

Welcome to Mrs. Nelson's Class!

On Monday, August 20th, your child will be taking another big step in life - the first day of kindergarten! I understand that your child may meet this day with excitement or apprehension (or both 😊), but I assure you that we have a wonderful year planned ahead!

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Kimberly Nelson and I will be your child's kindergarten teacher. I recently moved to Sarasota county from Asheville, North Carolina and look forward to becoming part of this community and school family. I have experience working in many grade levels and with a diverse group of students. This year I will be working on a doctorate degree. I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, rock climbing, yoga, and knitting.

In our classroom, your child will participate in whole group, small group, and individual instruction in reading, writing, and math. I also use independent literacy and math centers, as well as hands on activities on a daily basis.



If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at (941) 426-6371. You can also email me at kim@mrsnelsonsclass.com or visit our classroom website at www.mrsnelsonsclass.com. The BEST way to contact me is through email.

Please read the important information included with this letter and refer to the Student Handbook to clear up any questions about our school and classroom procedures. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Mrs. Nelson

The First Day

School begins at 8:30am. Please have your child here at school between 8:15 and 8:30 to avoid being tardy. Students must wait quietly outside the classroom until that time and will be greeted promptly when school has begun.

The first day of school will be exciting and scary for your child. There may even be some tears. I promise that your child is in good hands and that I have an extraordinary day (and year!) planned ahead. Please come in and say your goodbyes. The quicker this is, the easier it will be for all of us. Thank you!

Daily Communication/Home Folder

I will be communicating with you daily about your child's day through the home folder. I have purchased these folders for you but if your child loses it during the year, you will need to send a replacement.

In the folder will be a behavior calendar, papers, and school notes. The behavior calendar will either have a stamp for a successful day or a short note telling you about any problems that occurred. The day must be initialed by you and returned the following day. Your child is responsible for returning this folder daily.

Please follow through at home for any unacceptable behaviors that occur during the school day - this will help your child be more successful in school and make our days more pleasant. I appreciate your help!

Transportation

Please make sure your child knows which mode of transportation he or she is taking to go home. For your child's safety, a written notice is necessary for any changes in transportation.

Discipline

Behavior is one of the most important elements of the school day. If behavior is out of control, then learning is not possible. I use a 5 step method in my classroom. The steps are as follows:

1. Everyone begins with a smile 😊.
2. Warning
3. "Uh Oh" face 😐 (10 minutes time out - recess or fun activity)
4. Warning
5. Sad face 😞 (20 minutes time out - recess or fun activity and call to parent)

I don't believe in a child's day being "over" because of poor choices so I allow students to move up and down during the day. For example, if a student made very poor choices in the morning, but had worked hard and tried his or her best for the afternoon, they can "redeem" themselves from their 😐 face or 😞 face and end the day with a smile 😊.

Students who have earned all smiles at the end of the week will get to choose a small treat on Friday.

At the end of each month, a progress report will go home to you and a copy should be signed and returned to school.

Lunch Money

All lunch money needs to be sent in an envelope with the student's name, PIN number, and teacher's name. Please do not send money without an envelope. You can pay for lunch in advance in the cafeteria before and during school hours. School lunch is \$1.75 per day. Breakfast is \$.75 and milk is \$.50.

Snack

Please see the monthly snack calendar to see when you will be in charge of snack. This should be about once a month. The snack should be as healthy as possible and be enough for the class to share (a box of cereal,

crackers, sliced fruit, etc.). If it is more convenient for you, you can send in a snack ahead of time. **Please do not send in cookies or sweets.** Please also be aware of the county school board policy that any food served in the classroom must be packaged and store bought and can no longer be "homemade".

Money

Please place any money that is coming to school in an envelope labeled with the following information:

- Child's first and last name
- Teacher's name
- Amount enclosed
- Purpose of money (field trip, book order, fund raiser, etc.)

Grading Procedures

In kindergarten, students do not receive a "letter" grade. Students are required to master certain objectives before they can be promoted to first grade. Among these objectives are knowledge of:

- letter names
- letter sounds
- several sight words
- phonetic spelling
- counting to 20
- numeral identification

Other factors include work habits and maturity.

In my classroom, you will receive information throughout the year in the form of test scores and your child's school work. We will also make time during the year to meet and discuss progress and set goals together.

The most important work habit in our classroom is that we all "do our best".

Water

Drinking water in is highly encouraged in our classroom. It is especially important during weather. With this in mind, your child is allowed to bring his/her own water bottle into class and leave it at his/her table. If you would like, please allow your child to bring a small bottle labeled with a name to class. Bottles will be sent home periodically to be washed. A reusable bottle is preferable to a disposable bottle in order to reduce waste.

Homework

Your child will be bringing homework home beginning on the 4th week of school (September 10th). The purpose of any homework sent home will be to reinforce concepts already taught in the classroom.

Homework will be sent home on the first day of the week and should be returned by Friday. During short weeks or before special events, your child may not have homework. Completion of weekly homework will result in a satisfactory grade on the kindergarten report card.

Birthdays

Treats may be brought in for birthdays in the morning. The county school board policy of only serving store bought and packaged foods also applies to birthdays.

If you would like to send party invitations to the students in our class, please choose to invite all of the girls or all of the boys or the whole class if you would like invitations passed out during school. I would happy to quietly insert these invitations into our Take Home folders. If just a few children are invited, please send these invitations on your own.

Holidays

Because of the varying backgrounds, religions, and belief systems in our class family, we will not be “celebrating” any religious holidays (Halloween, Christmas, etc.) in our classroom. By celebrating, I mean that we will not be having a party for a religious holiday. We will however, be studying the themes centered around the holidays and celebrating our learning. For example, in the fall we will be learning about pumpkins, scarecrows, and harvesting and in the winter we will be learning about reindeer, pine trees, snow, etc.

The Sarasota County curriculum states that it is my job to teach my students about their world, including the culture and diversity around them. All holidays will be discussed in the classroom as a part of our Social Studies curriculum. We will be studying the holidays to learn more about our diverse American culture. Historical holidays, such as Thanksgiving, will be celebrated as a part of our American history.

We will, of course, be having many celebrations in our classroom to celebrate all we have learned. Notes telling you about the exciting events in our classroom will come home throughout the year.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering, I would love to have your help! Please fill out our “Volunteer Form” with the days and times you are available and what kind of jobs you would like to do (preparing activities, making copies, working in small groups, etc.). Using volunteers in the classroom requires teacher time and preparation. Because the first weeks of school are very busy, I will not be using volunteers until September. Please remember that you must be registered at the front office in order to volunteer in the classroom!

Volunteers will be scheduled with a time that is helpful to the teacher and students. I am able to use your help so much better when I know when you are coming and have a task prepared for you. If you are scheduled to volunteer on a certain day or time and are not able to come, please let me know, as this will save me the preparation time.

Please sign and return this portion

I have read and understood the school and classroom procedures explained in this handout.

I will do my best to help my child be a responsible and accountable student.

Parent Signature

I will do my best to make good choices.

I will do my best to learn and have fun in Mrs. Nelson's class!

Student Signature 😊