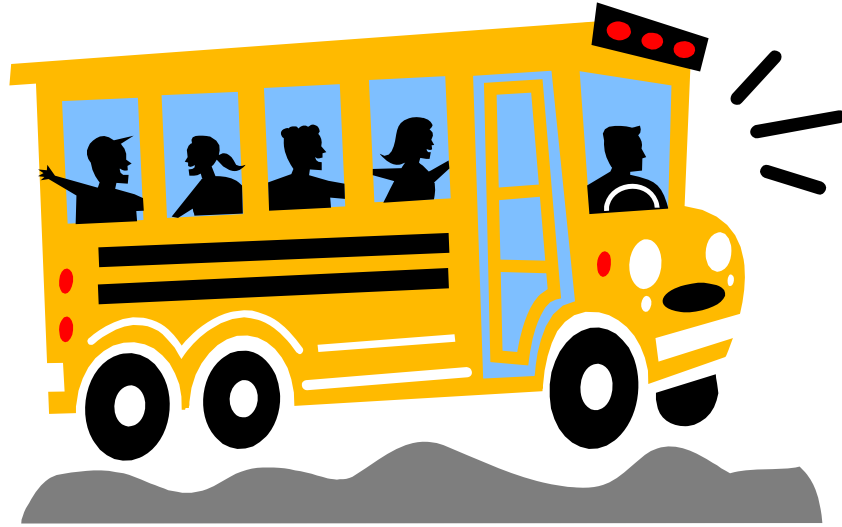


Welcome!



Concord Elementary School 2010 – 2011

Kindergarten will be your child's first experience with formal learning in a public school. In order to help you prepare for this experience, we have developed this handbook.

Welcome to Concord Elementary School!

We are looking forward to working with you and your child throughout the 2010-2011 school year. We know that we have an exciting, fun, and challenging year ahead of us.

We would like to begin by introducing the kindergarten team.
Mrs. Michele Rock (Room 106) Half-Day Kindergarten
Mrs. Holly Anthony (Room 106) Half-Day Kindergarten
Mrs. Holly Thiede (Room 206) K-Plus/All-Day Kindergarten
Mrs. Kristin King (Room 207) K-Plus/All-Day Kindergarten
Mrs. Lynn Anderson (Room 209) K-Plus/All-Day Kindergarten

SUPPLIES

The following is a suggested kindergarten supply list for our classrooms. The materials will be shared within the classroom by all students. Please leave these in your child's cubby during Open House or bring them to the conference **before** school begins.

All:

- 3 boxes of 24 count Crayola Crayons
- 1 box of Crayola Washable Markers - classic colors
- 4 **LARGE** white Elmer's glue sticks
- 2 dozen sharpened yellow #2 lead pencils
- 1 box of Kleenex - 200 count
- 1 bottle of Elmer's School Glue - 4 oz
- 2 containers of Clorox Wipes

Last name A-L: 8 count Prang Washable Watercolor Paint set

Last name M-Z: 4 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase Markers-chisel tip

**Please label your
child's backpack.**

FIRST DAY ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

On the first day of school (All-day Kindergarten, Wednesday, September 8th) (Half-day Kindergarten, Thursday, September 9th) the kindergarten teachers will meet the children on the west side of the building where the bus drop-off is located. Parent volunteers will be available to assist your child in finding his/her teacher. Please have your child wear his/her bus tag for the first weeks of school. This will be a great help for the bus drivers and the parent volunteers, so please check to make sure all information is filled in correctly. If your kindergartner is a walker, or you plan to drive him/her to school, please walk your child to this drop-off area to meet the teacher and the class. The teacher will then escort the entire class to the classroom.

DISTRICT BUS POLICY



For safety reasons, all students who have to leave school early or are to be picked up must be signed out from the Concord office. The district policy states that students will NOT be permitted to ride a bus other than their assigned bus to and from school. Children will NOT be permitted to go to a friend's house from kindergarten unless transportation is provided by the parent. Questions regarding this district policy should be directed to David White, Supervisor of Transportation Services (952.848.4979).

