

MAY 11, 2010

DEAR PARENTS,

WE ARE SO EXCITED THAT WE WILL BE SHARING KINDERGARTEN WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY! THIS IS THE FIRST OF MANY LETTERS YOU'LL BE RECEIVING FROM US. WE SENT OUT A LETTER ABOUT EVERY OTHER WEEK TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS IN KINDERGARTEN.

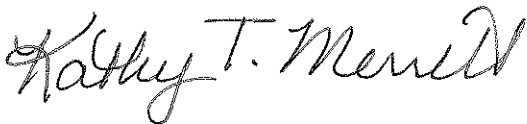
OVER THE SUMMER, WE HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOU TO HELP YOUR CHILD HAVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO "BIG SCHOOL". PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO:

- DRESS HIMSELF OR HERSELF INDEPENDENTLY, INCLUDING TYING SHOES (NO "BUNNY EARS" PLEASE).
- USE THE BATHROOM INDEPENDENTLY, INCLUDING WASHING HANDS AFTERWARD
- SIT AT A TABLE AND EAT FOOD INDEPENDENTLY (GOOD TABLE MANNERS ARE EXPECTED HERE)
- TAKE TURNS (BOARD GAMES ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ENCOURAGE THIS AND MANY OTHER SKILLS)
- ATTEND MASS AND OTHER SIMILAR GATHERINGS, BEING ATTENTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY.

READING, CONVERSING, AND SPENDING TIME TOGETHER, IN GENERAL, IS THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR LIFE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DOING THINGS FOR YOUR CHILD THAT HE/SHE IS CAPABLE OF DOING FOR HERSELF/HIMSELF DIMINISHES THEIR SELF-ESTEEM.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL THE CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN.

SINCERELY-



KATHY MERRITT



MARY NICOLATOS

**SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST 2010-2011**

**YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES TO SCHOOL
ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**

- (1) 4 OUNCE BOTTLE OF WHITE GLUE**
- (1) 8 COUNT FAT MARKERS "CRAYOLA CLASSIC" COLORS**
- (1) 8 COUNT CRAYONS "CRAYOLA CLASSIC" COLORS**
- (10) GLUE STICKS**
- (1) BOX OF KLEENEX TISSUES (AT LEAST A 200 COUNT BOX)**
- (1) ROLL OF PAPER TOWELS**
- (1) STURDY 2 POCKET FOLDER**
- (1) FISKARS SCISSORS WITH METAL BLADES**
- (1) FOLDABLE FOAM MAT**
- (1) CRAYOLA 8 COLOR WATERCOLOR PAINT SET**
- (1) CANISTER OF ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES**
- (1) REAM OF COMPUTER PAPER**

**SUPPLIES WILL NEED TO BE REPLENISHED LATER IN THE SCHOOL
YEAR**

Welcome to Kindergarten!

We look forward to getting to know you and your children. Here are some things we hope will make the adjustment to kindergarten and STM a bit easier.

- **ABSENCE**—Whenever your child is absent, please call the school office in the morning so that we don't worry too much. When your child returns, please send a note, which includes the date(s) of and reason for the absence. These notes must be kept on file in the office.
- **ARRIVAL**—For safety reasons, it's best to drop your child off at the sidewalk by the school's entrance. Safety patrols are in place at 7:35 to help students out of the cars and assist them in getting safely to their destination. We will meet the children in Mulhern Hall at 7:50. Any student who arrives after 8:00 must go first to the office to get a tardy slip to give to the teacher.
- **BOOK ORDERS**—Periodically we will send home order forms from companies that sell books and computer software at very good prices. You are under no obligation to order anything; we do this as a service to provide high-quality low-cost materials for your children. If you choose to place an order, please make your check payable to the name of the book company on the order form for the exact amount.
- **DISMISSAL**—Please send us a note whenever your child's regular dismissal routine will change. For example, if a friend or babysitter is picking up your child, please send in a note and make sure this person has your carpool number. If your child is going home with another school family, please include that family's carpool number in your note. ***Parking and then walking to pick up your child is not allowed.***
- **FOLDERS**—The daily folder is the first and best line of communication between parent and teacher. Folders go home and return to school daily. Please check the folder daily. Any communication you have for anyone in the school or church community can go in the folder and we will rout it where it needs to go.
- **FOOD, ETC.**—We will sometimes ask that you send in a food item for cooking or other items for special projects. We will give you several

days' notice. Of course, if this becomes a problem for you, please let us know in advance of when we need it.

- **HOMEWORK**—We will send a homework folder home every Friday. It should be returned by Wednesday with a picture that your child has drawn and a short story that your child dictates to you or later in the year, possibly, that your child writes. The topic for each week will be included in our bi-weekly newsletters, which can always be found at the kindergarten web site :
<http://teacherweb.com/GA/StThomasMoreSchool/Kindergarten/> . Also, in the front pocket of the folder there will be a sheet describing a variety of math-related activities for you to share with your child. We will spend class time discussing how each family has completed the math activity of the week.
- **LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!**—Then check regularly to be sure the names are still where they should be!
- **LIBRARY**—The children visit the library once in each six-day rotation. Library books are due a week after they arrive at home. Watch the More News for information about the Book Fairs in the fall in spring.
- **LUNCH**—Children may bring their lunch or a pre-ordered lunch is available in the school cafeteria. Lunches are ONLY purchased online two months in advance. Hot and cold options are available. Milk and other drinks are not included in the price of lunch.
- **MILK**—Low-fat chocolate or white milk can be ordered in August for the entire school year. The cost was \$35 this year. We'll let you know what the price will be for next year.
- **NEWS**—The school newsletter, the More News, is sent home electronically on alternate Tuesdays. We will send home a kindergarten newsletter approximately bi-weekly. Reading these and other notices will keep you well informed of what's happening at STM.
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**—When we wear winter uniforms, the children who do not have athletic shoes as part of their uniforms may wear sneakers on P.E. days.
- **RAIN**—Because the kindergarten classrooms are located away from many of our daily destinations, please keep a raincoat or poncho (labeled with a name, of course!) in your child's book bag every day. No umbrellas please!!!

- RECYCLE—Wait till you see what we can do with toilet paper tubes, yogurt cups, fabric scraps, etc. You send in the (clean) trash. We'll send home the treasure! 😊 We also use small toys (like Happy Meal stuff) to fill our prize baskets.
- REST TIME—Until most of the children are six years old, we are required to have a 30-minute rest. Few children actually sleep, but most are tired and they are expected to rest quietly on their mats. We usually phase it out in January.
- SHOW & TELL—The children may bring in something to show their classmates on Wednesdays. This may include toys, but should not be something too valuable or fragile. Toys may not come to school any other day. Books are welcome any time.
- SNACKS—Each family is asked to provide a snack for the class for a week or two. Please remember to keep the snacks healthful. Include any paper products or utensils that will be needed to eat the snacks. We'll need enough 5-7 oz. paper cups for the entire class for the week for water, too. If your child's birthday doesn't fall within your snack week, you are welcome to send in a treat on that special day.
- YOU!!!—School policy prevents regular ongoing (daily or weekly) volunteering in your child's classroom; however we look forward to your involvement in many ways. We'll ask you to sign up as room parents and to help us organize and implement activities during the year. We also look forward to anything you would like to share with us. For example, if there is a skill, talent, hobby, or part of your employment that you think would be of interest to kindergarteners, please let us know. Be aware that we make these opportunities available to both classes, in case that impacts how you might like to share your specialty. Also please be aware that in order to volunteer more than once in the classroom, you must attend the Volunteer training session. Watch the More News for information about time and place.

We can hardly wait!