



LOCUST ELEMENTARY

***Kindergarten
Parent Handbook
2019-2020***

2019-2020: A Wonderful Year!

It is going to be a great year in kindergarten for your child – and you – at Locust Elementary! To help get us off to a good start, we want to review some things.

In the 2019-2020 school year, your child will learn and grow so much. Below we have listed the Common Core State Standards that your child will be expected to master by the end of kindergarten:

English Language Arts Kindergarten Priority Common Core Standards

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose ideas
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to narrate single event
- Follow agreed upon rules for discussions, listening, taking turns
- Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills and decoding words:
 1. Basic knowledge of letter sounds
 2. Associate the long and short sounds of the five major vowels
 3. Read common high frequency words
- Read emergent reader text with purpose and understanding
- Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters in the alphabet
- With prompting and support identify characters, settings and major events in the story
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations reading and being read to and responding to text

Math Kindergarten Priority Common Core Standards

- Counts to 100 by ones and tens
- Counts forward from a given number
- Writes numbers 1-20 to represent a number of objects
- Understands the relationship between numbers and quantities
 1. Tells the number of objects
 2. Tells one larger
- Count to answer how many (1-20)
- Represent addition and subtraction with objects, images, fingers etc.
- For any number 1-9 find, the number that makes 10 when added to that given number
- Compose and decompose numbers 11-19 into tens and ones

What you can do to help your child...

Read with your child. Please take time to read with your child **every night**. If you don't have time, have a brother, sister, cousin, grandparent or someone else read with your child. Read in English and Spanish, if you can. Nothing you can do will guarantee your child's success at school like reading with your child.

Take an interest in what your child is doing in kindergarten. Don't rely on your student to tell you about what he/she is doing and learning. Ask him/her to tell you about school. Show your interest. It means a lot to kindergartners.

Check backpacks. Please check your student's backpack **every night**, and please make sure that your student empties the backpack at least every week.

Monitor your child's homework. It is your child's responsibility to do her/his homework, but you can help by explaining the instructions and making sure that she/he gets the homework done and returned on time. If your child is having problem with some part of the homework, please talk with us. Homework packets are due every Friday.

Apply what we are teaching at home. A major emphasis in kindergarten is learning letters, letter sounds, words and numbers. You can help your child by doing fun things at home such as finding letters and words on cereal boxes, magazines, signs, etc.; playing games with letter sounds; making up rhymes (in English and/or Spanish); drawing pictures with numbers in them; and counting things.

Encourage your child to be independent. Teacher your child to zip their pants, put on their jackets, and tie their shoes.

Pick your child up on time. It is important that you are at school when your child's school day ends. Kindergartners become frightened when their parents are late picking them up. The school does not provide babysitting or after-school care. If you know that you cannot avoid being late, phone the office (357-5650).

Communicate with us. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with us. Parents and teachers must work together to support our students' learning.

Label clothing. Every year we have many left over sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts. Your child forgets what they wore in the morning and we have left over items. Please put your child's name or initials on the tag so we can reunite the jacket with the child.

What we expect from your child...

Be at school every day. Every day counts. This year is a critical year for building the foundational skills your child will need for the rest of their educational career. If your child is absent, he/she will miss out on learning and developing these very important skills. We expect all kindergarten students to begin building healthy work habits by being at school every day, on time. Unless your child is really ill, he/she should be in school each day. ***Please schedule doctor's visits and other appointments for times when your child is not in school.***

Be on time. Class activities start immediately. It is important that your child is at school at the beginning of the day. We expect all kindergarten student to begin building healthy work habits by being at school every day, on time. When children are late, they miss the opportunity to begin their day with their classmates doing the morning routines, which then causes them to feel "out of the loop" about what is happening for the day. We want to prevent children having a rough start to their day. Let's start them off right by ensuring that they are at school every day, on time.

Do all of the homework every week. We will review the homework with the students every week before we send it home. It is your child's responsibility to do the homework. If she/he does not know what to do, she/he should ask us. You can help your child with the homework, but please do not do it for them.

You can expect us to...

Communicate with you about your child. We are always available to talk to you about your child's successes and problems during school. We will have at least one conference with you, but we will be available to meet with you anytime you have concerns or questions.

Teach your child with high expectations for success and lots of support. We expect that all of our students will succeed in kindergarten. We will do everything we can to make that happen! If there is something that you think will help your child, please talk with us.

Provide homework that supports what we are teaching in class. There will be homework every week. The homework will have instructions in English and Spanish so that you can help your child. We expect that your child will do some homework every night.

How will Locust Kindergarten work?

Groups

Locust has a staggered day kindergarten. Each teacher's class is made up of two groups, an early group and a late group. In the first part of the day, the teachers teach the early group; then, during the middle of the day, the two groups are taught together. Finally, at the end of the day, the teacher teaches only the late group.

