian, in no more than 20-30 minutes per evening. If your child is requiring more assistance please let me know.

**Homework Possibilities:** Kindergarten homework may include any of the following skills: Math skills, Reading skills, sight word practice, nightly book reading and comprehension practice.

**Family Projects:** In addition to homework there will be several fun "Family Projects" to complete throughout the school year.

### **Child's Responsibility:**

- Take homework home each day in folder.
- Complete homework with as little assistance as necessary.
- Pay attention to directions and always do his/her best work.
- Ask for parental guidance if needed when completing assignments.
- Complete work in a PENCIL unless otherwise specified.
- Return homework on the date that it is due.
- Read every night!



## BEHAVIOR



🍎 **Discipline:** I believe students thrive on positive recognition and praise and will work hard to create a consistent environment of friendship and respect. Your child's Kindergarten year will consist of both clear and very high expectations. To ensure that each child has a pleasant, positive learning experience, I will communicate any celebrations or concerns throughout the year!

🍎 **School Rules:**

- \*Be Respectful
- \*Be Responsible
- \*Be Safe

🍎 **Classroom Rules:**

- \*We look and listen when someone is speaking.
- \*We raise our hand to speak.
- \*We are caring friends (do not hurt others).
- \*We follow directions quickly.
- \*We always do our best work!

🍎 **Attention Signal:** "Give Me 5"

- Eyes are watching
- Ears are listening
- Lips are closed
- Hands are still
- Feet are quiet





## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION



**Library:** Your child will check out one Library book each week. Please help your child keep the book safe inside their backpack after reading. If a book is lost, let me know so I can ask about the replacement cost. Remembering to return and care for library books is an important skill in learning independence and responsibility!

**Scholastic Book Orders:** *Scholastic Book Clubs* is a great way to help foster your child's love for reading and to help their home libraries grow. Not only does it benefit your child, but it also helps our classroom accumulate bonus points to get free items and books. Book orders will be sent home soon and the deadline for each order will be printed in the newsletter.

**Visitors & School Safety:** We strive to make everyone feel welcome to participate in activities and feel comfortable at Meadowthorpe. All visitors must buzz in at the front door, wait to be let inside, sign in with office staff and wear a visitors badge while in the building.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are very important to the kindergarten program. I would LOVE to have your company and involvement during the school day. If you are interested in doing any type of volunteer work in our classroom or school, or if you would like to attend field trips/parties, you must complete the required paperwork for Fayette County. You can find this online on Meadowthorpe's website.

**Clothing:** Athletic shoes are required for participation on PE days but it is a good idea to wear them daily. We also have outside recess each day and some equipment will not be permitted if your child is wearing "dangerous or slippery" footwear. Please also keep a change of clothes bag in your child's backpack at all times and change the clothing for each season.

**Lost & Found:** It is VERY helpful if you **LABEL** your child's jackets, sweaters, coats, lunchboxes, backpacks and anything else that falls under personal belongings in case they get lost.

**Toys:** Bringing toys to school is discouraged other than special designated share days because they distract the children from learning. Our classroom is filled with items to keep us busy, and lost or broken toys can result in very sad feelings!

🍎 **Individualized Instruction:** Every kindergarten student comes to school with a unique knowledge background. Many students are entering a school setting for the first time and many have been in structured preschools. Just as no two flowers bloom the exact same way, it is important to keep in mind that not every child will progress at the same rate or in the same way as his/her peers. Having said that, children may or may not be working on the same concepts, at the same time as his/her peers. Each year I strive to make sure all students are taught at their appropriate level. There will be times that your child may participate in activities that he/she already knows how to do. The exciting part is that I can take those particular students (and the rest of the class) and do accompanying activities that will still enrich and challenge them!



🍎 **Independence:** Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following skills at home with your child: *zipping, shoe tying, dressing, snapping, etc.*

### 🍎 **What will my child learn in Kindergarten?**

- ❖ basic concepts like colors, counting, shapes, writing, and reading
- ❖ how and when to use good manners
- ❖ how to use words to express thoughts
- ❖ how to be safe by following classroom and school rules
- ❖ how to play with others and use materials in the classroom
- ❖ how to respect teachers, parents and friends
- ❖ how to listen during large and small group time
- ❖ how to understand that printed materials provide information
- ❖ how to follow words from left to right and from top to bottom on a page
- ❖ how to recognize all uppercase and lowercase letter names/sounds
- ❖ how to distinguish letters from words
- ❖ how to connect information and events in text to real-life
- ❖ how to retell and reenact stories or parts of stories
- ❖ how to describe the parts of a book and their functions
- ❖ how to use phonemic awareness and letter knowledge to read independently

### 🍎 **Finally...**

Please encourage your child to ask questions and talk about school. Informed children are confident children. Talk positively about school. The way your child perceives your feelings about his or her school and teachers will have a direct impact on how he or she feels. I am delighted and honored to have your child as part of our Meadowthorpe Kindergarten family and look forward to working with you to make sure your child's academic career begins on a positive note.

