

Kindergarten ABC's

Here is a list of common terms you will hear, procedures, and other Greenock details!

Alert Message- We use a communication system that can call or email all parents within 1 minute. This is used to let you know about school closings, late buses in the afternoon or other emergencies. Emails are often sent home to let you know about school activities. Information will be sent home letting you know how to update communication preferences.

Alphabet- Knowing the alphabet is the key to unlocking the reading and writing code. We will cover the alphabet letter by letter, not necessarily in order. If your child cannot identify their letters it is important that you start to work on that immediately at home. We can help- just ask! Begin by teaching the letters in your child's name. Once they can identify letters, the next step is being able to associate the letter with the sound it makes.

Badges- In kindergarten our students do not receive report cards. Instead, they will receive a badge for individual, specific skills that they learn (think Boy Scout/Girl Scouts). Letter and percentage grades do not make sense to little ones, but they do understand the concept of leveling up and earning achievements. We will keep you informed about your child's progress as they earn badges, and we will also meet with you on several conference days that are scheduled throughout the year.

Attendance- It is crucial that your child is present every day. Please call the school office at 412.896.2324 if your child is going to be absent from school or let your child's teacher know if they will not be logging on for an at-home learning day. You have 3 days to send in an excuse or doctor's note. After 3 days the days is counted as unexcused. While our attendance policy is a bit more relaxed this year, it is important for your child to be at school when they are feeling well.

Bathrooms- Little ones are not used to using a public restroom without a grown up. It is very helpful to talk to your child about using the bathroom at school. Please make sure your child knows how to put themselves back together after they go. Even though class groups will take bathroom breaks as a group, there may be 2 students at a time in the restroom so the kiddos will be reminded about not playing with the soap and paper towels, climbing on and under the stalls, and privacy.

Behavior- Good behavior allows all students to have the best learning environment possible. Children learn best when they feel secure. The number one rule in our school is to be a good friend to others. I strive to create a community where students work together and are surrounded with structure and creativity. If we contact you about something going on with your child's behavior please don't worry! It is the job of a child to make mistakes and it's our job to help them learn from them!

Birthdays- We have many students with food allergies and encourage healthy snacks. If you would like to send in a birthday treat we suggest non-food items such as pencils, stickers, etc. Food items must be individually packaged with the ingredients printed on the label. Party invitations will not be passed out at school. Please make other arrangements to have them delivered.

Book Bags- Children need a back pack or school bag big enough to hold their iPad, folders, and projects coming home. We do not recommend backpacks with wheels. Please use a sharpie to write your child's name somewhere on their backpack (and other belongings whenever it is practical to do so.)

Box Tops- The PTO will send home information about saving box tops. These labels help ear money for the school. We have little classroom competitions to see who can bring in the most, and classrooms have a chance to earn prizes. For more information check out the boxtops4education.com website.

Breakfast- You have always heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and it is! Breakfast is available at school and a menu will be sent home each month. Menus can also be found on the school and district website. If your child receives Free or Reduced Lunch, breakfast is included (either free or reduced). Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom.

Bus Transportation- Social distancing rules are in effect, and masks must be worn on the bus. Bus numbers will be mailed home the week before school starts. If you have special transportation arrangements (for example if your child goes between two homes or to a day care) you must fill out a Transportation Change Request. These forms can be found on the school or district website, or you can stop in the office to pick one up. Please talk with your child about the importance of staying seated with their back against the seat. Students may not ride another bus home for any reason. For our little ones, someone must be at the bus stop to get them off of the bus in the afternoon! The drivers will not drop them off without someone there to get them.

Car riders- If your child is a car rider, morning drop off is at 9:00AM on the side driveway of the school. Please do not arrive before 9:00 AM. Specific procedures for pick up and drop off will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Anyone who picks up your child must be listed on their emergency card. Car riders will also be given a sign that **MUST** be displayed in the front window of anyone picking your child up.

Clearances- We will not be hosting parties or field trips at this time. If you wish to volunteer at school for any event in the future, you will need to obtain your clearances. Information about all clearances can be found on our school and district websites.

Communication- We don't just teach your child, we get to know them very, very well and will be handling lots of situations together. As the principal, I will be walking with you through the next 6 years and will get to know you and your family well. The teachers and I are here to help with everything. If your child has had a rough night or morning, if they are having issues at school, or if you are facing something difficult as a family we are here for you. Don't ever hesitate to reach out!

