

Everything You Ever
Wanted To Know About
Kindergarten But Didn't
Know Who To Ask!





Welcome to Kindergarten at Cahaba.....

where an exciting year awaits! Cahaba Kindergarten is designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development. This very important year promises to be one filled with discovery and joy as your child works and plays in an environment that is warm, safe and challenging.

Our structure and daily activities are carefully planned to encourage independence, self-confidence and group cooperation through large group, small group and one-on-one participation in a variety of hands-on interactive experiences.

I encourage you to get involved through school events and our Parent Teacher Organization. Before school starts, you will have opportunities to meet our teachers, ask questions and tour our school. We will be partners with you to meet all of your child's emotional, social and academic needs.

I am looking forward to a successful year, new friends and fantastic relationships with families!



Sincerely,

Joy Tyner, Principal

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When your child arrives for the first day of school, his or her fears and tears will best be overcome if you do not linger. Sometimes the first day of school is more difficult for the parents, so we suggest you allow your child to ride the bus and you take his or her picture stepping onto the bus for the first time, or that you drop off in the car line and snap your first day of school pictures from your vehicle. The school staff will provide extra loving assistance for your child's needs as he/she adjusts to beginning the school day. We promise!

Cooperation between parents and teachers is very important during your child's first year of school. Any concerns that may arise should be brought to the teacher's attention immediately. Together we will develop a plan to address your concern. If your child has a particular fear or dislike, or develops any, it may be overcome more easily if both the parents and the school are informed and work together cooperatively.

To promote a positive school attitude, show interest in the work your child brings home. Admire those "immature" pictures. Encourage your child to explain them and talk about them. When asking your child what happened during the day, ask what happened first, second, and after that? If you ask to have things listed in order, it will help eliminate answers of "nothing" or "we just played". Recognize that each child is different and that some develop faster than others. Help your child to be happy in the activities he or she can do well, but not to shed tears or give up when difficulties occur. Each child needs to feel he or she is loved and belongs, and that successes far outweigh any failures. Remember that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher; we need your support to ensure that your child grows to be the best that he or she can be!

MORE HELPFUL HINTS!

ABSENCES – We encourage regular attendance and punctuality. **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!** If your child is absent, please send a separate note (not in the Husky book) or email Nancy.Estell@trussvillecityschools.com the following day explaining the reason for the absence, or provide an excuse from the doctor's office. Please refer to the TCS Attendance and Truancy Policy in the student handbook in front of your student's Husky book. You can also find the TCS Attendance and Truancy Policy in the "Code of Student Conduct" at www.trussvillecityschools.com.

ALL VISITORS – You must present a driver's license at the office. The license will be scanned and a photo ID sticker printed. The ID sticker should be clearly visible on your clothing while in the building. You will sign out at the office as you leave the building.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE -- The official opening of school each day is 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. Please make every effort to arrive at school by 7:50 so that your child is in his/her seat in the classroom when the 8:00 a.m. bell rings. Parents should park and come sign in students arriving after the 8:00 bell has rung. Morning activities begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. for all grades.

Teachers will be on duty to supervise students beginning at 7:20 a.m. Upon arrival, students eating breakfast should report to the cafeteria. All other students should report to the designated wait area for their grade level.

At the end of the school day, all students will dismiss at 3:00 p.m., Mondays-Wednesdays and Fridays, and on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Highway Safety Program Guideline No. 17 Pupil Transportation Safety, each school will have restricted loading and unloading areas for school and charter buses which are separate from the established vehicle loading and unloading points.

Parents picking up children by car should have a sign in the window of the vehicle with the student name and teacher name so that your child is promptly loaded. **For the safety of our students, we asked that you refrain from using your cell phone while in the carline.**

Walkers and Bike Riders: An important note for those who are considering allowing their children to walk or bike ride to school: There is no off campus supervision of students by school personnel. Students will be supervised by school personnel ONLY while they are on Trussville City Schools property. Your child will be required to return a permission form to their teacher each day they will bike or walk. If your student's normal transportation will be to walk or ride a bike, you may write a blanket note for the entire school year to the teacher stating that will be the normal way home. You also must include an inclement weather plan for transportation home (bus or car rider). The principal will also reserve the right to make a decision from time to time not to allow students to walk or bike home in the afternoon if the threat of heavy rain is a possibility close to our dismissal time. Your student's inclement weather plan will be followed on these days.

Procedures for walkers and bike riders: Walkers and bike riders will cross from the flagpole to the historic front porch under the supervision of the teacher who is on duty on the front porch. They will secure their bikes and enter the historic front porch doors to the school.

Afternoon Procedures: Walkers and bike riders will be given a "pass," a piece of paper with the red sneaker on it, by their teacher. This will be the walker or bike rider's pass to get out the historic front porch door. The teacher on duty will collect the cards and assemble the walkers and bike riders and watch them cross to the flagpole. When these students have gotten to the flagpole, bus riders and car riders will be dismissed.

CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION - The teacher must be notified in writing of any changes in your child's daily transportation routine. This is for your child's safety. Without a written note, your child will be sent home the usual way.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - Nutritionally balanced breakfasts and lunches are served daily. Meals may be paid for by the week, month, or year! When your child's meal account gets low, the lunchroom staff will stamp his or her arm as a reminder that more money should be deposited into the account immediately. Ice creams are available for purchase on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, if you prefer for your child NOT to purchase these items, you may call the lunchroom and have them blocked from purchase.

