

Dear Kindergarten Parents:

Welcome to Challenger, we are happy that you will be joining us. In preparation for school in September, we have compiled a few helpful hints for you and your kindergartener:

1. **Please have your child practice the following skills over the summer:**
  - tying shoes
  - putting on coat and zipping it up independently
  - zipping up backpacks/snapping & buttoning pants
  - for all day...opening and closing lunch boxes
  - writing first name using a capital letter/lowercase letters
2. Please have your student be completely independent with regard to all aspects of using the toilet. This important task includes getting clothes unfastened and refastened, as it is a "hands off" policy for teachers.
3. Please **start** getting into a **bedtime routine 1 week prior to school** starting. This helps them transition into the school year with a little more ease.
4. Supplies don't need names unless specified. Please **DO** label all removable clothing/backpack/lunchbox (lost and found bulges with unclaimed items). No rolling backpacks (no wheels).
5. Due to congested hallways, Challenger has a policy that parents must stand outside the building to send off the child in the AM and greet in the PM. The halls are very narrow and become extremely crowded with strollers, siblings, and adults standing by the classroom windows. It is important to keep the hallways safe. We are fostering the child's independence. Please be prompt both AM and PM leaving or picking up your child; allowing time to walk or park your car. If a parent is not present to pick up their student then the child will wait in the office.
6. Along that note, please do not stand in the hallway and "wave" to your child in the classroom through the window or doorway, or come into the classroom to wait for dismissal. It is very disruptive to all concerned. The children tend to "check out" and don't listen to exiting directions.
7. If your child has been running a fever, throwing up, or experiencing diarrhea, keep your child home for 24 hours before sending them back to school.
8. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any questions! 425 837-7550.

Kindergarten teachers will talk to the parents in the fall. Save the date: Wednesday, Sept. 2nd for parent orientation. Parents of morning & full day kindergarteners will meet from 8:45am-9:45am; parents of afternoon kindergartener will meet 10:30am-11:30am. (No students or siblings.) This is a very important meeting to introduce the parents to their Kindergartener's year.



**Registration** – Students with incomplete immunizations will not be permitted to attend school. Additionally, we must verify birth certificate information as well. If data is missing you will receive a postcard at the end of June to remind you. Original copies of birth certificates must be brought in to be photocopied for the student's file.



**Enrollment Verification** – The district office confirms enrollment of **all** students over the summer. You should receive a bright green enrollment card toward the end of July or beginning of August asking you to confirm your child's enrollment. Please follow the instructions on the card.



**Business Day** – Our business day has been scheduled for August 20, 2009. Emergency forms will be mailed directly to you in early August. They should be completed and returned on this day. At this time you may also prepay student lunches, join PTA, pick up preordered supplies, and have your student's picture taken. If you are unable to attend this business day, emergency forms may be turned in anytime before the first day of school. A make-up picture day will be scheduled in September.



**Schedule/First Day of School** – The first day of school for students *other* than kindergarteners is Wednesday, September 2nd, 2009. For kindergarteners and their families, this day is set aside as a parent orientation meeting. Kindergarten students **do not attend**. The first day of school for all kindergarten students will be Thursday, September 3rd, 2009. This schedule allows the kindergarten teachers to review classroom information with parents.



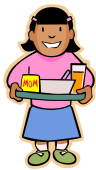
**Absences** – If your child will be absent or late, please call the main number – 837.7550 – and follow the prompts to report the absence. E-mail is also a great way to report an absence. Contact Dolores at [dalod@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:dalod@issaquah.wednet.edu).



**Checking In** – When you come into the building to volunteer or visit, or for any reason, you **must** check into the office. This is important. We are responsible for everyone in the building at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Health Concerns** – Please keep your emergency information up to date in case we need to contact you to take an ill child home. Additionally, district policy regarding an ill child is they must be free from fever and vomiting for 24 hours before they may return to school.



**Lunch** - Full-day kindergarten students may bring their lunch from home or buy lunch in the cafeteria. Lunch menus are available on the district website. Each full-day student is assigned an account code for their meals. You may prepay onto their account by sending a check payable to IFS (Issaquah Food Service) for any amount convenient to you or pay online at MyLunchMoney.com.



**Bus** – Discovery students - If your child will be getting off the bus with another child at a different stop, the bus driver will require a pass. Please bring in or send in a note to the office and we will prepare a bus pass.



**Information** – Both the district and school web sites are great sources of information. E-mail is available for every staff member, accessible through the school web site. Of course, we are always ready to help you by telephone!