

Sharon Elementary

Kindergarten Parent Packet



Sharon Kindergarten:

Where learning is an adventure...everyday!

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Sharon Elementary School

3595 Old Atlanta Road
Suwanee, Georgia 30024

770-888-7511

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Vision

Preparing today's children for tomorrow

Mission

Educating beyond Expectations

Sharon's Beliefs and Mindsets:

As Sharon Knights, we:

Keeep our eyes on the goal-Put your Passion First!

Never give up-Everything Is Possible!

Inspire one another-We Are All Connected!

Greet challenges-The Time Is Now!

Honor individual differences-Attitude of Gratitude!

Think carefully, creatively, critically, continuously-100%
Accountable!

Show compassion-Live to Give!

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Kindergarten children enter school with varied experiences and expectations. Five and six year olds are discovering the world around them and are eager to explore it. Our kindergarten environment nurtures the child and encourages exploration and learning. Through a balanced program, children develop the skills necessary to become active members of our classroom and school community.

The primary function of our kindergarten program is to provide your child with a positive and successful learning experience in his or her first formal year of school. A major goal of our kindergarten team is to keep your child's needs as the central motivation for everything we do. Our kindergarten curriculum provides the building blocks to help young children develop into lifelong learners.

Your child's first year in school is a new experience for parent and child alike. There are many things that a child will learn to do that will be the cornerstone of his or her education.

We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your child. We thank you in advance for entrusting your child's education to us.

Thank you! ☺

Sharon Elementary School
Kindergarten Teachers





Attendance, Arrival, and Departure

Students may enter the classroom at 7:10 am. Class will begin at 7:40 am. If students arrive after 7:40 am, please escort them inside & they will receive a late pass to the classroom.

Please have your child use the same type of transportation to school each day (car or bus), especially in the afternoon.

Change is very confusing to young children. Try to establish a routine with your child by having him/her ride the bus as soon as possible. Riding the bus will prevent your child from being tardy, & you will not have to wait in a long car rider line. If your child is a car rider, he/she needs to be dropped off at the front entrance. Separation is very difficult for many kindergarten children, so we ask that you do not walk them to the classroom. Teachers will be providing assistance in the hallways until the children learn where their classroom is located. Car riders are not permitted in the classroom until the buses unload at 7:10 am.

It is important that your child be at school every day. It is difficult for children to make up for lost time when they miss school. We do understand that there are times when a child must miss school. Please call/email the school & report your child's absence. We must also have a written note within 5 days in order to excuse the absence. We keep a record of this on file. Excused absences are those designated by state law. State Board Excused Absences: personal illness, a serious illness or death in their immediate family, the observance of religious holidays, a scheduled medical, dental or eye examination of the student, & visiting a parent or legal guardian who is in a combat zone or combat support post. The student may be excused for a maximum of 5 days per school year. A student who is absent, checks in late, or checks out early for other than one of the above reasons will be considered unexcused. Three unexcused late check ins or early check outs will be considered on unexcused absence.

Being Prepared for School

We want to strongly emphasize the importance of coming to school prepared & ready to learn. Students need a nutritious breakfast & plenty of rest. We have many things to accomplish this year. Tired minds & hungry bodies cannot give full concentration to the tasks at hand. Running, jumping, skipping, climbing, & hopping are part of everyday curriculum in Kindergarten. Please make sure your child is wearing comfortable shoes. Tennis shoes are expected to be worn on P.E. days. We will go outside each day for recess—weather permitting, so please plan your child's clothes accordingly. We sit on the floor a great deal. For the sake of modesty, girls may want to wear shorts under dresses. Due to the fact that little ones sometimes have accidents of all kinds, please place an extra outfit and a pair of underwear in a Ziploc bag in their backpack that can remain there until needed. If a change of clothes is necessary, please be sure to re-pack a new outfit. Writing your child's name on each garment will help ensure that items which end up in the lost and found are returned to you.

Communication

We feel that communication is vital to the well-being of your child. We will communicate with you in a variety of ways. We also have two scheduled parent conferences during the school year. Please feel free to contact us in the following ways: send a note in your child's folder, call the school at 770.888.7511, leave a message on the voicemail or email us.



Each day your child will bring home a daily folder. Each week a newsletter will be available to provide you with the current standards that your child is working on in his or her classroom, as well as, a weekly planner on our Its Learning course.