Meal prices*

Breakfast \$1.50 per day (Includes Milk)

Lunch \$2.35 per day (Includes Milk) / \$ 11.75 Per Week (Includes Milk)

Milk Only \$.50

Ice Cream \$.75 (Tuesday and Thursday)

Chips, Cereal Bars \$0.75 (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

(*Prices are subject to change)

Breakfast - Please notify your teacher if your child will be eating breakfast each morning in the lunchroom. We will place a special sticker on your child's name tag so that those supervising will know to direct your child to the lunchroom upon arrival.

DISMISSAL - School dismissal times are as follows:

Monday-Wednesday & Friday – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday – 2:00 p.m.

DONATION - A donation of \$40.00 is appreciated. This money will be used to buy instructional materials for the children. Checks should be made payable to Cahaba Elementary.

DRESS CODE – Students should wear comfortable clothes each day that they can unzip/unbutton for themselves at bathroom breaks. Any shoe that a student wears should also be something that they can take off and on for themselves (Velcro fastening is best for this age). All students attend PE and recess; therefore, **no flip flops or open back shoes are allowed.** Students who do not wear appropriate shoes for PE will sit out for safety reasons. **To be safe in the gym**, we require our students to wear shoes safe for exercise. Please think of the types of shoes that YOU wear when you are exercising!

Shoes must:

- Completely cover the toes
- Completely cover the heel (no straps)
- No heel height
- No boots
- Rubber bottom

If the clothing or grooming of a student is in question, the administration will decide about appropriateness. The definition of appropriate clothing and grooming will vary with the age of the student and the program of instruction. If a student's dress or grooming violates code, the parent or guardian will be called to help correct the situation. According to Trussville City Schools Code of Conduct, nonconformity to dress code is a Class 1 Offense.

EARLY DEPARTURE - Children must be checked out through the school office. Persons checking a child out must have a picture ID and be authorized to do so in the registration information you provided.

FRIDAY FREEZE - One Friday a month the PTO will deliver ice cream. "Friday Freeze" is a fundraiser for our PTO and costs \$25.00. It must be purchased during registration.

IMPORTANT PAPERS - Please check your child's work folder/binder for important information and remove any daily work. Please return the folder/binder to school each morning. Conduct reports will be sent home daily in the *Husky* agenda books. You must sign or initial the *Husky* agenda book daily.

LOST ITEMS - Make sure labels are on all personal belongings with both first and last names (jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, gloves, hats, etc.). Each grading period we will bag unclaimed items and send to a local charity.

LUNCHROOM VISITORS - We welcome lunch visitors AFTER Labor Day and through 2 weeks PRIOR to the last day of school. Ask your child's teacher to see what her lunch time is. You must sign in with your driver's license in the front office and wear the visitor tag you receive while you are in the building. Plan to meet your student in the hallway outside the lunchroom. PLEASE do not go to the classroom or stand in any other area to wait. This causes distractions while the teacher is preparing the students for lunch.

NO FAST FOOD OR SODAS ARE ALLOWED IN OUR LUNCHROOM as we have a federally funded lunch program and could lose that funding by allowing fast food in the lunchroom.

MONEY - Please send all money in *separately labeled* envelopes with your child's name, student ID number, teacher's name, purpose for money, and the amount you included.

NAME TAGS - During Meet the Teacher your child will be given a name tag to be worn each day for the first two weeks of school. The name tag will have your child's name, teacher name and room number, as well as afternoon transportation information. Please make sure you send your child to school with the name tag!

PERSONAL INFORMATION - Please begin working with your child on learning full name and lunch ID number as soon as you receive it. Also begin practice on writing his or her name correctly (example: John Smith - not all capital letters).

PTO - We encourage you to support our school by joining the PTO. Membership dues are \$5.00 for family.

REST MATS - Will be sent home as needed. Please wash and return them to school the following day. Because of limited space, please do not send beach towels, large blankets, sleeping bags, or large pillows.

SNACKS - Please send a small snack for your child each day (think healthy, not messy). Make sure to send a spoon, fork, or straw if needed for your child's snack and only send snacks your child can open by him/herself. The only drink allowed at snack time is bottled water. Please put the snack in a separate bag or container from any lunch items your child may bring. Please put your child's name on snack and lunch.

Suggested Snacks:

Fruit (no oranges please – these are very messy)

Crackers Pudding cups

Raw vegetables Muffins

Dry cereal Trail mix

Granola bars

Drinks: - BOTTLED WATER ONLY

INAPPROPRIATE SNACKS: Powdered doughnuts, candy or candy bars, any drink other than water

SUPPLIES - *Kindergarten supplies may be purchased from the school for \$30.00.* You may pay for supplies and other items online by following the payment link at the Cahaba Elementary School website, or you may make payments in person at the school office. If you do not purchase supplies through the school, please check The Cahaba Elementary website for a copy of the kindergarten supply list.

TRANSPORTATION HOME - Your child's usual method of transportation home needs to begin on the first day of school so he/she can learn the dismissal routines. If you should need to change your child's transportation home, please email the teacher AND call the office at 205-228-3400.

PLEASE REFER TO THE FRONT OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK IN THE HUSKY AGENDA BOOK FOR ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

NOTES: