

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Welcome parents and families to our wonderful Kindergarten program at Union Ridge School! Our program strives to grow and change with the needs of our community. Therefore, we have updated and improved many things in recent years. This packet was designed especially for you! Each piece was carefully chosen or created to help answer questions you might have and to keep you informed as the parent of a Kindergartner.

Please read through each part carefully. Keep this packet somewhere where you can review it over the school year as more questions may come up. As stated above, there are many new and exciting things happening in our Kindergarten program that are new in recent years, so please review this packet, even if you had a child in Kindergarten before.

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Mrs. Melissa Kelly (Assistant)
Mrs. Jane Albert (Assistant)

Please feel free to also send notes in your child's PURPLE Take Home Folder or to schedule a conference if you need to speak to us.

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING!

Your child will be bringing home information to share with you in his/her purple folder. 'Special' days and activities are often planned. If you are unprepared, your child may be unprepared for these 'special' times!

Kindergarten Curriculum

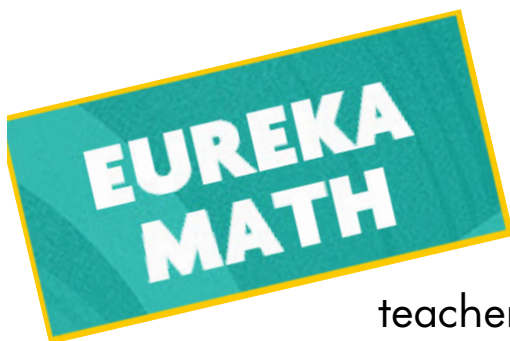
Superkids

In kindergarten, children learn the 26 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each letter, then apply their new skills to blend sounds to read words and sentences. They practice all of the reading and language arts skills in a carefully put together approach using decodable text. By the end of the year, students can read, write, and spell hundreds of short-vowel words.



Eureka

Eureka Math was written by a team of teachers and mathematicians who took great care to present mathematics in a logical progression from grade PK—12. This coherent approach allows teachers to know what incoming students already have learned and ensures that students are prepared for what comes next. Eureka Math connects math to the real world in ways that take the fear out of math and build student confidence—helping students achieve true understanding lesson by lesson and year after year.



STEMscopes

STEMscopes is our new science curriculum! Students learn by doing and experiencing rather than passively observing. Students conduct investigations to build upon their prior knowledge and to generate new ideas. Students use fun, collaborative grouping strategies and interactives to share their explanations of the exploration activities. We will learn about the following topics: Animal Needs, Plant Needs, Reducing Human Impact, Weather, Habitats, Forces and Motion.



General Information

Illness

If your child is sick, PLEASE keep him/her home. Germs travel fast, especially at this age. Both your child and his/her fellow students will be more comfortable if sick children remain at home. Generally a child should not return to school until 24 hours after his/her temperature returns to normal without medication. Please contact the school office at (708) 867-5822 in the morning if your child will be absent. When your child returns to school, he/she is required to bring a note explaining the absence. This is a requirement of the Illinois State Board of Education, as well as the Union Ridge School Board of Education.

Lunch Program

The lunch program at school is part of Kindergarten Extended Day program, which begins in September (after Labor Day). Students may bring their lunch from home or order hot lunch in advance. Milk may be purchased daily or ordered in advance as well. Hot lunches for students must be ordered in advance and include milk. Menus and order forms are sent home with your child each month. Hot lunch is ordered on a monthly basis. Payment for lunches (cash or checks made out to Union Ridge School) must be returned in an envelope with the order form by the date indicated on the form. Credit will be issued to a student he/she is absent on the day lunch is ordered. PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT HOT LUNCH/MILK ORDERS TO JOANNA DEGRAZIA at (708) 867-5822 x 319.

Soft Drinks are not permitted in the lunchroom, nor are carryout lunches from McDonalds, Burger King, etc.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

You and your child will be invited to attend conferences with your child's classroom teacher. The first set of conferences in the fall is mandatory for all families. The second set of conferences in the spring is scheduled upon teacher or parent request. You may request a conference with your child's teacher at anytime throughout the school year.

Playground

The playground and equipment are reserved for the use of our school children during school hours (8:30 am to 3:45 pm). Kindergarten students who have been dismissed from school and other community members are free to use the Union Ridge playground during non-school hours after 3:45pm. This procedure will allow us to safeguard all children using our playground.

Birthdays/Holidays

Kindergarten greatly enjoys birthday and holiday celebrations! However, outside edible birthday/holiday treats are not allowed for distribution. We will acknowledge these days and make sure your child feels special and loved! Birthday Party invitations are not to be passed out inside the school building- UNLESS, there is an invitation for every child in the classroom. Invitations may be passed out with your help before or after school hours.