When sending in money, notes, or anything else for the teacher, please be sure to LABEL EVERYTHING with your child's name & give it to your child, tell him/her why you are sending it & allow him/her to put it in the folder. We do not check backpacks, but have the children do this as part of their morning routine. This helps to foster responsibility & will help ensure that we get the item.

If your child's transportation changes, we must this change in writing. If we do not have a written note, we will send your child home in the usual manner. Teachers CANNOT accept changes by phone or email. If your child is going home with another student that requires a change in transportation, please know that children are not allowed to ride home on a different bus. You will have to pick up your child & his/her playmate in the car rider line with each child's assigned car rider # hanging in the window of your car.

Breakfast and Lunch

The student cost for breakfast is \$1.60 & lunch is \$2.70. Please make sure that your child has lunch money. It will be easier for parents, students, & teachers, if you prepay your child's lunch money weekly or monthly on **mypaymentsplus**.



Other lunch costs include extra milk for \$.60 & other snacks at various prices. You may put a block on your child's account so they cannot purchase any extras. However, please be aware that if you put a block on your child's account, they will not be allowed to purchase any extras, including an extra milk.

Snack Time in Kindergarten

We will take a short snack break every day. Healthy snacks, such as crackers, fruit, or veggies are best. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Please always **label** your child's snack with **his/her name and do not pack it in with your child's lunch**. Ziploc bags are great for storing the snack.



American Reading Company (ARC)

In 2018, kindergarten classrooms in Forsyth County implemented a new literacy program called the American Reading Company (ARC). This program is built on thematic inquiry and incorporates investigative and engaging learning while honing in on students' individual proficiencies. The program provides each kindergarten classroom with a wealth of books based on themed units. Students are encouraged to browse the books and make selections based on their interests to foster a love and excitement for reading. Through ARC, teachers use the IRLA (Independent Reading Level Assessment) to target students' strengths and goals in reading. We will share more about ARC on Curriculum Night.

Assessments in Kindergarten: Quarterly Benchmarks and GKIDS

In kindergarten, your child will be assessed in various ways. We use quarterly common assessments, IRLA (Independent Reading Level Assessment), along with the GKIDS (Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills) to assess mastery of our kindergarten standards. These will assess knowledge in reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. These assessments will be given individually or in a small group setting. They are aligned to meet the kindergarten standards. We will share this information with you through weekly newsletters, checklists, and conferences.





Standards-Based Report Cards

The state of Georgia requires that all students receive instruction in, and master the standards established for each grade level. A standards-based report card gives a clear message to parents about what their children know, what they can do, and what they need to learn in relation to the standards. In standards-based reporting, curriculum and instruction are

aligned with state and district standards, which define the major areas of study.

Is My Child Ready For Kindergarten?

Each year we are asked "What should I do to get my child ready for the first few days/weeks of school? Is my child even ready for Kindergarten?"

It has been our observation that children who have had previous exposure to or have mastered some basic skills display wonderful self-confidence and are very eager and successful learners. Just because your child has turned five does not "magically" make them ready for kindergarten. Many "school habits" are formed with you at home as your child plays. To get a "snapshot" of where your child is at, we assess the following abilities during the first two weeks of school:

- Recognition or naming of numbers 1 to 10 in random order
- Recognition or naming basic colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, brown, black, white, pink, gray
- Counting by 1's
- Basic shape recognition: circle, square, triangle, rectangle,
- Recognition or naming of letters in random order: capital and lowercase
- Letter sounds a-z: not just "singing the alphabet song" but producing the isolated sounds of each letter
- Book handling and emergent reading skills
- Ability to recognize first name
- Ability to write first name with a capital letter followed by lowercase letters
- Telling his or her birthday, phone number, and address
- Listening well to stories without being distracted: asking and answering questions about the story
- Following two-step directions
- Ability to interact socially with peers

To help your child “get ready” for school in the fall, please work on these basic skills. Any of these skills that your child already has in place before they begin school will provide an easier transition to a structured learning environment. Another helpful idea is to let your child have lots of exposure to working with pencils, scissors, glue, markers, paint, play dough, and watercolors. Many hours will be spent on these fine motor activities before they will be mastered, any assistance from you will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you! ☺

Sharon Elementary School

Kindergarten Teachers

