

Welcome to Kindergarten!

...

“A Year of Discovery”

Gold Ridge Elementary



Meet the Teacher

Mrs. Kunstel

- Liberal Studies B.A.
- Multiple Subject Credential
- Certificate for teaching English Learners
- Over 35 years of teaching experience
- In addition to teaching, I enjoy coffee, singing, reading, and spending time with my family and dogs.



Welcome to our Kindergarten Program

We look forward to

- Providing an exciting environment in which your child can learn and grow
- Working with your support and participation in your child's education
- Balancing child-initiated learning with teacher-directed activities
- Helping your child develop inclinations to read, write and solve problems



Attendance

Consistent attendance is essential for your child to benefit from school. Please have your child at school on time each day. If your child is late, please get a late slip from the office. If your child is absent, call the office to notify our attendance clerk of the absence.

Class hours:

A.M. Kindergarten 8:00 - 11:21

P.M. Kindergarten 11:24 - 2:45



***Please notify the office two weeks in advance if you are going to be out of town for 5 or more school days. We will arrange an Independent Study program for your child to complete during their absence.

Our Schedule Will Include:

Opening - attendance, flag salute, calendar, weather, oral language, songs

Read Aloud - daily stories related to theme

Math - whole and small group instruction

Snack and Recess

Reading Instruction - whole and small group instruction including literature, introduction of themes, poetry, shared reading, letters, sounds, phonemic awareness, handwriting instruction, writing

Work Time - “Choice Time” - child-initiated and teacher-directed projects at learning centers: art, math, reading, writing, science, imaginative play, building, etc.

Science and Social Studies - whole and small group instruction

Special Programs-P.E. , Library, Art, and Computer

Closing - songs, pass out papers, etc.



Special Programs

We are very lucky to have special programs at Gold Ridge Elementary.

- P.E.: taught by a P.E. Specialist
- Computers: used for enrichment and assessment
- Library: one time per week
- Eagle Art (Fine Arts): once a month, taught by parent volunteers
- 3E Science: hands on lessons taught by parent volunteers



Arrival Information



- Students line up on the sidewalk near the Kindergarten building (look for signs).
- Arrive approximately 5 minutes early (allow extra time for parking and walking up, parents supervise their student until teacher arrives). Teachers will escort students into class promptly at class start time.
- Students are expected to stand in line wearing backpack, ready for teacher.
- Use quiet voice level in line (other classrooms may be in session)
- For the children's safety, please DO NOT enter the parking lot next to the Kindergarten building.
- Students arriving after the morning bell are considered late. Late arrivals need to go to the office to get a late slip.

Dismissal Information



- Arrive approximately 5 minutes early (parking is limited).
- Students will be dismissed one by one to a parent by the teacher. Please wait on the sidewalk for your child to come to you.
- Students will only be dismissed to adults on the emergency card list. If we do not recognize the adult, we will not send your child home with them, even if the student says he knows that person!
- If a different person than usual is going to be picking up your child, please call or send a note/email in advance.
- If your child goes to Student Care at Gold Ridge or another facility, we will release your child to the appropriate supervisor. Please notify us of that schedule and any changes throughout the year.

Snack Time

We have a small nutrition break with our recess time. This snack is provided by families and should come to school with your child every day in their backpack. (**There is not time in our school day to eat lunch and the district does not provide food to students for this snack break.*)

Please send something simple, nutritious, and already prepared to your child's liking. * All individually packaged snacks should be able to be opened by the student, or should be transferred to a container that they can successfully open independently.

Snack ideas: sliced apples or oranges, carrots and hummus, cheese and crackers, etc. (*No junk food please-i.e. soda, cookies, cake, chips *NO GUM OR CANDY AT ANY TIME)

- No sharing or trading of snacks.
- All snack containers should be labeled with student's name.
- Please try to avoid snacks containing nuts or nut butters.
- Practice opening/closing water bottle lids securely prior to sending to school.



Optional Breakfast/Lunch

If your family wants to take advantage of the universal breakfast/lunch offering this year, it will need to be facilitated and supervised by the parent or guardian as it will fall outside the Kindergarten school day.

Please contact the front office to find out more information about how to participate in these programs.



School Supplies



All students will need to bring the following items:

- Standard-sized backpack (bring to school daily)
- Headphones (not earbuds) that comfortably fit, in a gallon-sized Ziplock bag labeled with your child's name. (Headphones will remain at school and be sent home at the end of the school year.)
- Donated gift cards (Target, Walmart, Office Depot, Lakeshore Learning) - not required but definitely appreciated as we purchase and replenish supplies for your children throughout the school year)

Behavior Expectations

Demonstrating good manners is expected at Gold Ridge. The most important things that we teach, model and work on the first few weeks of school are good manners, listening skills, and classroom routines and rules. We know that kindergarteners can be expected to be polite, respectful, and kind. Every child has the right to learn in a comfortable and safe environment and our expectations reflect this belief. We look forward to being your partner in helping your child enjoy a positive and successful school year.





Learning Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Come to school prepared for learning each day (i.e. well fed and rested, with a backpack, appropriate clothing for the weather/activities, and a snack for break time)
- Sit on the rug criss-cross, hands in lap
- Listen to the teacher when the teacher is talking
- Follow directions and rules in class and on the playground
- Keep hands, feet and other objects to self
- Respect self and others
- Turn in homework on time
- Always do their best work!



