

Kindergarten Handbook

West Elementary

2010-2011

AM 8:25-11:36

PM 12:32-3:38

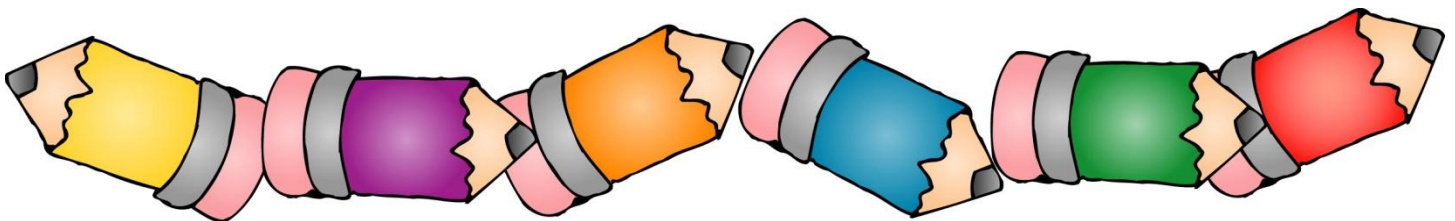
Mrs. Byl

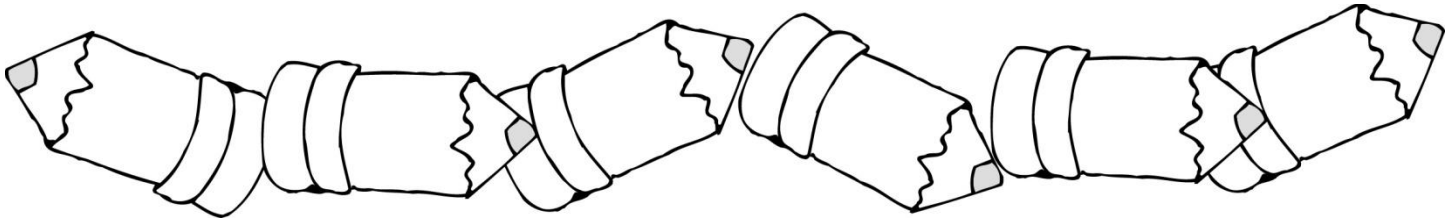
<http://bylkg.tripod.com>

Classroom: 254-6814

School: 254-6250

sbyl@gpsk12.net





Welcome

I am so excited to have your child in my class this year. This handbook will be a resource for you to use throughout the year. I will also have it available on my website so you can refer to it there. My goal is to partner with you in helping your child to grow and learn this year.

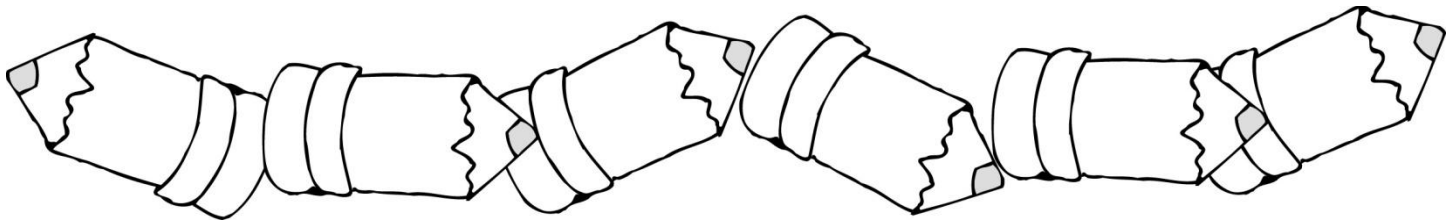
Communication

I want you to feel welcome to contact me any time you have a concern or question. You may call me at 254-6814 or email me. Once the bell rings it is important I give your children my full attention, so please understand that drop off and pick up time is not the best time for a conversation. I will check emails and voicemail each day.

Please keep me informed of any changes in your contact information as well. It is important we have updated contact numbers in case of illness or emergency.

Attendance

If your child is ill or will not be attending school **please call the office at 254-6250 to report the absence**. You are welcome to email or call me if needed but it is important to **call the office first**. If your child needs to leave early or will be arriving late it is best to call the office as well to be certain we receive the message in a timely manner. In the event I would be absent, we may not receive your message if you only contact me.



