

Dear Parents and Families,

We are very excited to be starting a new year with a fresh group of kindergarten students. We have 7 kindergarten classes and are called the Adventurous Otters. Our kindergarten classes are divided into two groups and spread over 2 pods.

Over the course of your child's year in kindergarten, he or she will be taught and challenged to best meet their needs. Your child will have many opportunities throughout the day to share their thoughts, work cooperatively with their classmates, and listen and watch instruction.

Please look through the attached pages. We have tried to explain and answer many questions that our kindergarten parents often have. At the end of the packet you will find the specials schedule for your child's teacher, along with their contact information.

We are looking forward to a successful and fun year with your child!



CLASSROOM INFORMATION

TUESDAY Folder:

This green folder is given to your child every Tuesday. Please make sure it comes back the next day. This folder will contain reminders, memos, calendars, school information, and many other things from the school.

Planners:

Your child's planner is one of the primary tools of communication between the parent and teacher. It is expected that your child brings their planner to school each day. Your child will be given a daily stamp/mark to show good behavior. If there was a behavior problem, that stamp will be crossed out and the issue will be written down to make you aware. Please read the included page that explains our behavior management system. In addition, any notes for the week that were unable to make it into the Tuesday folder will be placed inside the planner. It is expected that parents sign the planner daily to show that you have seen any notes or behavior concerns.

Homework:

We will not be starting homework for a few weeks. Homework will be discussed in detail at Open House. Once homework starts coming home, please work with your child to complete the assignments daily. Always check your child's work with them to ensure correctness, completeness, and neatness. The quality time that you spend with your child reinforcing these skills will help them have a successful year.

Dismissal:

The teachers in your child's pod will split the dismissal duties. The students will be assigned to the teachers depending on the way they go home. To help ensure that every student gets home safely, we ask that you try and have a regular dismissal routine. If there are any changes in this routine, you **MUST write a note or call the office** with the information. If there is no note or call, we will send your child home their regularly established dismissal method.

We understand that there are times when you may need to drop your child off or pick up early. Per school policy, students that arrive after the 9:40 tardy bell will need to have a parent accompany them to the office to be signed in. Additionally, students will not be able to be picked up early after 3:20.

Volunteers/Chaperones:

If you are interested in contributing some of your time, you must be an approved volunteer. Volunteer applications can be accessed online at the Oakstead Elementary website or on the Pasco County Schools website. We would love to have volunteers work with us in our pod and we will especially need help with Tuesday Folders and homework. In addition, there are many different ways to volunteer around the school. For example, the PTA is always looking for help and the media loves extra help, too.

Lunchtime Visits:

You are welcome to have lunch with your child any day of the week. You must first sign in at the office before going to the cafeteria. Please wait for your child by the cafeteria or at the picnic tables. Together, you may sit at the side tables by the door inside the cafeteria or at the picnic tables outside. While having lunch with your child, please be respectful to the fact that other classes are still involved in learning time and disruptive and playful behavior is distracting. Also, school policy specifies that you can only take your child from their class to have lunch. To help students adjust to their new school schedule, we highly recommend that you wait for lunch visits until September.

Special Area Classes:

Please have your child dress appropriately on the assigned specials day. For example, on P.E. days, have your child wear closed toe shoes that they can easily move around and run in. Additionally, it is recommended that your child bring a water bottle. Please have your child's name written on the bottle, and remind them to take them home each day.

Birthdays:

There has been changes to the birthday celebration policy. Per District, parents are no longer able to send in a treat for their child's birthday. However, you are able to purchase a healthy Smart Snack for the class through our school cafeteria. These foods are already Smart Snack approved for ease of access and can be delivered directly to our classroom. If you send in a snack, they MUST NOT be more than 100 calories

Communication:

The best way to communicate with your child's teacher is either by notes in the planner or through email. It is hard to make phone calls during school hours. We do our best to respond as soon as possible with all communications. The school's phone number is (813) 346-1500. You can also visit our school website for events and school related information. All communication will be responded to within 24 hours.

Attached you will find a schedule for your child's class and contact information for their teacher.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year and we appreciate your support from home.



Kindergarten Behavior Plan

In an effort to keep communication lines open between home and school, we have developed the following system to monitor your child's behavior. Please read and discuss the following guidelines with your child. Student's behavior will be monitored and recorded on a daily basis. Classroom and school expectations are as follows:

1. We will be safe
2. We will be respectful
3. We will be responsible

Each teacher will have a color coded behavior chart posted in their room. All students will begin each day on "Ready to Learn". Throughout the course of the day, students can move up and/or down the chart depending on their choices.

If your child made positive choices during the day, they will move up the chart and will be able to discuss with you how great their day was.

If your child moved down the chart to orange or red, a note will be put in the planner as to what choices were made. Serious situations will result in immediate move to red (ex: physical violence, continued bullying, destruction of property). Consequences for being on red may include the following: immediate contact of parent, visit to office, email or note to family.

Please review this page with your child and then sign and return the bottom portion showing that you and your child understand the behavior plan.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

MEET OUR TEAM!

Meet Mrs. Bilancione...

HELLO K PARENTS, My name is Kari Bilancione! I am from Michigan but have lived in FL for a long time now. This is my fourth year at Oakstead but my 7th year teaching Kindergarten. I graduated from Saint Leo University with a bachelors in Elementary Education. I have been married to a very supportive husband for 3 years now. We have a 1 year old named Jaxon & a fur baby named Roscoe. I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, and reading. I love teaching Kindergarten, this age is my passion. I believe that each student should feel loved, feel important, be happy & experience success in the classroom. We are going to have an AWESOME year this year, I look forward to working with you and your child. :)

Meet Mrs. Byrd...

My name is Beth Byrd and this is my 11th year teaching at Oakstead. I have been married to my husband for 12 years and we have two girls who both attend Oakstead. Ella is in 3rd grade and Kinsey is starting Kindergarten. When I am not teaching I enjoy camping and spending time at Target. I can't wait to meet all you and see where the year takes us!

Meet Mrs. Peloquin...

Hi Kindergarten families! My name is Mrs. Peloquin and this is my 8th year teaching Kindergarten here at Oakstead Elementary. I was born in Canton, Ohio but I have lived in Florida most of my life. I am married to a wonderful husband and we have two amazing children. My daughter, Kenley is 16 and my son, Kaden is 14. When I am not at school, I am usually spending time with family and friends. I enjoy traveling, shopping, kayaking, going to the beach, and hanging out by the pool. I LOVE teaching Kindergarten and seeing the excitement the students have for learning. I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year working with you and your child!

Meet Mrs. Sprague...

My name is Laura Sprague and have taught all ages from Kindergarten through Middle School. I especially love the young ones because of their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn!! I have been married to my husband for 28 years. We have two wonderful dogs, Koji and Kai. My husband and I love to travel where we can do hiking and enjoy the outdoors. I look forward to a wonderful year!

Meet Mrs. Stack...

My name is Samantha Stack, this is my 5th year teaching at Oakstead. I have been with my high school sweetheart for 12 years and married to him for 5 years. We have a little boy, Brogan and he is 5 years old. We also have a little girl named Kaegan who is 3 years old. They both mean the world to us. I just love watching them grow. I enjoy reading, crafting and shopping. I am excited to be a kindergarten teacher this year.

Meet Mrs. Steven...

My name is Christy Steven. I have lived in Florida most of my life. I am married to my wonderful husband of 14 years. We have two children, a son named Jacob, who is starting 7th grade and a 8 year old daughter named Olivia starting 3rd grade. I enjoy teaching and seeing that 'ah ha' moment happen on a child's face. I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the gym and watching my children grow.

Meet Mrs. Zahrobsky...

HELLO KINDER FRIENDS! MY NAME IS SARAH ZAHROBSKY. THIS WILL BE MY THIRD YEAR TEACHING HERE AT OAKSTEAD ELEMENTARY AND MY SECOND YEAR TEACHING KINDERGARTEN. I GRADUATED FROM USF IN 2017 WITH MY BS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. I MARRIED MY HUSBAND JOE LAST YEAR AND TOGETHER WE HAVE THREE FUR BABIES BOTTIE, CALLIE, AND CHESTER. I AM A HUGE FAN OF THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING AND THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS. IN MY FREE TIME, YOU CAN FIND ME AT DISNEY OR PLAYING WITH MY KITTENS. I ENJOY FISHING, COOKING, AND DOING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY. I CANNOT WAIT TO MEET ALL OUR NEW OTTERS AND START OUR FABULOUS YEAR TOGETHER!