



September 1, 2020

Welcome to Mrs. Ladd's Kindergarten class!

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and took a much needed break from the computer. The weather has been beautiful and optimal for outdoor play! I know that families stayed close to home, but hopefully, you had fun and created lots of new memories.

I will take a minute to introduce myself: My name is Staci Ladd. This is my fourth year teaching kindergarten. I love to read and spend time outside with my daughter, Mabel and dog, Levi. This year will differ from any other year due to our hybrid and remote learning model; however, I am excited to be teaching students in person and on Google meets!

Kindergarten will use Class Dojo as our main learning platform. This is where pre-recorded lessons and videos will be posted, as well as being a hub for students to post their work throughout the week. More information regarding Class Dojo and login information will be provided the first week of school.

Each student in kindergarten will be provided with a Chromebook, which I am very excited about! I will spend the first weeks of school teaching students how to log on, access both reading and math programs, along with accessing their student Dojo account.

As you know, students have been divided into Cohort A (Monday/Thursday) and Cohort B (Tuesday/Friday). Wednesdays will be remote for all students. My hope for Wednesdays is to host a whole-class Google meet in the morning for students to interact remotely with everyone. I will also be reaching out to families on an individual basis as needed. More information regarding this will also be provided at a later date.

Students will remain in their classrooms for the entire day. Unified Arts classes (Art, Music, PE, Library) will also take place in the classroom. Outdoor activities will take place depending on the weather.

Students who are fully remote will have a schedule (coming soon) for contact with teachers. Starting this fall, there is an expectation that all remote students will check in

every day and complete all assignments from their Cohort group. I am working on a plan to give and receive material each week for our fully remote students.

Students' growth is extremely important to me. To best serve our young learners, the expectations for remote learning will be very different from what was expected this past March to June. Students will have learning targets, grades, expectations for all work completion and attendance. Kindergarten students are expected to be actively engaged in 10 hours per week of academic learning. This time does include direct instruction from educators on Google meets and from assigned independent student work.

Here are some things you need to remember for the first week of school. **Please bring an extra mask, a water bottle, and a backpack with you every day.** You will have materials to carry back and forth to school each day. Please leave all other personal belongings at home.

I know there are a LOT of changes this year, and it may feel overwhelming to start kindergarten, but know I am here for any questions or concerns. We will all work together to make this year very special. I have missed my students so much and want school to be a place your child wants to be!

Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation. I cannot wait to see you on Tuesday, September 8th for Cohort B and on Thursday, September 10th for Cohort A. Remote families can pick up materials on Friday, September 4th at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email or calling the school. See you soon!

Staci Ladd

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