

Welcome to Kindergarten

Miss Katie Maslowski's Kindergarten
Email: katie.maslowski@moundviewschools.org
Classroom Phone: 651-621-8047
Room # 126

School Starts at 9:05am and ends at 3:45pm.

Kindergarten is one of the most important and exciting years of your child's school career. It is a year full of opportunities for you and your child's teacher to work together in your child's growth - socially, emotionally, and academically.

Absences -

If your child is absent for any reason please notify the school office at 651-621-8001. If you know in advance your child will be gone from school (vacation, etc.) please let me know via e-mail and I will forward to the office. If your child will be absent for more than 4 days, please complete the [Vacation Form](https://www.moundviewschools.org/snailaketravel) (<https://www.moundviewschools.org/snailaketravel>) and return.

Allergies -

If your child has a life threatening allergy, please alert the school nurse and myself if you have not already.

Snail Lake School Hours -

Our Kindergarten hours are: 9:05-3:45pm. Students may begin entering the building at 8:50, and will be marked tardy if they are not in the classroom by 9:05. Students riding the bus will be dropped off on the east side of the school. If you are driving your student to school please use the front of the school (as a carpool lane) to drop them off. There is no need to get out of your car a staff member will be there to greet the students and make sure they enter the building safely until school starts.

Bus Passes -

Please make sure that your child's bus tag is attached to his/her backpack. This is very important so staff can help direct kiddos to the correct location.

****To ensure safety, we must have a separate note or e-mail if your child is going to be picked up by you or transported home in another way than his/her regular way. Without notification, we will follow the regular plan. For the protection of our children, please send a separate note (other than the communication sheet). This note will be posted by the door to serve as a visual reminder. Your child may not ride a different bus home other than what their bus pass states. If your child is attending a play date, I must receive a note and he/she must be picked up by the other child's parent(s).**

*****If there is a "day-of" change in transportation please contact the front office (651-621-8000) and let them know. They will share the message with me as there is no guarantee I will be able to check my email for changes day of.**

Breakfast -

All students are allowed to eat breakfast at school. Some students do, and some students do not. Breakfast is served from 8:45 to 9:00 - BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS. Teachers do not see students until after breakfast. If your child wants to eat breakfast at school, you need to communicate with him/her so that he/she understands to go to the cafeteria before coming to class. The bus paras will ask children to stand up if you have not eaten breakfast and will then lead them to the cafeteria.

Lunch -

Our lunch time is 12:50-1:15pm and our recess time is 1:20-1:45pm. Students may bring a bag lunch from home, or purchase hot lunch at school. There are typically two hot lunch choices - hot and alternate. You are welcome to join your child for lunch. Please sign in at the office to obtain a visitor's badge first.

Also, please keep in mind, just like everything practice makes perfect. We also get better at eating lunch by practicing! Parents may get concerned at the beginning of the year when their child comes home with uneaten food still in their lunch box. It is a big adjustment to eat in a large cafeteria, with lots of friends and noise. After a few weeks, your child will get better at eating a complete meal at lunch time.

Lunch Money -

The best way to deposit lunch money into your child's lunch account is through the [FeePay](#) online accounts. If you do need to send money to school with your child, please send it in a sealed envelope, labeled with your child's name, teacher's name, and lunch PIN number and I will get it to the office. Please remember that money takes 2-3 days to show up in your account.

Snacks -

We will have a morning snack each day. Our classroom will have community styled snacks due to many students in our class with nut allergies. You will be asked to donate one classroom snack to share approximately every 6-8 weeks. Please make sure these snacks are nut-free for the safety of all our classmates.

A few bulk snack ideas: Graham crackers, Cheez-Its, Pretzels, Goldfish, fresh fruit, applesauce pouches, packages of fruit snacks, crackers, etc.

I will add a note in the "Peek of the Week" if we are running low on snack.

Water Bottles -

I highly encourage students to come with a water bottle for quick drink breaks. Please fill water bottles with only water. Please make sure their water bottle is labeled clearly with his/her name.

Communication - "Peek of the Week"-

Weekly communication sheets will be sent home every Friday for the upcoming week.

I can typically be reached via phone (651) 621 - 8047 at school from the hours of 8am- to 4:30pm. I will also send out periodic classroom e-mail blasts to the families in the classroom.

A Kindergarten Center E-mail newsletter will be sent home monthly from Principal Kristi Abbott. You can also sign up for a PTA newsletter (PTA Ink) by visiting our home school's website~ <https://www.moundviewschools.org/snaillake>

Take-home Folders -

Take home folders should travel to and from school every day. This will serve as our main source for transporting notes, papers, and communication sheets. Please empty the folder every night and practice taking care of them. Replacement folders are available for purchase (\$1) in the front office.

Parent Notes -

Any notes sent to school should be placed in your child's Island Lake take-home folder. Remember, teachers check folders, not backpacks. Anything you want the teacher to see should be placed in your child's folder or sent via e-mail. If something doesn't fit in the folder, for example a classroom snack, please write a note on your child's communication sheet that says "classroom snack in backpack"

Conferences and Progress Reports -

We will have Parent Communication nights twice a year. Once in November and again in February.. I will send out a Signup genius link (via email) for you to chose a time that works for your family. **You are welcome to contact me at anytime to discuss your child's emotional, social, and/or academic progress.**

Expected Student Behavior -

Here at Snail Lake we practice Self Control, Empathy, and Cooperation. The students will learn and practice the the Snail Lake Promise daily.

SeeSaw -

In our classroom we use Seesaw as a form of communication. Each family will have an individual login to their child's account. Please participate by joining our class. Seesaw will also be used as a photo gallery. I will share photos of fun things we are doing in class with each of you on our "News Feed". The only people who have access to these photos are our classroom families. Some photos will be shared to the entire class, others will be sent to individual families. If you do not want your student to be apart of photos for please complete the "DO NOT PHOTO FORM." They will be the "Photographer" during any class photos.

Overall Me! -

This is an opportunity for your child to be the "Star of the Week.". Each week we will give a new student the opportunity to create a poster of him/herself to share with the class. Please feel free to send in pictures to place on the bulletin board as well as the "Overall Me" poster. At the end of the week I will return the poster and pictures to you.

I greatly encourage participation in community activities if so please share those hobbies with us as well! I love hearing about activities that happen outside of the classroom! I might even stop by one of your games, matches, or practices! Tell me when they are! :)

"Overall Me" posters will be sent home on the Friday prior to your child's week. Please send the completed poster back to school on the following Monday morning so your child can share all about him/herself with the class.

Birthdays -

We love to celebrate birthdays in kindergarten! Due to food allergies, we ask that no food treats are brought in, this is a district wide policy.

Here are a few options to consider instead:

1. Have a guest reader come to school and read a special book to the class in honor of your child's birthday.
2. Send your child's favorite book to school and we will read it!
3. Donate your child's favorite, book, game, or puzzle to the class.
4. Send in fun pencils or stickers to share with the class.

****Please do not feel any obligation to do any of the above ideas, do what works for your family. We will make the day special for your child no matter what!**

We will celebrate students' birthdays on the day or the nearest school day to their actual birthday. For those students who have a summer birthday we will celebrate their half birthdays! Please communicate with me what your plan is for your child's birthday.

To avoid hurt feelings, please do not send birthday invitations to be passed out at school.

Birthday Calendar for the Year	
September Erik- 7th Jack- 10th Jasmine - 13th	October Miriam- 2nd CJ- 16th Sammy- 25th
November Gunnar- 14th Fayanna- 30th	December Isaac- 9th
January Joshua -6th Brayden- 26th Lauren- 26th	February Micah - 21st
March Emani- 14th Hadley - 15th	April Adele- 6th Fuad- 18th Will - 25th

<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>Frederick- 15th Tillie- 18th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June (celebrated in December)</p> <p>Shyam- 15th Eliza- 16th Aranya- 20th</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">**July and August birthdays will be celebrated on their half birthday.</p>	

Book-in-a-Bag -

Beginning in the middle of October, our class will use their "Book-in-a-bags". This will be a gallon-size bag for transporting one book from our classroom library to your home. The book will be at your child's reading level. Directions will be included as well.. Students can keep the book as long as they want, but may not take a new book home until they return their old one. Students are in charge of selecting new books from their leveled bin. Some form of reading every night is highly encouraged and valued.

Book-in-a-bags are in addition to books from our school library. School library books are often wonderful stories to read together, but Book-in-a-Bag books are from our classroom and are easier levels, perfect for your child to practice reading to YOU!

Library -

All kindergarteners will be going to the library to check out books. Our library day is Tuesday. Please help your child remember to bring his/her books back by then in order to get new ones. Books may be returned earlier in the week if your child is finished with them.

Optional Homework -

We try to keep kindergarten homework to a minimum. We encourage you to read to your child or have your child read to you every night before bed. We will have students keep a monthly color sheet indicating 10 minutes of reading time each night. This will begin in October.

We also greatly encourage playing with your child and spending time together as a family. "Children only have one childhood" (Regina Brett) and it is so important to remember how much they learn from playing, exploring and just being kids!!

Additionally, we offer an OPTIONAL online math subscriptions (IXL) and online reading subscriptions (RAZ kids) for kids to work on skills at their own ability level if

you choose. You will find your child's login information to both sites on the inside of his/her Island Lake Take-Home Folder. More information will come.