Kindergarten Schedule

<i>Early Group</i>	
7:20 a.m.	Breakfast. <u>If</u> the student is eating breakfast, he/she should go to cafeteria to eat. Teachers will pick up students in the cafeteria.
7:30 a.m.	If student does not eat breakfast at school, the student should wait in the cafeteria. The parents must stay with the child until an aide or teacher arrives. If it is raining or inclement weather, bring the child inside the classroom.
11:35 a.m.	The Early Group's school day ends. Parents pick up the student by the cafeteria. <u>Please be on time!</u> If you are going to be late, please call the office (357-5650). If you are late, pick your child up in the office.
<i>Late Group</i>	
9:25 a.m.	The Late Group arrives. The parents bring the student to the designated gate where a teacher will greet them and escort them to the classroom. If it is raining or inclement weather, bring the child to the classroom.
1:15 p.m.	The Late Group's school day ends. Parents pick up the student in their classroom. <u>Please be on time!</u> If you are going to be late, please call the office (357-5650). If you are late, you can pick your child up in the office.

Lunch

All of our students receive a free lunch. Early group students also receive a free breakfast. If you prefer, you can send a sack lunch with your student. If your child has any food allergies, **please let us know**. Lunch includes regular or chocolate milk. Your child can purchase juice in the cafeteria. In order to receive a lunch, your child will be given a lunch number that they will have to punch into the keypad in the cafeteria. **Please work with your child to help them memorize their lunch number**. One strategy we suggest is to have them actually practice punching their numbers on a paper copy of the keypad. When children are able to punch in their lunch numbers independently it makes their lunchtime experience much smoother and they are able to get the lunch faster.

Lunchtime is an opportunity for students to build their social skills with their classmates and fellow Locust students. During lunchtime we expect all students to follow our school wide behavior expectations of being respectful, responsible and safe in the cafeteria. Our school wide PBIS expectations for the cafeteria are listed below. **Please talk with your child about how he/she can make good choices in the cafeteria during lunch.**

<i>Be Respectful</i>	<i>Be Responsible</i>	<i>Be Safe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow directions of adults• Wait quietly and calmly in line• Use Voice Level 2: Table Talk• Use good manners• Clean up after yourself• Treat others with kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know your lunch number• Throw trash away• Clean up your area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk quietly and safely when entering and exiting the cafeteria• Stay seated and keep all body parts to yourself• Get permission to be out of your seat• Use the restroom symbol to request to go to the restroom• Wait to be dismissed by a staff member

Things students need

Backpack

Backpacks are needed for all students. Please write your child's name on it. We send home announcements, papers, projects, homework, etc in the homework folder. Please sign and return the next day. Backpacks help assure that what we send home actually reaches home.

Classroom Management/Discipline

Locust Elementary is a PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) School. This means that we focus on the positive and support students in making positive behavior choices. Our school wide behavior expectations are be respectful, be responsible and be safe. We also teach students the importance and value of showing others kindness by being Bucketfillers.

There are four steps that we take when a student has trouble following the rules.

1. A verbal warning about the behavior.
2. A “take a break” in the room or miss some of their recess in which the student is asked to sit alone for a few minutes and think about her/his behavior.
3. A “time out” in another kindergarten room in which the student will have to talk with another teacher and sit and consider his/her behavior. Parents will be contacted.
4. The student is referred to the office for severe behavior concerns and a phone call is made to the parents.

Parents in the classroom

Visits

Parents are always welcome to come to the classroom to observe the class. Just ask us and we will set up a day and time. We love to see parents in the classroom! The PTA is always looking for helpers, too—join the group!

Volunteering

You are an important part of the kindergarten program. There are things you can do in the classroom such as reading to the children or helping them with projects. If you cannot help out in the classroom, we have other things, such as stapling papers or cutting projects out, that you could do at home. Every little bit of help makes us more effective as teachers. All volunteers must be cleared through the district office. Please come by the office for a form.

Special topics

Picking up your child

- **The first three weeks we will need to see a picture I.D. when picking up your child.**
- If someone other than a child’s parents is going to pick up a child, their name **must** be listed on the emergency form in the office. Also, please make sure that the phone numbers on the emergency form are your current phone numbers. We use these numbers to contact you if your child has an emergency at school. If your phone number changes, please notify the office and teacher to have it updated in our system.
- **We must release students only to adults and have a picture ID. We cannot release a student to anyone younger than 18 years old—even if it is a brother, sister, or cousin.**

Toys & Items from Home

Please make sure to keep all toys and other non-school related items at home. Our classrooms are stocked with appropriate age level toys and games. We want to prevent students from being distracted or distraction other students from their learning. Locust Elementary School is **not** responsible for lost or broken toys.

Parking

For the safety of all school community members, please park your car on Locust Avenue or in the parking lot in a stall. Do not wait for you child in the car or park in the driveway in front of the school. Also, do not block the parking lot by getting out of your vehicle. Park your car in a designated spot. It is dangerous for our children, and the school police will give tickets for cars illegally stopped or parked. Please buckle your child in their seat/booster seat in the BACK! It is dangerous to have small children in the front seat. Please drive SLOWLY through the parking lot.

Please sign and return this sheet to your student's teacher

I have received and read the Parent Handbook for Kindergarten.

Signature

Date

Student's Name

Teacher