Custody Issues- If you experience/have experienced a divorce in your family and have a custody agreement, please let us know. It is imperative that we have a copy of the most recent custody agreement so that there are no misunderstandings. These documents are confidential and stored in the student's file. We strive to communicate with both parents. If you find yourself in this situation please let us know so that we can help ensure that you each have what you need to put your child first and be the best parent you can be.

Discipline- We expect all students to follow rules. Since our kindergarteners are new it might take them some time to get used to our rules. We remind children when a rule is broken so that they can learn from what happened. We expect mistakes to be made so please do not feel bad if we have to have a conversation about a situation relating to discipline. We love all of our kiddos no matter what!

Dress Code- In kindergarten the children should be dressed for comfort and safety. The most important rule is that students may not wear flip flops to school. Masks are required. We will provide an optional face shield that can be worn at school.

Early Dismissal- Regular dismissal is now at 2:50 PM. Please remember that if your child leaves early they are missing important instructional time. If you will be signing your child out of school early, please write a note to your child's teacher. This helps us have your child in the office at the time you need them. We do not have early dismissals for bad weather as it is too dangerous to risk sending a child home to an empty house.

**There will be no early dismissals between
2:20 PM and 3:00 PM.
Please plan accordingly.**

Emergency Card- We keep an emergency card on file for all students that contains pertinent medical and contact information. It is essential that we have current phone numbers for everyone listed on the emergency card. Only people listed on the card will be able to pick your child up from school.

Email- My email is jeisenreich@efsd.net (jmeliton still works, too!) This is the best way to contact me. Each teacher will also give you their contact information. Please remember that teachers do not have time to check their mail frequently throughout the day, and your message may not be read immediately. If you have an issue that requires immediate attention please call the office at 412.896.2324.

ESpark- ESpark is a learning platform on the iPad that we use up to twice a day, 20 minutes for reading and 20 minutes for math. After an initial assessment, ESpark guides instruction at the level where each child is working and it moves at their pace. You will hear a lot about it!

Extra Clothes- (For students attending Hybrid.) Spills and accidents happen. We ask that everyone please send in a complete outfit (top, bottoms, underpants, socks, even a pair of shoes just in case) in a large ziplock-style bag. If your child has an accident we will be able to send the dirty clothes home in the bag and they will have a fresh outfit of their own to put on. If you want to switch clothes out by season or include a warm-weather and a cold-weather outfit that is fine, too. The bag will be kept in the nurse's office.

Excuses- We need you to send in an excuse when your child is absent, letting us know the date they missed and the reason. If the absence includes a doctor or dentist visit, they will send an excuse with you. Excuses must be provided within 3 school days.

Fire Drills- We have monthly fire drills at school. We talk about every single step of the drill and explain why we need to practice. The most important thing to tell the kids is that the fire alarm is very loud! We will be practicing the 6 feet apart rule during fire drills.

First Day Jitters- A few words of advice about the early days of school...It is so important that your child knows you are going to be ok without them. Try not to say things like, "I just don't know what I am going to do without them!" Little ears hear ***everything*** and we don't want the children to worry about you! Let your child know that you will be there to get them off of the bus and that you will be excited to hear all about their day. If your child cries when they leave you, I super-double-promise you that we will take extra-special care of them. The best way to deal with tears (theirs or yours) is to gently hand your child over and go. Extended good-byes make it worse instead of better.

Folders- Each student will receive a "Track It" Folder on the first day of school. The folder has a section for the teacher where you can send notes, etc. There are two sections for the children, one for papers that are going home, and one for papers that need to come back.

Free/Reduced Lunch- If you qualify for this opportunity, please take advantage of it! Students receiving free or reduced lunches and breakfasts are NEVER identified- the information is strictly confidential. Application information can be found on our website.

Fund Raising- There may be fund raisers and charity collections that take place throughout the year. They are not mandatory! The PTO or sponsoring group provides information about fun-raisers, and information is sent home about special collections. Please do not ever have your child go door to door to sell anything.