TRANSPORTATION

Arrival

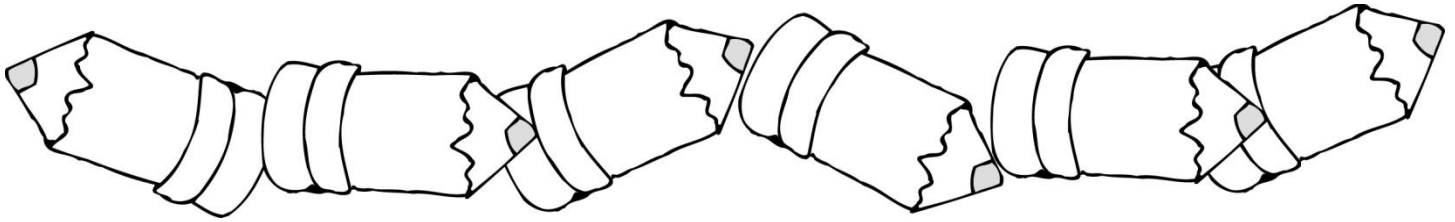
AM- Bus riders will be dropped off at school in the North parking lot and report to the playground until the bell rings. Walkers and parent drop offs should also report to the playground or to the Kindergarten door prior to the start of school. I will let them in at **8:25** when the first bell rings. Students will be dismissed at 11:37 at the Kindergarten door and bus riders will be picked up by the Kindergarten door. If you are picking your child up please be on time so that I can prepare for the afternoon session. If you are running late your child can meet you in the office. **Children arriving later than 8:30 must report to the office prior to coming to class.**

Arrival PM-

PM Kindergartners who ride the bus will be dropped off near the Kindergarten door. Student may drop their backpacks off at the door and report to the playground until the bell rings. Students who are dropped off (No student should be walking to school alone) may also drop off their bags and play on the playground until the bell rings. I will let them in at 12:35. **Students arriving later than 12:40 must report to the office.**

Dismissal

Whether your child is picked up by a parent or daycare provider or is riding the bus, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that any change from the normal routine be sent in a note with your child. If your child rides the bus they will be put on the bus unless we have a note or phone call. If you have someone different picking your child up after school please let us know (ex. friend, grandparents, aunts). This helps us keep your child safe.



Backpacks

Your child will need to bring a standard backpack to school each day. Please review the contents of the backpacks each night. They will have a folder containing notes, homework, and handouts. There will also be show and tell bags, library books, etc. which may be coming home.

Snacks

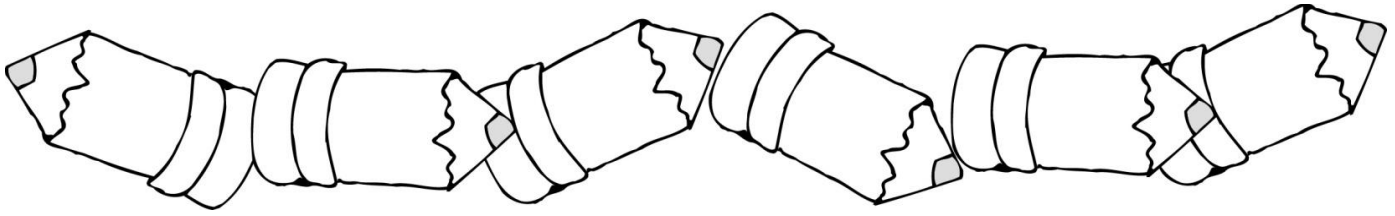
We will have a very short snack time (5-10 minutes) each day. Each month I will request each child bring in a snack to share with the class. This should be a healthy snack (Crackers, animal crackers, pretzels, etc.) There is a drinking fountain in the room so they don't really need to bring a drink as they will have access to the drinking fountain throughout the day.

Behavior

West Elementary has a school wide behavior system that is also used in the classroom. We believe that behavioral expectations need to be specific and communicated and that consequences should also be clear and consistent. These will be explained to your children at the beginning of the year. You will be sent a detailed behavior plan separately and can also find it on the website.

I believe that building community in our classroom is vital to all children learning. We will talk about respecting each other and caring for each other. There may be times that a child needs to take a break from an activity. We will have a comfy corner for students to use when they need a break to regroup, calm down, or consider how they can better participate with their classmates.

If your child has behavioral concerns that are beyond what is "typical" I will contact you. If you have any questions regarding behavior please feel free to contact me.