SNACKS

We will have time for a brief **nutritional snack break** in our classroom each day. If the children choose, they may bring a small snack from home that they can eat in a short amount of time. Suggested **healthy snacks** include fruit, raw vegetables, cheese, crackers, applesauce, granola bars, etc... Please **do not** send drinks with them to school; however water bottles are allowed. These can be stored in your child's cubby. Some classrooms might be **NUT-FREE** so please take note if your classroom is.

CLOTHING

Kindergartners thrive on creativity and free expression. In order to encourage and facilitate this in the classroom, we will be involved in many different art, music, outdoor and dramatic play activities. Although appropriate cautions will be used, please send your child to school in clothes that are conducive to these activities. There will be paint, markers, crayons, sand, water, etc., in the room everyday for the children to explore.

BIRTHDAYS

We will have a small birthday celebration for each child's birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the child's half birthday. Birthday "treats" **must be non-consumable** due to district policy. Stickers, pencils, or a book/game donated to the class are some ideas for the "treat". In addition, please do not send party invitations to school with your child unless everyone in the class will be invited, as this can result in hurt feelings.

READING/LANGUAGE

This year your child will be involved in many experiences integrating language and reading with each other, as well as with other areas of the curriculum. The foundation of this program will be centered around print of all types: big books, pattern books, picture books, poems, songs, letters, recipes, and rhymes to name a few. Each day your child will have experiences in writing through journaling, classroom books, stories, secret messages, and letter writing. Specific skills such as phonics, sequencing and punctuation will be covered during these shared reading experiences.

HANDWRITING

Our handwriting program uses the Zaner-Bloser alphabet. Please help your child practice printing his/her name. Many of the children print their names, but use all capital letters. Practice and encourage your child to print his/her name with the first letter capitalized and the rest with lower case letters.

MATHEMATICS

Our Math curriculum is the *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics Program*. It is a "hands-on", active approach to math, and it uses very few worksheets. We are sure it will be very stimulating and fun for your child. In September we will be working on numeration, counting, shapes, and classification.

SCIENCE

As part of our *Science Foss* curriculum, we will be encouraging scientific thinking through many hands-on exploratory activities. Some of these activities will be taught through mini-units such as weather/seasonal changes, trees, and animals. In addition, your child will have opportunities to do experiments and make observations in our classroom science center.

CHOICE TIME

For approximately 30 minutes each day your child will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities. During this time your child will be involved in experimenting with many areas of the curriculum such as art, science, computers, writing, reading, math, blocks and building, sensory (water, sand, play dough) and dramatic play. Some choices will be free exploration while others will be adult guided.

SPECIALISTS

In the K-Plus program, your child will have physical education, music, and art with a Concord specialist. These specialists align their activities with the kindergarten curriculum. Your child will participate in physical education and music 90 minutes a week and art 60 minutes a week.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call us at school. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you and your child to create a successful kindergarten experience.

**Sincerely,
Michele Rock, Holly Anthony, Holly Thiede,
Kristin King and Lynn Anderson**

Stages of Children's Writing

All stages of children's writing are important to the natural process of learning to read and write.

Scribble Writing

Picture Writing

Imitative Writing

Labeling

Beginning Sound Spelling

Sound Spelling

- Temporary Spelling
- Inventive Spelling

Book Spelling

- Standard Spelling
- (Editing)

