The Zebra Room 2016-2017

PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Welcome to the wonderful world of kindergarten! My name is Jonathan Fosburg, and I am looking forward to spending the year with your child. I grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan and I graduated Hope College in 2005. After I graduated, I worked for two years as a *Title One ESL Paraprofessional*.

This will be my ninth year teaching kindergarten and I love it!

One hobby I really enjoy is participating in sports. I played football, baseball, and basketball in high school. Now I just play pickup basketball with a couple of teachers around the district. Another thing I enjoy is running. I ran three marathons and the 25 K Riverbank Run twice.

I married my beautiful wife, Lindsey, in 2010. We have a daughter named Elsie. She will be turning 1 this month. We also have a spoiled little cat at home named Coraline.

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The following is a quick overview of the kindergarten curriculum. For your child to be successful, it will take work at home and at school. Please note these are end of the year expectations. Your child does not need to know all this information right away.

**Language Arts:**

Students need to be aware of letters in the alphabet. They need to name all uppercase/lowercase letters and give all letter sounds. To help with this skill, we will be using *Zoo Phonics.* *Zoo Phonics* will also help the students hear sounds in words. Students will participate in writing workshop everyday to help communicate their thoughts through words. Students will need to write in complete sentences using both “sound spelling” and correct spelling. Students will learn 22 common sight words we call “Popcorn Words”. After a lot of practice with sight words and other reading skills students will become independent readers. Students also need to know how to retell stories, rhyme words, and contribute to group discussion.

**Handwriting:**

We will be using the *Handwriting without Tears* program to practice our handwriting. Students will start by practicing the letters in their name every morning. We will also be adding new letters two times a week. The words we will be using to make these letters are “curvy lines” and “straight lines”. We practice using good handwriting in everything we do. Please encourage correct handwriting at home too.

**Math:**

We will be using a math program called Expressions. This program is great for understanding numbers and their value. Students will count objects everyday to help our one to one counting. Patterns will constantly come up in counting, calendar, and centers. Students will learn how to count by 1’s to 100, 10’s to 100, 5’s to 30, and 2’s to 30. Number recognition is also important in kindergarten. Students will learn to recognizes and write numbers 0-30. We will practice writing numbers with number grids and on chalk boards. The children will learn to group numbers by 5’s and 10’s to help understand their value. Near the end of the year, students will learn to add and subtract simple math sentences.

**Science:**

Students will learn about science with hands on activities and fieldtrips. They will learn about physical science, life science, and earth science throughout the school year. We will incorporate science through writing workshop and read a lot of informational texts.

**Social Studies:**

Parents will be responsible for teaching their child their personal information. This information includes knowing: their full name, parents names, birthday, telephone number, and address. Knowing their personal information is a safety issue and very important. Students will learn the days of the week through song and calendar time. Students will also learn how to dress themselves to go outside, and respect others rights. Some history will be introduced through holidays and special events.

**Social/Emotional:**

Kindergarten is more than just academics. Students will learn skills they will use the rest of their lives. These skills include: listening, taking responsibility for their personal belongings, staying on task, displaying self-control, being independence, displaying self-confidence, and handling transitions. Building character is very important in kindergarten.

**MORE INFOMATION**

There are also lots of busy days and events in kindergarten; following are some things that you will need to know for now. There will be more information to come in biweekly newsletters sent to you by email.

**Countdown Activities:**Your child brought home an activity page. Begin tonight and choose one activity on the sheet. When your child completes an activity, he/she may put a sticker next to it. Do one activity each day, and when all of them are full of stickers, school will begin the next day. This does NOT have to be turned in!