Handbook- The Student Handbook will be sent home that identifies all procedures and policies of Greenock Elementary and The Elizabeth Forward School District. There is a sign-off page that must be returned stating that you have read and understand the contents of the handbook. If you have any questions feel free to contact me!

Headphones- A good pair of headphones makes a huge difference in the classroom. We use iPads frequently and have the kids wear their headphones so that they can concentrate. Ear buds do not work in tiny ears. Purchasing one pair of decent headphones is more practical than having to constantly replace broken ones.

Help at Home- Please “help” your child with his/her work, but resist the urge to do it for them. Projects need to be completed by your child 100% of the time from kindergarten through 5th grade. Projects are not meant to be a competition.

High-Frequency Words are also called Sight Words. Your child will be introduced to at least 80 Sight Words throughout the year. You will receive a list of words most frequently used in reading and writing every week in the newsletter from your child’s teachers. Please help your child learn these words. The more fluently (automatically) a child can read these words, the better reader they will become.

Illnesses- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. If your child becomes ill at school, they will be sent to the nurse. If the nurse assesses your child and feels that they should go home, she will call you. If we are unable to reach you, we will go to the next person on the emergency card until we get ahold of someone. Please make sure that there are at least two contact numbers for each person on the emergency card.

Immunizations- If you have not already turned in your child’s immunization forms, please do so as soon as possible.

Internet- If you would like information about how to get low cost internet service based on income, we can provide you with that information. It is also available on our district website.

iPads- Every child at Elizabeth Forward received an iPad with a cover and charger. The iPads are provided at no cost however there is a \$50 iPad insurance fee. The investment is worth it to get an iPad at that cost that is covered for some breaks and repairs. Remember that YOU are in charge of the iPad at home. Set limits on the iPad and stick to them! It is recommended that children have no more than 2 hours of screen time per day.

Jackets- When the weather starts to cool off, please make sure your child’s name and teacher’s name or room number is somewhere on your child’s jacket. You would be amazed at the number of jackets that end up in our Lost and Found.

Knowledge- You will be amazed at how much your child learns in kindergarten, especially if you work with them at home!

Labels- Please label your child's belongings (backpacks, lunch bags, jackets, sweaters) with their first and last name, teacher's name and room number. Additionally, please label any money that is sent to school with your child's name, and the purpose for the money.

Lunch- Children can bring their lunch or purchase their lunch at school. Lunch can be prepaid far in advance as you would like. *Any money sent to school needs to be sent in a sealed envelope with your child and teacher's names.* Please pack a nutritious lunch for your child. Soda is definitely not recommended. We cannot heat anything up, but a thermos keeps things warm through lunchtime. Please help your child learn to open juice boxes or ouches, snack bags, containers that you may pack. We have helpers, but kids feel great when they can do it themselves. Lunches will be eaten in the classroom or outside for the time being. Students buying lunch will have lunches served in a takeout container to make it easier for them to carry.

Medication- If your child needs any kind of medication throughout the school year please contact our nurse at 412.896.2325. She will provide you with the proper forms and envelopes. No cough drops or any other kind of medication are to be sent to school.

News- Newsletters will be sent home on paper or via email. The newsletters will inform you about what skills are being learned that week, upcoming events, things to know and important dates, words and letters for the week, and theme information. Classroom and school websites are updated frequently, so visit often!

Nurse- We have a nurse here at school all day every day. She will not call you for routine band-aids, etc. but will let you know if there is a concern of significance. If you need to contact Mrs. Gindlesperger, her phone number is 412.896.2325.

Nuts- We have several students who have life-threatening nut allergies. Students will all use wipes to wipe their hands after lunch.

NWEA MAP Assessment- The NWEA MAP Assessment is a nationally normed test that all students K-8 take three times per year: at the beginning of school, in January and in May. We use the results of these assessments to make decisions about strategic reading groups and to set eSpark learning targets. At this time we have not scheduled these assessments, but will let you know if we do.

PayForIt- You can add money to your child's lunch account by visiting www.payforit.net and setting up an account. Lunch account questions can be directed to our Nutrition Inc. manager, Kristin at 412.896.2340.

