

Welcome to kindergarten at Powell Elementary!

We welcome you into a partnership between home and school that facilitates success for children. Our program addresses the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of your child. Kindergarten is the foundation for establishing positive habits that will follow children throughout their school career.

The most important thing you can do to assure your child's success in school is to help them understand that school is a happy place and learning is fun! It is important to establish a daily routine that your child can count on. A predictable bedtime, mealtime, time for homework, and a time to be read to, are all factors that create stability in a child's life. Schedules that are constantly changing and lack routines are difficult for young children. Try to keep transportation methods to and from school the same. Schedule after school sports, lessons, and other activities well after dismissal so that transportation home is not affected.

We hope that you and your child will join us in August for "Meet the Teacher". While your child is getting to know the teacher, more information will be available to parents regarding school transportation, arrival and dismissal policies, lunch, and other school routines. You will receive your child's student ID, along with class placement via e-mail in mid-August.

It is common for young children to have difficulty separating from parents during the first few weeks of school. The best way to separate from your child is to give them a big hug and a smile, say goodbye, then leave as quickly as possible. We find that with the teacher's comfort and assurance, children quickly transition to whatever is happening in the classroom at the time.



Parent Partnership

Kindergarten has changed drastically over the last decade. What used to be an introduction to school routines, letters, and numbers has now been developed into an exciting and extensive curriculum. By the end of the kindergarten year, your child will be expected to read independently, write a story with at least 3 sentences, count to 100, add, subtract, and much, much more! In order for your child to be successful, parents and teachers need to work together. You can help by reading TO and WITH your child daily, as well as, attending Parent/ Teacher Conferences and Parent Information Night. Together, we can help your child have a terrific year!

Communication

M.O.O.S.E. Folder (Management Of Organizational Skills Everyday)

This is a daily folder that will be sent home every school day, and needs to be returned to class every morning. Inside this folder, you will receive very important school information, daily behavior updates, completed work, and homework. Some days your folder may be empty. That's okay. Please check your child's folder EVERY day and empty its contents. If anything needs to be signed, please return it by placing it back in the folder. If you need to contact me, please feel free to place a note in this folder. This is a great communication link for the teacher and guardian.

Behavior Codes:

Included in your child's MOOSE folder is a monthly behavior calendar. Each school day is pre-coded with green. If there are behavior concerns, the teacher will use the following codes to communicate with you and your child. Please initial the calendar daily.

- Green: Great Day!
- Yellow: A warning was given to the student.
The student will miss 5 minutes of recess
- Orange: The student will miss 10 minutes of recess
- Red: The parent may be notified immediately, if possible (via telephone conference)
The student will miss all of their recess
*Multiple reds or fighting may result in a school referral.

If you have any questions, please feel free to set up a conference.

Parent Access Center (PAC)

Parent Access Center is a free program available to all CISD parent/guardians that allows viewing of helpful information regarding student attendance, report cards, progress reports, daily grades, state test results, Students Achieving Excellence (SAE), discipline and available lunch money. Parents may also sign up to receive an email alert when an assignment score is inputted or updated. (Please note: kindergarten students do not receive grades until first grade.) Parents/Guardians wishing to access this service must have a valid email address.

Kindergarten Newsletter

Each week, your child will bring home a weekly newsletter summarizing upcoming curriculum and kindergarten activities. There is often additional information on the back. Please make a point to read each week to help keep you informed.

School Website

To keep in touch, please access our website: Powell.conroeisd.net . The website will keep you updated on upcoming events and Powell news.

Key Contacts:

Lisa Garrison- Principal- lgarrison@conroeisd.net

Sarah Radford- Assistant Principal- sradford@conroeisd.net

Shawn Nixon- Counselor- snixon@conroeisd.net

Jean Stafford- Nurse- jeastafford@conroeisd.net

Micaelen Wright- Speech Pathologist- ikuhl@conroeisd.net

Michelle Lutes- Registrar- mlutes@conroeisd.net

Absences and Tardies

The school day is from 8:00-3:10. Attendance does count, even in kindergarten. Please do not schedule a vacation when school is in session. Every day is packed with learning which cannot be reproduced at home.