**Folders:**
Your child received a folder with a zebra on the cover. Please **empty** and **return** this to school each day your child attends! This is our means of communicating on a daily basis. If you are sending money or notes, please place them in the folder. Money should be in an **envelope** with your child’s full name and what the money is for (field trip, book order, etc.). I have discussed the importance of the folder with your child and how they will deliver mail between home and school. It is very important that you empty the folder each night.
 **Snacks:**Please pack and an individual snack for your child every day he or she attends school. I prefer something healthy, rather than sugary snacks. The children will eat their snacks after first recess. I would appreciate some snack donations for children who forget their snack. If you can send a large box of crackers in the first day of school, that would be great!

**Lunch Time:**Please send lunch money to school in an envelope in the folder and I will see that it makes its way to food service. Please make sure that your child’s name is on the envelope. Please make sure your child knows each day what s/he is having for lunch: hot lunch choice (A, B or C), milk from school or complete lunch from home. There is a note for the first two days of school just to help me count quickly while the children learn the routine. However, after the first two days, each child needs to be able to do this independently! Please read over the enclosed note from the Food Service department, which will explain the hot lunch program thoroughly.

**Start/Dismissal:**
School begins at 8:35. If you are dropping your child off in the morning, please use the door by the office. If your child normally rides the bus and you need to pick him/her up, a written note is required or you may call the school. A verbal message from the child is not enough and the **child** **will be put on the bus**. It breaks my heart to put a crying child on the bus who has been told he may get picked up. It also breaks my heart to have a crying child waiting for a parent after school. Therefore I really want to emphasize this. I will put your child on the bus unless you have sent me a note or called the office. Simply telling a kindergarten child is not enough. I need a note!

If you are picking your Roosevelt child up at Quincy after school, I need to know before 3:10. Kids will be dismissed at 3:40.
 **Birthdays:**
When your child has a birthday, you may send in a birthday treat or donate a book to the classroom in your child’s honor. **Please refrain from suckers, because they will go right in the children’s backpacks to enjoy at home, due to safety reasons**. We celebrate the summer birthdays on the date of the half birthday (ie: June birthdays in December, July in January, August in February).

## **School Supplies:**

1 package of 4 Dry Erase Markers-(Expo brand recommended)

A set of headphones for iPad and Technology class

1 box of skinny markers (Crayola recommended)

Crayola Twistables (12 or 24 pack fine)

1 box of Crayola crayons

1 plastic pencil box (labeled with child's name)

I will also send out an email giving you opportunities to donate material through a website called volunteerspot.com.

**Library Books:**

We will start library within the next couple of weeks. Your child will be allowed to check out one book for a week. S/he is responsible for returning the book the following week. If they do not return the book, a note will go home and they will not be able to check out a new book for that week.

**Website/ Emails:**

Website: [www.mrfosburgsclassroom.weebly.com](http://www.mrfosburgsclassroom.weebly.com)

Password: zebra2015

Email: jfosburg@zps.org

I will be sending important newsletters to your email address. If you are not getting my newsletters please let me know. I will also give you information, pictures, and videos on our website. Check it out!

**Volunteers:**

You will be able to volunteer in the classroom, our Just Right Library, and on field trips. Volunteer opportunities will appear in notes home, through emails, and on the website.

**Extra Clothes:**

Please send in a bag of extra clothes your child can keep in his or her locker. Please put the clothes in a zip-lock bag with your child’s full name on it. This will be helpful if your child has an accident.

I am looking forward to working with your child and with you. Feel free to visit our classroom, just call or send a note in advance so we know when you are coming. (I ask that you give us a few weeks before visiting or volunteering so we can get acclimated to school and the routine.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call, send a note or send an e-mail. My phone number at school is 748-4777 (Ext. 5702). If you call on a day I am not here you may leave a message on my voice mail. You can send me an e-mail at jfosburg@zps.org I do check e-mails daily even from home. Please do not send an e-mail regarding something urgent like your child is getting picked up. Often I only have time to check e-mails after the children have left for the day!

If you have any questions or concerns before school begins feel free to give me a call or send a quick e-mail.

 A fun and exciting year is planned so let’s begin this kindergarten journey!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fosburg