PHONE NUMBERS-

Mrs. Eisenreich	412.896.2323
Café Questions	412.896.2340
Bus Garage	412.405.8635
Nurse	412.896.2325

Pictures- During the school year, the teachers and I take lots of pictures of the great things that go on in our classrooms. We may use these pictures for our website or on social media using our school sites. We will send home a photography release. Please let us know if you do not want your child's picture to be used in publications. School pictures are taken once in the fall and once in the spring. Remote Learning students may be given the opportunity for school pictures in the spring.

Problems- If there is anything that happens that you have a question or concern about, start at the source, which is usually the teacher. It usually just takes a conversation to resolve a concern. If an issue is not resolved to your satisfaction please let me know. We are all here to help so please don't let any problem or concern go. We want you to be completely comfortable and happy with everything here at Greenock.

PTO- Greenock and Mt.Vernon work together with one PTO. It's a fantastic way to get involved with various aspects of the school. Many things would not be possible without our PTO. Please join and become an active member. It will be different with CoVid, but we will still be active! The first meeting will be September 9 via Zoom. Mark your calendars!

Questions- I'm sure you will have a question...something that you wonder about. Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is something you think of that you would like to know. There is no concern too small or question too crazy! If I do not know the answer I will find it for you!

Reading- It is so important to read with your child each and every day. Read to your child, with your child, and listen to your child read. It is also important to let your child see you reading for business or pleasure. We will send readers home and your child will also have library books. While reading, talk about the story and

help your child understand the plot. Predict what will happen, summarize the story, discuss how you could change the story, and ask questions about different aspects of the story. Reading is truly the basis of success for your child's education.

Security- We have many security measures in place at school, both seen and unseen. Exterior doors are locked 100% of the time when children are present. Visitors are asked to use the front door. Keeping children safe is my top priority.

Shoes- Your child will be running and playing every day. Flip flops or shoes without backs are not permitted. Please make sure that your child wears sneakers for gym and recess. If your child is unable to tie, please have them wear slip on tenners until they master that skill.

Snack- The children will have a designated snack time every day in the classroom. Please send your child with a small, nutritious snack they can eat neatly during this time. We suggest that the children have a snack bag so it is not confused with their lunch bag. Please do not send your child with candy or soda. We also discourage things like Pop-Tarts, snack cakes, chips, and donuts. We encourage water to drink and fruit, vegetables, cheese or crackers as a snack.

Social Worker- We are very lucky to have a school social worker. Mrs. Rogers is at our school one day each week. She is there for your child or you when life happens. Which it will.

Specials- Your child will have music, art and gym. Specials will look different this year and your child's teacher will let you know what days to prepare for so you know when to be sure your little one is wearing tennis shoes.

Speech- Our speech teacher screens every child. There are some sounds that take longer for children to learn; we call this developmental speech. Many will clear themselves up with time, but others might require a little help. Try to encourage your child to use proper speech at home (even though some of their little mistakes are so cute it's tempting not to!)

Stories- You are going to hear a TON of them and so will we! Kids tell us pretty much everything, for better or worse. Don't worry, we have heard it all and don't judge. We promise not to believe everything we hear at school if you promise not to believe everything you hear at home! Make time to listen to your child, even to the silly details. If you don't make time to listen to them now, they may not continue to share later on.

Tardies- All students must be in their room by 9:15 AM. If you bring your child to school and they arrive after 9:15 you must send a note in with them.

Twitter- Follow us on Twitter @GOMV_EF for lots of updates, reminders and great pictures of things that happen throughout the day.

Updates- It is absolutely crucial that we are able to reach you. If you have a change of phone number of any kind please make us one of the first to know.

Vacations- If you are considering a vacation during the school year contact the office we will send home a vacation form. We are able to approve up to 5 days per school year. We love postcards!

Website- www.efsd.net is full of essential information

X-tra Special- I think every one of our kids is extra special! What makes your child special? I would love to hear from you if you would like to share!

You- You play one of the biggest roles in your child's education. Help your child get excited about learning and being at school! The time you put into working with your child has a direct effect on how much of their potential is fulfilled!

Zzzzzzzzzzz- We have rest time after recess because it is a long day for the kiddos. Sleep solves a multitude of problems both at home and school. It's a good idea to start school bed time at least 2 weeks before school starts. If you find that your child is have rough mornings, rough days or is melting down more than usual, really look at how much sleep they are getting. If you need suggestions on how to help your child get a good night of sleep let us know!