

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:** Multiple verbal reminders were given to the student.
Consequence may include time-out
- Orange:** Consequences may include teacher/student conference, possible loss of privileges/ additional time-out
- Red:** The parent may be notified immediately, if possible (via telephone conference)
Loss of privileges/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

Erin Anderson- Assistant- eanderson@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- lkuhl@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 will not bring home specified homework. We have homework suggestions on the weekly newsletter. These is designed to review any minimum skills taught so far.

We DO 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 5-10 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.



