



**Miss Engel's Kindergarten Class  
2021 -2022**

**H.C. Johnson Elementary School**

Welcome to the beginning of your child's school year! I am very excited to be your child's teacher and am greatly looking forward to the school year! It is a pleasure meeting all of you, and I look forward to creating a learning partnership that fits the needs of your child. This packet contains a wealth of information about our Kindergarten year. Please read it thoroughly when you have time.

**Daily Specials:**

**Monday - Library Ms. Hogan (Please return Library Books)**

**Tuesday- Music Ms. O'Keefe**

**Wednesday- Gym Mr. Jakalow (Sneakers Please)**

**Thursday - Computers Mr. Goldberg (Inexpensive ear buds in a zip-loc bag labeled with first and last name)**

**Friday- Art Mrs. Ehlers (Feel free to send in a smock)**

## Reading Instruction :

Your child is doing some hard thinking at school and learning more and more that "reading is thinking." The first unit launches with learning about the world of books. Your child is receiving very specific comprehension strategy instruction in a classroom setting known as Reader's Workshop. In this format, your child watches and listens to the teacher read a lot of books while the teacher shares out loud and models what he or she is thinking while he/she reads. Then the teacher asks the children to help in the strategy, and the teacher and children practice using it together. After about 5 to 6 weeks of the teacher releasing more responsibility of the strategy use to the children, each child becomes more independent at using the strategy and begins to use it on his/her own. This year, your child will become proficient in six comprehension strategies throughout the year using a variety of texts and genres of books. The first strategy that our class is currently practicing is called, "Making Connections." This means students connect their background knowledge to the text they are reading. The Purpose of the Strategy: Readers comprehend better when they actively think about and apply their knowledge of the book's topic, their own experiences, and the world around them. When children understand how to connect the text they read to their lives, they begin to make connections between what they read and the larger world. This nudges them into thinking about bigger, more expansive issues beyond their universe of home, school, and neighborhood. You can help your child make connections while they are reading by asking him /her the following questions: What does the book remind you of? What do you know about the book's topic? Does this book remind you of another book?

## **Independent Reading:**

During independent reading time we are teaching decoding and comprehension strategies so that your child can read the words and understand what he/she is reading. In an effort to foster a love for reading and promote the use of strategies students will read their "Just Right" books chosen each week at home each night under parental supervision.

## **Reading Book Bag:**

"Reading Book Bags" will contain books that are chosen to correlate with your child's reading level. Please complete the "Reading Log" contained in the bag each night. Take special care of the bags and books as they will be used in the years to come. Books may be re-read throughout the week. Rereading fosters fluency and confidence. Reading Bags will be sent home on Friday and returned on Thursday of each week. Reading Bags will be sent home the first week of October.

## **Fountas & Pinnel Levels:**

Children are progress monitored in the Winter & Spring. Kindergarten Word List enclosed in this packet. Weekly words are listed on the weekly homework cover sheet. Students should recognize these words by sight. Students are not required to spell words.

## Writing Instruction:

Writer's Workshop includes Narrative Writing, Informational Writing, and Opinion Writing. Students will be guided through mini lessons followed by an independent writing and conferencing time. Children will have writing partners. Please understand that with Writers Workshop not every piece of writing will be published (a final copy with very few errors).

## Fundations:

Includes a multisensory, structured language program. Wilson brings more than a decade of systematic and explicit instruction to the K-3 classroom. Based on the Wilson Reading System principals, Wilson Foundations provides research-based materials and strategies essential to a comprehensive reading, spelling, and handwriting program. Wilson Foundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students will receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic Awareness (Letter sound correlation alphabet picture sheet enclosed)
- Phonics/word study
- High Frequency word study
- Reading Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension Strategies
- Handwriting (Letter formation sheets enclosed)
- Spelling



### **Math Instruction:**

Your child develops readiness skills through various manipulatives and activities. Instruction includes writing and recognizing numbers 0-20, counting to 100, reading calendars, classification, concrete addition and subtraction, measurement, and geometry. We will be using computer resources in the classroom to introduce every lesson. Later in the year, Fast Facts Drills will be introduced to the children to encourage speed and accuracy of the skills. Math tests will be given at the end of each topic and sent home for your review.

### **Science Instruction:**

Bugs, Weather and Climate, Pushes and Pulls, along with Interdependent Relationships.

### **Social Studies Instruction:**

Includes Communities & Rules, Family Culture & Heritage, Neighborhood and Town & Wants and Needs.

### **Health Instruction:**

Family Life, Community Health, Wellness, Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs.

## Homework:

Students will be given homework approximately four times per week. The homework assignments reflect concepts already discussed in class. Homework assignments are rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested). The ENTIRE PACKET will be sent home at the beginning of the week. Children are to complete homework each night and return it to school the next day. Papers will be checked and returned to students daily. Please make sure that your child's first and last names are on each homework assignment. Please have your child write his/her first and last names using both upper and lower case letters. \*\*\*First homework packet will begin Monday, September 27th\*\*\*

## Binders:

Please use the provided binder for any correspondence/ homework being returned to school. Please check and initial the calendar in your child's binder every day. Binders will be checked daily for any notes that you may have for the teacher.



## Attendance, Early Dismissal, and Tardy Entrance:

If your child is out of school, please send a note upon return. If you need to pick up your child early from school, please send in a note. If your child arrives to school late, please sign in at the front desk. If your child is on quarantine, work will be posted on my "Google Classroom." You will receive an email invite to join through your child's Google account. An hour of instruction will be provided by one of the teachers here at Johnson School through a Google Meet.

## Child Care:

If your child attends childcare and has a schedule change ,or is a walk-in, please make sure to send a note in the binder, Notes will be sent to the office and a copy provided to Childcare.

## Conferences, Report Cards, and Evaluations:

Parent conferences are scheduled during the week of Tuesday, November 17th, Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, November 19th. Students will be dismissed at 1:55 on conference days. Please watch the e-Backpack for directions and sign up information.



## Behavior

Students will be rewarded for positive behavior in class. Positive words, stickers, and the prizes are used to encourage good behavior. Concerns will be discussed personally on an individual basis. I consider each incident on a case by case basis according to the infraction of the incident. Loss of privileges will be decided accordingly.





## Birthdays:

Birthdays are wonderful occasions that deserve to be recognized! We will make it special here at school. Birthdays are celebrated! Each child is given a crown to wear. Invitations are not to be passed out in school, as per district policy. Please complete and return the enclosed parent communication sheet which gives permission for your e-mail address to be included in the compiled list to be distributed to the class for any contact such as; parties, play dates, and events. Please make sure printing is clear and precise to ensure delivery of messages.

If you would like to send in a special snack, please do! (If your child has allergies, please feel free to send in a special snack that they can eat. In the past, parents sent in cupcakes that were kept in the nurse's freezer for birthdays.) My only request is that, it be kept simple. Birthday treats will be passed out and eaten in the cafeteria. Some popular birthday snacks include cupcakes, pretzel rods, cookies and munchkins. Please write or e-mail before sending a special treat to school to make sure the date is available. At times, there are duplicate birthdays. At this time, we have 17 students in the class. Keep in mind that there are fewer "tears" if they are all offered the same type of treat (ex: the same flavor cupcake).

I hope tonight painted a picture of our Kindergarten Program.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to attend and be an intricate part of your child's kindergarten year.

I am looking forward to a rewarding school year with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Miss Engel

[clengel@jacksonsd.org](mailto:clengel@jacksonsd.org)