Newsletters

Newsletters will be sent home weekly the first and second trimesters and bi-weekly the third trimester. I will also post the newsletter online.

Homework

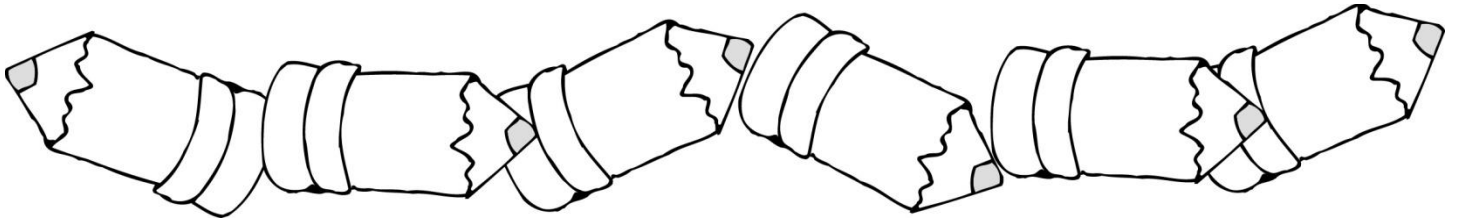
There will be different types of homework throughout the year. The best homework for your child is simply reading together! Your child will be bringing home "take home books" to reinforce the sight words they are learning. At the beginning of the year they will have worksheets focusing on the letters and sounds. As the year progresses we will add Math to our weekly homework. There will also be some family homework activities throughout the year. Your child should never need more than 10-15 minutes to complete homework.

Volunteers

There are many ways that you can volunteer to help our classroom and school. You can help with party planning, classroom activities, weekly volunteers are needed during reading groups, prep volunteers can help us from home by prepping materials for upcoming projects, parents can also help us in the computer lab. The PTC also has a number of activities which need volunteers. I will be sending home more information detailing volunteer opportunities the first week of school.

Parties/Party Money

We will be collecting party money at the beginning of the year which is used at the Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's parties. We collect \$6 per child. If you do not wish to have your child participate in a party or parties you can deduct \$2/party. We will need parent volunteers to help plan and assist in the party activities.



Field Trips

We will take several field trips throughout the year. One will be a walk to the fire department in Grandville. The other will be to the Critter Barn in the spring. You will be given more information on field trips in the class newsletter.

Specials

We will have several specials each week.

PE- Wed. and Fri.

Music- Fri.

Computer Lab

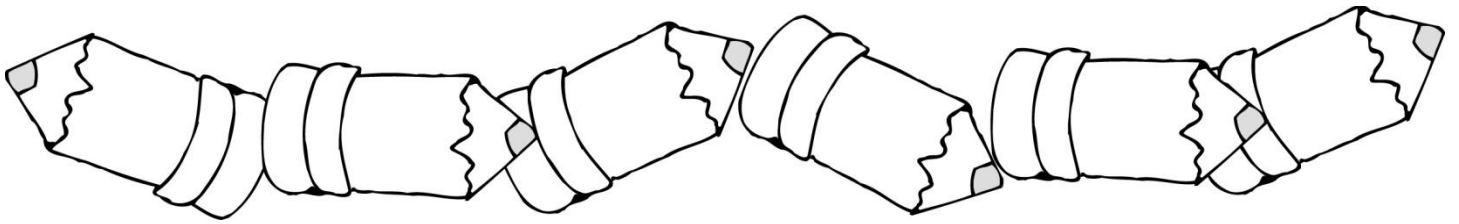
Library-

Clothing / Shoes

Please be sure to send your child in clothes that allow for activity. We will spend time each day moving our bodies. Tennis shoes are the best option for daily wear. I strongly discourage flipflops unless it is really hot. If your child is wearing less practical shoes, please send tennis shoes in the backpack.

Birthdays

We will celebrate each child's birthday in the classroom by singing a song, letting them choose a birthday gift from our birthday box, using a special birthday plate and placemat and wearing a special birthday shirt.



Book Orders

Each month you will receive Scholastic book orders in your child's folder. Book orders are a great way to build your home library at very reasonable prices. You can find books in all interest areas. I will also recommend a few titles each month. When you order books thru the book order you help us earn points to purchase items for our classroom. Our reading corner is furnished with a rug and couches I was able to get free from book orders... not to mention ALL the books!!!