Rest and Recharge -

The students will have 15 minutes of quiet time in the afternoon. During this time, lights are dimmed and students will listen to calming music. Each day the activity may differ based on our needs. This is a time for students to calm their bodies and be re-energized for more learning in the afternoon.

Scholastic Book Orders -

Our class participates in Scholastic Book Orders. This is an optional monthly opportunity to purchase cheap and at-Kindergarten-Level books. Participate as often or as infrequent as you'd like. Order forms will be offered to everyone each month. Each purchase earns us free books for our classroom library!

You can order online or send in a check (no cash) and the paper order form to school and I will take care of the order. Each month the online link and information will be stapled to the top of the order. Our classroom code is -

Class Parties -

There will be periodic class parties throughout the year. A few are: A Fall Costume Party, Winter Holiday Party, and Valentine's Day Party. Notes and details, including volunteer opportunities, will be sent out a couple of weeks prior to each party.

Volunteers -

If you are interested in volunteering in our classroom, please connect with me! There are many different ways to volunteer. If you are able to volunteer consistently we would love to add you into our learning. It would be great if you could commit to coming the same day(s) each week. If you are interested in volunteering on an occasional basis, please consider signing up to be a guest reader or asking to do some prep such as cutting lamination.

You will need to stop at the office and fill out the required background check prior to volunteering. It is important for the students to learn the rules, routines, and expectations before bringing additional adults into our classroom.

Visitors -

For security reasons, all visitors must enter through the main doors. All visitors must show a valid driver's license or other form of ID to enter the building and obtain a visitor badge. Policies are in place to create a safe environment for all students and staff at the Kindergarten Center.

ParentVUE -

This is the new Parent Portal, for parents to access student's records. You will receive periodic emails from the district, encouraging you to check ParentVUE. Please keep in mind that Kindergarten students may not have as many assignments or scores loaded on ParentVUE as students in older grades. Kindergarten teachers will alert you when you do need to check ParentVUE.

Paraprofessionals -

Paraprofessionals or "paras" are wonderful teaching assistants that float between all 15 kindergarten classrooms in our building. This year our class is lucky to have Ms. Amy during our literacy time in the morning and again during our math time in the afternoon. She will help in assisting small groups. Several paras will also work together to bring the Island Lake classes to recess and lunch.

Specialists -

Our class will be going to specialist class each afternoon (11:45-12:40pm). Our specialist teacher is [REDACTED] Our specialist schedule is as followed -

Monday:

Tuesday: Music/Phy- Ed

Wednesday: Science

Thursday: Art

Friday: Music/Phy-Ed

Mrs. Woodcock's schedule is subject to change due to needing a second day for lessons.

Box Tops

Who gets the money? We do!! Each Box Top that is clipped is worth \$0.10 and sent right back to our schools for additional education purposes.

What do you do? Go out and buy things, clip off the Box Tops, tape them to the Monthly Collecting Sheet, then send it back to school by the last Monday of every month! The Box Tops are sent off and we get school money in return!



Where do you return the Box Tops? Your child will take his/her Box Tops back to school and place them in their classrooms yellow Box Top box.

When are the Box Tops due? Box Tops are due back to school by the last Monday of each month. In case the deadline is missed, Box Tops do not expire so send them for the next month!

Each month we will be having a friendly competition between classes with an exciting class activity!! September class winners will receive extra free time outside with their teacher and our Principal, Mrs. Abbott!

Shoes -

Practice makes perfect! Here is a cute poem that will help your kiddos learn to tie shoes:

Build a teepee
Come inside
Close it tight so we can hide
Over the mountain
And around we go
Here's my arrow
And here's my bow!

Miss Maslowski's Kindergarten Schedule

8:50-9:15	STEAM Creation Stations
9:05	School Bell/Announcements
9:15-9:35	Morning Meeting
9:35-9:55	Calendar Math
9:55-10:00	Bathroom/Brain Break
10:00-10:10	Morning Snack and Read Aloud
10:10-10:30	Units of Study or Thematic Study
10:30-10:50	Writers Workshop
10:50-11:30	Daily 5 Reading/Guided Reading
11:30-11:40	Stamina Reading
11:45-12:40	Specialist with
12:40- 12:50	Bathroom Break
12:50-1:15	Lunch
1:20-1:40	Recess
1:45-2:00	Rest Time
2:00-2:40	Guided Math Groups
2:40-3:00	Whole Group Math
3:00-3:20	Phonics
3:20-3:35	Choice Time
3:40	Pack Up
3:45	Dismissal

Miss Maslowski's Kindergarten Handbook 2017-2018