Kindergarten Sight Words

I see my

like a to

and go is

here for have

said the play

she are he

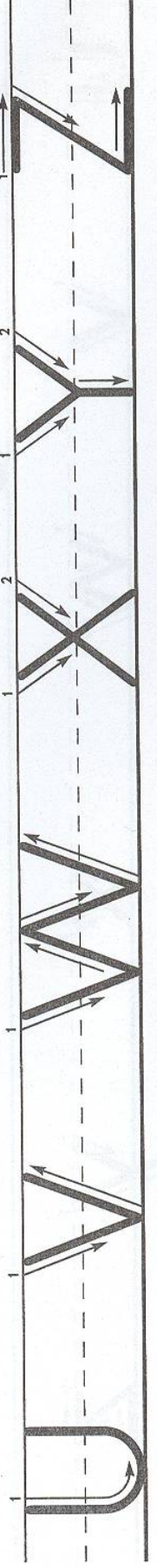
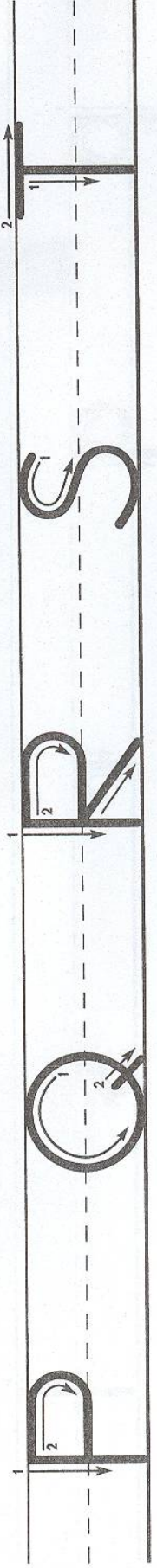
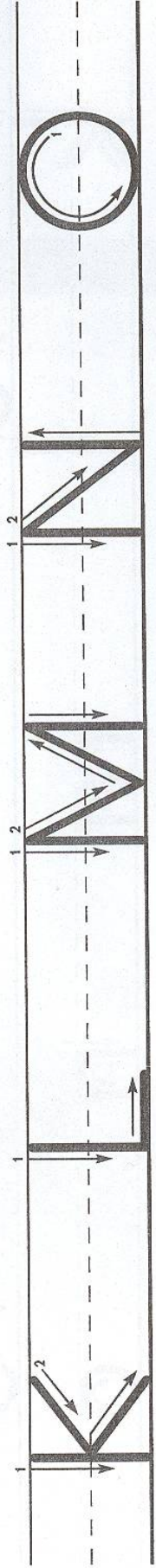
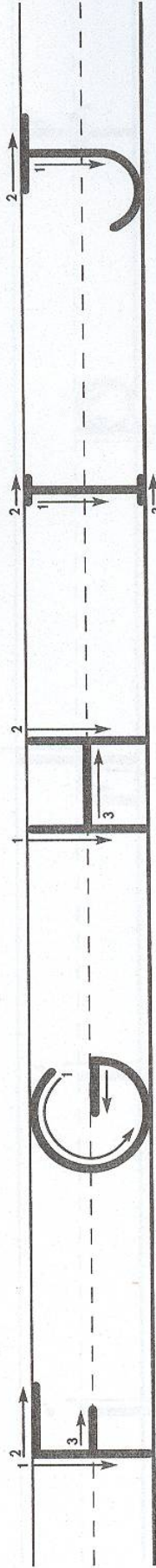
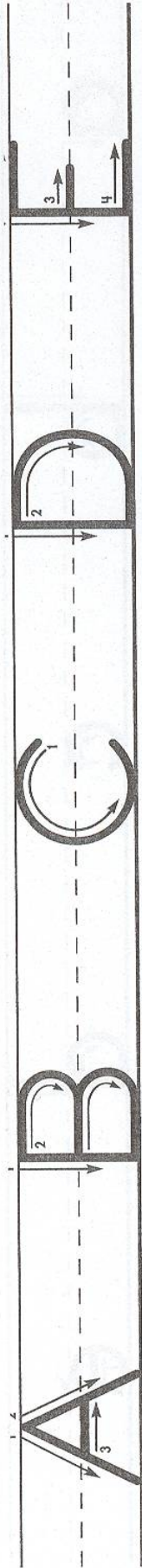
Handwriting

Our handwriting program is published by the Zaner-Bloser Company. Attached is a copy of the correct formation of both the capital and small letters of the alphabet according to Zaner-Bloser. There are many manuscript forms used by schools; no form is incorrect. However, schools normally adopt one form and provide instruction in that form only. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in helping us develop good penmanship.

