

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Meridian! I am very excited to have your child in my class and the opportunity to teach them. I know this will be a great year. I am looking forward to getting to know your child. I appreciate your support from home, I know that it will greatly enhance your child's learning this year. I will encourage each child to always do their best and achieve what I know they can. I also will help each child learn to take responsibility for their own learning and to learn everything that they can.

### **Literacy:**

Each full week of school we will be focusing on one or two literacy skills using a big book. We will use the big books to find the skills being taught that week. We will be learning various skills ranging from how to use and read books all the way to strategies to decode unfamiliar words in the books. There will be various modes for the students to become familiar with the book such as reading, acting it out and making our own class copy of the book.

We will also be using phonics workbooks books to practice different sounds and writing letters and words. There will be different centers for the students to participate in that will focus on literacy. I will also read with each child in small groups of about two students everyday with books that are at their level.

### **Math:**

I find that when math is more hands on that, the students learn much better and in a way that makes sense to them. We will be using many manipulatives in math this year, such as counting chips, blocks, geometric shapes, etc. The students will be able to explore strategies that help them understand the concept better while at the same time giving me an opportunity to connect their strategy to the strategy that will be expected of them later in school. I have used this teaching strategy before and have seen how well it works and I am excited to use it again this year.

Everyday in the late morning, we will have center activities that will be based on math and will have the same procedures as the centers in the morning. I will also be working with small groups during this time to discuss more in depth on their level, the math skill being taught that day.

### **Specialist Classes:**

Specialist classes are classes when the students go to a different classroom with a different teacher for certain subjects. In Kindergarten we get to go to Art, Music, Yoga, P.E., Science, and Chinese. We have each of these every week.

### **Homework:**

After we get settled into the new school year, I will send home “Take Home Books” for each child. Your child needs to read 15-20 minutes every night, either to a parent or a sibling. These books will be at your child’s level so they should be able to read them without much difficulty. It is ok to have about two or three tricky words on a page for them; that means the book is just right. It’s important that the book is just right for them because if the book is too easy and they have it memorized, they will not become better at reading, but if the book is too hard for them, then their reading skills will slowly become worse. It is also extremely important for your child to develop comprehension. Your child might be able to recognize and decode words on a page, but if they do not understand what is going on in the story, they are not really reading. To help them develop these skills, ask them questions throughout the story. For example, what is the character’s name in the story, what is your favorite part so far, or does this story remind you of anything else?

I will also be sending home take home activities on occasion that will help your child specifically. They will be games in Ziploc baggies for you or a sibling to play with them. There will be directions in each bag and are easy to figure out. There will also be a slip of paper that you will need to sign and return in their green folder. These activities will be sent out on Monday and you will be able to have them for the whole week to practice with and be returned on Friday in the same week. The games vary from literacy practice to math. I will send home the ones that I think will benefit your child the most. However, they **will not** be sent home every week.

We will also be having a fun activity that I am really excited about called “Where the Wild Things Go”. Each child will have an opportunity to take home our class friend Moe for one week, from Monday to Friday in the same week. He is one of the Wild Things from the book. When your child brings home the bag that Moe is in, he gets to do anything your child does. He can read books, he can go in the car, and he can even go to the movies with your child. (I will machine wash Moe every time he comes back to the classroom). There will also be included crayons, markers, blank white paper as well as writing paper. Please make sure that the supplies are returned with the bag, including extra paper not used. During the time that your child

has Moe with them, they are also going to be making a journal of what they do with Moe. They may color a picture, and write something to go along with it. They do not have to draw a picture but they do have to write three sentences about what they did with Moe. This can be done with the help of parents.

I am going to send a Classroom Calendar home each month. These calendars will have field trips, Spirit Days, birthdays, classroom holiday parties, and other classroom activities so that you are aware of what is going on in the coming month. Please be aware that a few things might change throughout a month and might not be perfect through the whole month. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

### **Grading:**

I will be assessing you child's class work every day and keeping track of their progress in my grade book as well as on my computer. I will have different formal and informal assessments throughout the year to track this progress. I do expect each child to complete all of their class work as well as any activities that will be sent home. They will have centers everyday where they will need to complete the activities there in an appropriate amount of time. If there is ever a time that your child does not finish their class work during class, it will be sent home to be completed and then returned the next day.

### **Attendance:**

Your child is required to be here every day unless he/she is sick or there is an important reason to be absent from school. Your child will be able to learn more if they are able to make it to school on time and be involved during school. I do understand that things come up. When your student is absent, the work that is done during class will be sent home as homework for that week. Please finish this work as soon as possible. If your child needs help understanding anything new on the homework that they missed in class, please let me know and I will help them with that concept after school or during recess. If you check your child out from school early, it is required that you notify the office beforehand, even if it is just a few minutes before school is out. This just helps us keep track of where your child is.

### **Discipline:**

I always want to have a positive atmosphere in our classroom so that we can all learn as much as possible. I have a positive rewards system set up in the classroom for each child to be recognized for good behavior as well as a whole class reward. I want to help reinforce individual good behavior and responsibility while at the same time encouraging a warm classroom environment by working together. I have a treasure box for the students to pick out prizes, class activities, verbal recognition, and notes/calls home for rewards. I am going to work hard to help set up this positive atmosphere and make sure that the children know what my expectations are from the very beginning of school.

**Report Cards:**

Report Cards will be handed out three times throughout the year. If you have questions about your child's progress throughout the year I would be happy to answer them for you.

**I would love to answer any questions you have, please call me at 801-808-2513, or you can email me at [peggady23@yahoo.com](mailto:peggady23@yahoo.com)**

Mrs. Norman