If your child is sick, please let the school know by email or by calling the front office, if possible.

We are busy learning from 8:00 until we line up for dismissal at 3:00! If your child is late to school or picked up early, they may be missing important work. However, we understand that sometimes there are special circumstances that require your child to arrive late or leave early. You must check your child in or out at the front office.

Remember, good school attendance is an important part of assuring that your *child has a successful kindergarten year!*

Changes in Transportation

We try to do everything possible to insure the safety of your child. If your child has a change in transportation, please send **a written note** to school with your child. Without your authorization, your child will be sent home in the usual manner. Also, your child may NOT be released to any other adult without your WRITTEN authorization. This includes walkers/bike riders. If there are adults, other than the parent to whom your child may be released, you can include them on your emergency card. *Please note, In CISD, ALL kindergarten students must be met by an adult when they get off the bus or are released from biker/walker/car rider lines at dismissal. Students not met by an adult will be brought back to the school until parents are reached.*

Lunch

Kindergarten lunch is 11:20-11:50, but we usually head down to the cafeteria around 11:15. **FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, PLEASE PACK A LUNCH FOR YOUR CHILD.**

Lunch Accounts

If your child is going to buy a school lunch after the first week, parents are encouraged to prepay for their child's meals. Prepayments can be made on-line using the direct link on the homepage or go to <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>. Please allow up to 48 hours for payments to be applied to students' accounts. There is a \$1.95 charge per transaction to use the on-line payment system. Parents may restrict their children from purchasing a la carte items or from charging items through this system.

Parent Visitors at Lunch

Parents are welcome to come eat lunch with your child. Please plan to be in the building by 11:15 since kindergartners often get nervous when they are expecting you and you are not here. Pre-paid money on student accounts cannot be used for adult meals. The software system used will not allow this. Cash or checks are accepted for parent meals. Due to safety concerns, please do NOT provide food or take pictures of any child other than your own. In addition, parents are not allowed on the playground with the students during recess.

Free/Reduced Lunch

*If you are applying for the free/reduced lunch program, please make sure that the appropriate forms are turned in to the cafeteria.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are an exciting time for children. We would love to help them celebrate! You may send **cookies** for the class to have a snack at the end of the day. (Cupcakes are very messy and often not eaten by the children.) Please note that the front office will not accept flowers or balloon bouquets, etc... to be delivered to students.

You may also distribute invitations at school ONLY IF the entire class is invited, in order to protect from hurt feelings of those not invited!

Homework

Kindergarten students have homework suggestions on the weekly newsletter. This is designed to review any minimum skills taught so far.

We encourage families to include reading time in your daily evening routine, in which children have the opportunity to have books read aloud to them, as well as, allowing time for students to practice as reading skills are acquired. Students should also spend a few minutes EVERY day reviewing sight words.

In addition, your child may eventually begin bringing home readers to read with you at home to target your child's specific needs.

School Supplies

School supplies can be ordered through PTO in the spring and early summer. We encourage parents to take advantage of this non-profit PTO convenience as the correct type of supplies often become difficult to find and usually end up more expensive when purchased separately. Please watch for more information on the Powell website.

Supplies do NOT need to be individually labeled with your child's name, since we use community supplies.

For kindergarten supply list, please see Powell website.



Explanation of Daily Activities

Arrival/School Announcements:

Unpacking of M.O.O.S.E. (Management Of Organizational Skills Everyday) folder, and hanging backpacks. Students will complete warm-up work to reinforce prior skills. They may also use this time to complete any unfinished work from the previous day. As the year progresses, we will add a variety of reading and math review activities.

Circle Time

The students participate in a variety of activities such as using reading skills to figure out a class message. Such skills include counting the number of words in the sentence, identifying punctuation marks and their meaning, identifying sight words, using phonics skills to sound out unknown words, and using context clues to figure out which words make sense. We may also use this time to celebrate our STAR OF THE WEEK.

