



# Zion Lutheran's Kindergarten Program

Welcome to Kindergarten at Zion Lutheran School. This year will be full of exciting learning experiences for everyone. Your child will be learning a lot at school academically, socially, spiritually, and emotionally. It is important that this learning takes place within a school and classroom that is safe and engaging. Our school and classroom rules and procedures will help to ensure that this year will be a success.

## **Parent Communication**

Communication folders will be sent home daily. These folders will document daily behavior and contain work from the day and additional school/classroom communication (flyers, etc.). I check these folders every morning so please feel free to use these to communicate to me also. Email will also be used for communication (my email is [thanford@zlcs.org](mailto:thanford@zlcs.org)). A weekly newsletter will be emailed every Friday. Reminders/updates will also be emailed. The school website ([zlcs.org](http://zlcs.org)) is a wonderful resource to use throughout the year. Please contact me anytime with questions, comments, or concerns.

## **School Supplies:**

There is a school supply list available on my webpage at [www.zlcs.org](http://www.zlcs.org). Donations of additional classroom supplies will be graciously accepted, as needed. I will include a list of needed supplies in my Friday newsletter.

### **Kid Friendly Clothing:**

Your child is required to wear a school uniform. Please refer to the school handbook (coming soon at [zcls.org](http://zcls.org)) for uniform guidelines. I suggest that you check to see if your child's uniform and shoes are kid friendly before you purchase them. Is the coat zipper tricky? Do the shoes come off too easily? Are the shoestrings too long or too short? Can they take off their pants by themselves to use the restroom? Can they unbuckle their belt? Please be sure to clearly label all backpacks, lunch bags, and all other loose articles of clothing with your child's name.

### **Dismissal**

Please make sure that we know who your child will be going home with. No child will be allowed to go home with a person who is not on the emergency card without prior written permission. Persons picking a student up who are on the emergency card may be asked for identification. Students will be dismissed in front of the ZFC at 2:55 P.M. This will give us a few extra minutes before other students are dismissed. No child may leave without being dismissed by his/her teacher. If you notice your child leaving before the teacher has dismissed him/her please send them back to the teacher. Please understand that this is all for your child's safety.

### **Rules:**

Our Kindergarten rules are

1. Be safe
2. Be respectful
3. Be responsible

In class, I will take the time to make these rules concrete and meaningful to kindergarteners.

## **Behavior Plan**

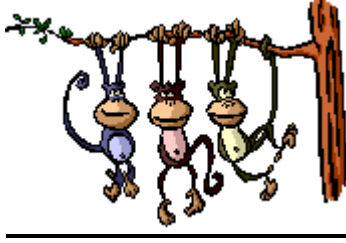
Students will be learning the classroom and playground rules the first weeks of school. Positive behavior and good choices will be rewarded daily. Our kindergarten behavior plan works as follows:

There is a behavior chart hanging in the classroom on which each child has an attached clothespin. Each school day is a new beginning! All clothespins will begin on "Good Day". Students making exceptional choices will move their clip up to "Sunny Day", and then "Over the Rainbow". If a student receives a warning from the teacher and continues to make poor choices, they will move their clip down to "Cloudy Day". Continued bad choices will move down again to "Stormy Day".

\*If your child stays on "Good Day", "Sunny Day", or "Over the Rainbow", please encourage him/her for the positive choices that were made.

\* If your child is on "Cloudy Day" or "Stormy Day" please talk to him/her about the choices that were made and about what he/she could do different next time.

\*\*Chronic misbehavior will warrant a parent conference and/or a conference with the administration. Repeat offenses of the same rule may require a special behavior contract.



### **Recess and Snack:**

We will have a morning snack and recess each day. Please send a nutritious **snack** and drink that your child can open by his/herself. Please do not send candy, cookies, or other desserts for snack. Water is always available to the students. **Recess** will immediately follow snack time. This is a time for children to play together, and develop socially within a less structured environment. Playground rules will be discussed with the class and reminders will be given throughout the year. Anyone choosing to make our playground an unsafe environment will be asked to sit in a recess time-out.



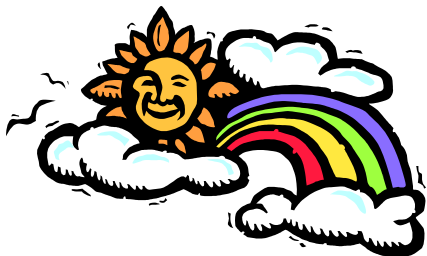
### **Parent Volunteers**

Parent Volunteers are an integral part of our program and I welcome all volunteers. I would like to have weekly volunteers, as well as special event volunteers. Weekly volunteers are those I can count on to come to our classroom once a week in order to prepare curriculum and work with children. If you are interested in volunteering, please look for the volunteer sign up paper located in this packet. Unfortunately siblings are not allowed in the classroom at the time of your visit.

## **Homework:**

I believe that homework is an important part of your child's academic success. I will be sending home a homework folder at the beginning of each week (starting in January). It must be completed and returned on Friday. The homework is designed to reinforce specific academic, developmental, and social skills. In addition, homework will establish a routine for responsible behavior in the future. The homework activities should not take more than five to ten minutes each night. Please allow your child to take their time in order to produce quality work. Students will be rewarded for bringing back their homework folder and completed work on time.

In addition to the homework folder activities, reading should also be practiced each night for 10 minutes. Often families enjoy reading together at bed time. This routine can be enhanced by letting your child show you the letters or words he/she knows on one of the pages you read to him/her. Additionally, parents can ask questions throughout the story to enhance understanding.



Rainbow cards are an at home program. They are a set of systematic steps to help your child to ensure success in kindergarten. The rainbow cards include letters, sounds, sight words, small words (with a cvc pattern), and number recognition. These cards, if practiced nightly for about 5 minutes, have proven successful in the past. Please visit [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) to hear correct letter sounds.

As the children grow and learn, I may send home additional practice pages. These activities are to help your child focus his/her learning on a specific skill.

### **Birthdays**

A birthday is an important day in your child's life, and I would like the students to be able to celebrate at school. Please contact me beforehand to schedule a time to bring a special snack for the class to enjoy. If you bring invitations for a party to school, I ask that you invite everyone in our class.

### **Sharing Day**

On Fridays the students will have an opportunity to share something related to our curriculum theme or the letters that week. The weekly newsletter will inform you of the current theme.

We are all very excited about this new school year. Your kindergartener will be learning and experiencing so many new things. He/she will become a reader, writer, and a mathematician before you know it!  
May God bless this year we have together!!!

*Tamara Hanford  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Zion Lutheran School*