Class Rules

1. Follow directions the first time given.
2. Be respectful to other people.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Raise your hand for permission to speak.



Behavior Plan

Rewards:

1. Praise and positive feedback to students
2. Positive notes and messages to parents
3. Positive recognition from peers
4. Privileges (games, extra recess)
5. Class celebrations

Redirection:

1. “I message” to let students know what is expected
2. Proximity to the teacher
3. Special seating (seat students next to a role model)
4. Verbal reminders
5. Encouragement for effort

Consequences

1. Reminder of Expectations
2. Teacher/Student conference
3. Loss of one or more privileges
4. Parent contact (note home, phone call, email or parent conference)
5. Behavior contract

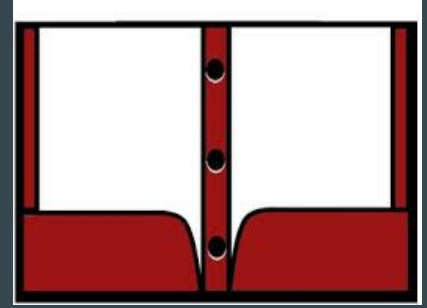


Homework



- Students will have short homework assignments and reading logs throughout the year.
- Reading (being read to by an adult or reading to an adult) each night is key to developing strong reading skills.
- Kindergarten homework is not intended to be completed independently. Sit with your child, read the directions, and watch that he/she is completing it correctly.
- Turn in assignments by the due date to establish good homework habits.
- Have an area at home that is distraction-free for homework time. Have pencils, eraser, and crayons available to use.
- There will be additional opportunities for *Optional* homework throughout the year. *Optional* homework packets allow for extra practice of specific academic skills at home. This extra practice is encouraged but does not need to be returned for a grade.

Wednesday Folders/Friday Folders



- Wednesday Folders are sent home each Wednesday. They contain school fliers, and PTO news.
- Friday Folders are sent home each Friday. They contain your child's school work and communication from your child's classroom.
- Please help your child to take care of these Folders!
- Please send Wednesday Folders back promptly Thursday mornings and Friday Folders on Mondays. Students should be holding their empty folders in line at drop-off.



Volunteer Information

Classroom volunteers are an important part of our teaching program!
Volunteers in class and on field trips must have a Class-2 Volunteer Badge.

Here are our typical volunteer opportunities:

- Room Parents (coordinate class celebrations)
- Folders Helpers (prepares folders to go home)
- Eagle Arts Volunteers (3 parents to assist with monthly art lessons)
- 3E Science Docent Volunteers (3 parents to assist with Science lessons)
- In-class supplies prep (sharpen pencils, make copies, file papers, etc.)
- At-home project prep (tracing, cutting, stapling, etc)
- Kindergarten Special Days Helpers (various times a year on holidays or minimum days)
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Classroom Photographer (take photos during special events)
- Class Yearbook Page Volunteer (compile photos for our school yearbook page)



Birthdays



- We will celebrate each child's birthday.
- On your child's assigned day, you may send in 26 individually packaged treats for your child to share. Keep it simple: mini-muffins, cookies, donut holes, stickers, pencils, etc.. (Please include napkins if you choose to send a food treat.)
- **No cake or cupcakes, please.** (The frosting is extremely problematic in large groups of young children.)
- If your child has allergies, you may bring in a special box of treats that will be set aside for class birthdays. Please label the box with your child's name.
- Birthday invitations MAY NOT be distributed at school. You will receive a directory to help with the addresses and phone numbers.
- Children with birthdays falling during the summer months will be celebrated at the end of the school year. We will let you know the assigned date.

Dress Code



- Please label all coats, jackets, backpacks, and sweatshirts.
- Please practice dressing skills with students before school. (ie: buttons, snaps, zippers, etc.)
- We paint, glue and play actively so choose appropriate clothing for these activities.
- Tennis shoes are preferable everyday for safety reasons.
- All shoes must be closed-toe and attach to the ankle.
- **Shoes with heels or flip flops are not acceptable at school.**
- No “spaghetti strap” tops. Straps must be at least 1 ½” wide (the width of a lasagna noodle).
- Fridays are spirit days! Wear school colors (navy and yellow) or a Gold Ridge shirt on Fridays.

Kindergarten Curriculum



FCUSD curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten.

We read and write everyday in Kindergarten to strengthen skills and build on the joy of literature! We HUG books! We LOVE to write! Some children progress faster than others -- **not all roses bloom at the same time!** Our program gives teachers tools to provide opportunities for **all** children to learn.

- Benchmark Universe Reading and SIPPS - used for language arts. Built on a solid foundation of research in best teaching practices and includes explicit, systematic instruction and quality literature.
- Envision- CCSS-aligned math curriculum. Kindergarten math involves number sense, counting, sorting, composing and decomposing numbers, number relationships, logic, algebra and geometry.
- Social Studies/Science - curriculum from TCI/Amplify. Students will work in small and large groups with hands-on lessons that also involve reading and writing.

Contact Info



Mrs. Kunstel

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