Language Arts

Language and literacy are the cornerstone of our kindergarten curriculum. Phonemic awareness, language experience, written expression, and listening and reading comprehension are an integral part of our approach. Children who have been read to, conversed with, and have some understanding of how our language works, have an advantage at school. Included in this packet, you will find suggestions for things you can do at home to prepare your child for kindergarten.

Shared Reading

Books are used to address kindergarten (1) reading skills: concepts of print, phonics, comprehension, and (2) oral language skills: listening and speaking. This is an interactive reading activity where students join in or share the reading of a poem, book, or other text.

Word Study/ Literacy Learning Stations

Students learn handwriting and letter formation, while we reinforce letter sounds. As the year progresses we will focus more on phonics. Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, High Frequency "Sight Words", and word wall activities are taught. Learning Stations are used to reinforce language arts skills in a small group setting. During this time, teachers will work with small groups of students on reading skills.

Sight Words

When learning to read, kindergartners have 35 high frequency words that they need to memorize. The words should be recognized immediately without sounding out. This will help your child to read fluently and be able to comprehend what they have read more easily. If your child is struggling with these words, they will have difficulty reaching the end of the year goal of BAS Reading Level D or above.

Although, we will practice daily, your help at home will be very beneficial to your child! You will be provided with a set of flashcards at Parent Information Night.

Kindergarten Sight words to practice EVERY day:

a, are, am, an, and, at, can, do, did, for, go, he, in, is, it, I, look, like, my, me, no, on, of, saw, see, so, the, this, to, up, we, went, was, you, yes

When your child has mastered all 35 kindergarten words, other lists will be made available by your child's teacher. The additional lists may also be found on the teacher's website.

Writer's Workshop

After a mini writing lesson, students produce independent writing products while the teacher monitors and conferences individually with the students. Students will then share written work with classmates. Kindergartners will be writing stories every day. Your child will begin with drawing pictures and telling about the illustration. We will then move to using letters to try to label the picture. Finally, students will be able to sound out words to phonetically write sentences. We will concentrate on writing stories about ourselves.

How can you help? Help your child brainstorm activities and experiences that he/she might want to share. Good ideas include big events such as family vacations or small moments such as trips to the pool or the ice cream store! Help your child to remember as many details as possible about the event.

Math

Calendar, Fact Fluency, Mental Math

Counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's, days of the week, months of the year, graphing the daily weather, estimating, problem solving, and patterning. We will begin to study place value and money as another way to count the number of school days. During this time, we will also review prior skills to build fluency and a deeper understanding of the concepts.

Guided Math

Math Mini-lesson, small groups, math journals, as well as, math baskets (games and manipulatives where students work individually or with a partner to complete math tasks. These tasks are generally review tasks. They are highly engaging, so the students LOVE THEM!) The teacher will be providing individual instruction or small group instruction.

The first semester, we will focus on number sense (0-20). In addition, we will begin working to master counting orally to 100. You can help your child by giving them daily opportunities to count and sort. Easy activities at home would include sorting laundry or socks by color, sorting silverware by shape or size, etc... "When I sort, I use my eyes to sort by color, shape, and size!"

The second semester, we will use our number sense to solve addition and subtraction stories. We will begin with manipulatives and then move to symbols. In April, your child will be taking a district-wide "fast facts" test.

Science/Social Studies:

Books, discussions, songs, and student products. Subject matter is often integrated into language arts activities.

Snack

Students bring a *healthy snack* from home. Due to potential peanut allergies, we request that you refrain from sending peanut products. Since *some* classrooms do not have a water fountain, students *in those classes* may bring a water bottle from home every day. The water bottle needs to have a spill-proof top and be labeled with your child's name! Please do NOT send juice, lemonade, soda, etc...

Lunch

See information regarding lunches above.

Recess

Students will go outside to playground daily unless it is raining. We will go outside in cold weather so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing. Due to Safety concerns, only Powell Staff members are allowed on the playground with the students.