We have found that it is very hard to "unlearn" a letter formation that is different from the one taught in school. We ask, for instance, that the child learn to write his/her name with a capital for the first letter and lower case for the remaining. If he/she learns to write his/her name in all capital letters, it is difficult to teach him/her a different way when he/she comes to school.

Notice that the straight strokes generally begin at the top and are drawn toward the body. Most circles are made in a counter clockwise direction, but the p and b have a clockwise circle. Research over a period of years determines the order and direction of strokes. Most strokes are made in a manner which provides a smooth transition into the cursive form. Cursive writing is begun in third grade in our school district.

Therefore, if your child practices handwriting at home, please have him/her use this guide sheet to help form the letters correctly.



a b c d e

f g h i j

k l m n o

p q r s t

u v w x y z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Mathematics

This year your child will be using *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics*, a program created through the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. This program is based on research and experience that show young children are capable of far more mathematics learning in Kindergarten than was previously believed possible, provided that the content is presented in ways appropriate for children of kindergarten age.

To many of us who learned to think of mathematics as primarily written work, it may be hard at first to believe that considerable mathematics learning is taking place in this program. Few papers come home. The children seem to be playing! However, these playful activities are meaningful and productive and help children become independent and comfortable thinkers about mathematical ideas. Research has shown that young children often have difficulty with written and symbolic mathematics if it is emphasized too early - before a strong foundation based on experience and understanding has been built.

You will see your child become excited by a wealth of mathematics activities, including counting, numeration, measurement, geometry, patterns, data collecting, and calculator use. Classroom routines give children real-life opportunities to develop and refine a variety of mathematics skills. These include such activities as keeping track of days at school, monitoring weather conditions, recording attendance, counting the time it takes to clean up and charting the daily schedule.

We hope that through *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics*, both you and your child will find that mathematics is useful, enjoyable, varied, and meaningful. Just as we know that telling stories and reading books to children help to foster a love of reading, your support of mathematics learning will help your child develop lasting confidence and competence. These will carry over into many areas in everyday life and the school curriculum, this year and in the years to come.

Your comments and questions are always most welcome.

Concord School Read Alouds

	<p>September: Value of Education <u>The Toll-Bridge Troll</u> by Kimberly Root A troll tries to prevent Trigg from crossing the bridge on the way to school only to be outwitted by the boy's riddles.</p>
	<p>October: Cooperation/Kindness <u>Room on the Broom</u> by Julia Donaldson A witch finds room on her broom for all the animals that ask for a ride, and they repay her kindness by rescuing her from a dragon.</p>
	<p>November: Courage <u>Harriet and the Roller Coaster</u> by Nancy Carlson Harriet accepts her friend George's challenge to ride the frightening roller coaster and finds out that she is the brave one.</p>
	<p>December: Commitment/Perseverance <u>Brave Irene</u> by William Steig When her mother, a dressmaker, falls ill, indomitable Irene fights a raging snowstorm to deliver a dress to the duchess in time for her ball.</p>
	<p>January: Appreciation of Diversity <u>The Big Orange Splot</u> by Daniel Pinkwater When Mr. Plumbeans' house is splashed with bright orange paint, he decides a multi-colored house would be a nice change.</p>
	<p>February: Compassion <u>Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch</u> by Eileen Spinelli An anonymous valentine changes the life of the unsociable Mr. Hatch, turning him into a laughing friend who helps and appreciates all his neighbors.</p>
	<p>March: Responsibility <u>Strega Nona</u> by Tomie dePaola Strega Nona warns foolish Big Anthony never to touch her pasta pot. One day, Big Anthony sees Strega Nona sing to it, and the pot magically fills with spaghetti. Left alone for the day, Big Anthony excitedly uses the pot to feed the whole town, but is helpless when pasta flows everywhere.</p>
	<p>April: Integrity <u>Harriet and the Garden</u> by Nancy Carlson Harriet feels terrible after accidentally trampling a neighbor's garden and ruining her prize dahlia, until she confesses and sets things right.</p>
	<p>May: Commitment/Friendship <u>Rosie and Michael</u> by Judith Viorst Two friends tell what they like about each other - even the bad things.</p>