Leader of the Day

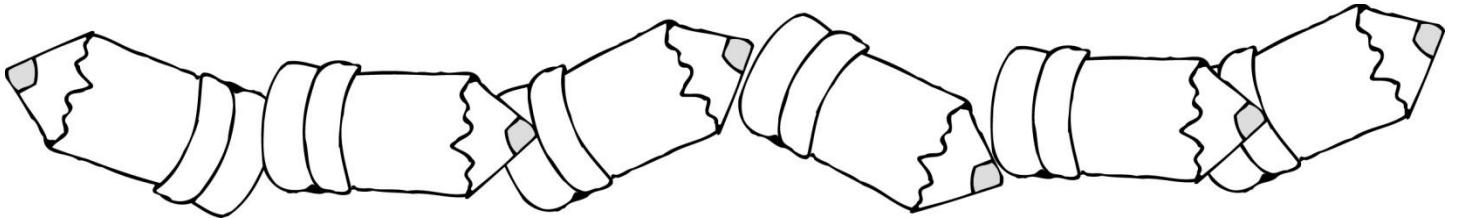
Each day we will have a "Leader of the day". This person will be revealed at calendar the day prior so that they can take our "Leader share bag" home. When your child is the "leader" they may choose an item from home to share with the class the following day. The bag will have instructions attached. As the leader of the day your child will be the line leader, calendar helper and snack helper.

VIP

Each week we will have an AM and PM VIP! The VIP will have a special page to fill out and share with the class, may bring in a pet, special show and tell, etc. The VIP will also get to meet with Mr. Martini.

Conferences / Report Cards

We will have conferences in November and March. You will receive your child's report card prior to conferences and at the end of the year. The report cards are based on content expectations for each area of the curriculum.



Hands On Activities and Centers

There is a great deal of content that is now covered in Kindergarten. We will be using many hands on activities and centers to practice and master concepts throughout the year. It is important that young students get to use play and manipulatives to explore and learn the concepts we cover.

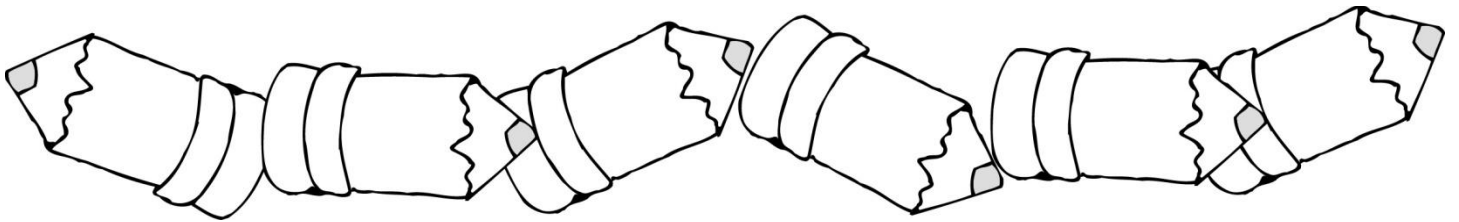
Curriculum

GLCE- Grade Level Content Expectations are the skills the State of Michigan has published and the skills we will be covering in Kindergarten. You can access these via the link on my website.

Math- We will be using Saxon Math Curriculum. This curriculum is cyclical in that skills are taught and repeated throughout the school year building on previously and currently taught material.

Language Arts- We will be using StoryTown by Harcourt as a base to teach reading, writing, and oral language skills. Zoo Phonics will also be used to teach letters and letter sounds. Mrs. Phillips is a fabulous paraprofessional who will be assisting me in teaching the reading groups.

Handwriting- We will be using Handwriting without Tears to teach handwriting skills. You will be receiving a handout to assist you in aiding your child's letter formation.



Differentiation and Looping

You may be aware that in eliminating the Young 5s program, we have students starting Kindergarten that range in age from 4 years 9 months to 6+. As a teacher it is my job to reach each child at their developmental level. Some students will be "looping" with me. Looping is when a student completes the Kindergarten year twice. This has been done successfully and has been very beneficial for students. I will be referring to my "loopers" as my expert Kindergarteners. I will be sharing how thankful I am that each year a few students stay behind to assist me with all these new Kindergartners. Please understand that looping is NOT failure! Kindergarten is a multi-age program that is available for one to two years.