Specials

Your child will attend 30 minutes of either Art, Music, Computer Lab, or Library, as well as 30 minutes of P.E. each day. This is also the teacher's conference time. You may schedule an appointment to meet at this time.



Annual Kindergarten Events

Our volunteers are an integral part of our kindergarten experience! Each teacher has 1-2 classroom coordinators (room moms) to help plan and organize our events. Included is a brief explanation of our volunteer opportunities. Kindergarten room moms will contact you with dates and information regarding the following events throughout the year.

Lunch/Recess Duty- Throughout the Year

Parent Volunteers watch the kindergarten classes so that the staff can have lunch together several times throughout the year. We need 2 volunteers PER class to cover lunch and recess duty from 11:20-12:20.

October

Storybook Parade

Students are to be dressed as a storybook character and need to carry the book with them in the parade. This is a school-wide event.

Fifties Day

Students will celebrate the 50th day of school. Activities take place in the classroom. No volunteers needed, but supplies may be requested.

November

Field Trip

Chaperones from each class needed. Parents that are not chaperones can follow the bus. Approximately 5 chaperones needed per class. Rolling coolers with ice needed to house Ziploc lunches and drinks.

Olde Plymouth Day

Children go back in time to experience the types of activities done in 1620. **This day is organized and led by parent volunteers.** We need **five** parent volunteers per class. Each class will have a station and will be responsible for activities planned by staff. Supplies are needed.

December

Rudolph Day

Rudolph Day will take place in the teacher's classroom. No volunteers needed, but supplies may be requested.

Ho Ho Ho Holiday Program 6:30 pm

Kindergarten students perform traditional Christmas songs. 1-2 volunteers per class are needed to purchase and provide 23 large jingle bells **pre-tied on grosgrain** ribbons for students to wear the night of the program. Bells should be placed in **individual ziplock baggies** so they do not get tangled. Please send bells to your teacher by the Friday before the program.

Grinch Day

Grinch Day will take place in the teacher's classroom. Students will be doing activities in their classroom. They will enjoy eating "green" food. No volunteers needed, but supplies may be requested.

Winter Holiday Party 2pm

The students will be decorating cookies. Parents welcome. No gift exchange. Possible supplies needed: Icing, cookies, plastic knives, sprinkles and other decorations for cookie, popcorn (please make 22 baggies), veggie tray with dip, 5 plastic tablecloths, Christmas plates and napkins.

February

The One Hundredth Day of School

Students will celebrate the 100th day of school with activities in their classroom. No volunteers needed, but supplies may be requested.

Valentine's Day Party

Students will make a decorated valentine box to bring to school for the party. Students are to bring valentine cards for each child in their class. **Students are to sign the card but NOT address them to their classmates;** this makes it easier to pass them out. Students will be making ice cream sundaes. Supplies needed for the sundae include ice cream, toppings, bowls, spoons, napkins, and a vitamin-C containing juice drink. Need 1-2 volunteers to assist with sundaes. No other crafts or activities are needed unless requested by the teacher.

March

Rodeo Day

Students will participate in a round robin rodeo. ***This day is organized and led by parent volunteers.*** Supplies may be needed. We need four-five parent volunteers per class.

Below is an example of the suggested activities. Each class will have a station.

Story around the "campfire" and snack

"There's a Snake in my Boot" Rattlesnake Round-up

Lasso a Bronco

Bandana Tug of War

Stick Horse Barrel Races

Pin the Tail on the Longhorn

Egg Hunt

Each student is to bring one dozen plastic eggs filled with a wrapped *non-chocolate* treat or trinket (**please tape the eggs closed**). This is for the students only. Volunteers are needed at 8:15 to set up and help the Easter Bunny leave treats.

May

Fun Day at the Park

Students will walk across the street to Cochran's Green Park to play. Chaperones are needed while walking to and from the park AND while playing. Parents and siblings welcome. Coolers, small bottled waters, wipes, frozen popsicles, and scissors will be needed.

June

Graduation

8:30am (the last day of school)

Each homeroom will be responsible for a portion of the graduation preparation and will be coordinated by home room moms.

