



Goldwood Primary School

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Jennifer Norman, Principal

On Our Way to Kindergarten

Message from Michael G. Shoaf, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

A Milestone Moment

The first year of school is a milestone and an exciting adventure for the entire family. Kindergarten is the time that children embark on a lifetime of learning and it is a critical transition year from pre-school to the primary grades. The Rocky River School District's commitment to educational excellence begins at the very start of your child's school experience and I am confident that kindergarten will be a happy and enriching experience.

One of the keys to a successful kindergarten experience is the understanding and involvement of our Goldwood families. Please take a moment to read through the helpful information contained in this "On Our Way to Kindergarten" packet. It will provide you with a better understanding of the Goldwood kindergarten program and will answer many questions you might have.

The experienced and caring teaching staff and faculty at Goldwood Primary School have created a warm and nurturing learning environment that focuses on the individual needs of each child. They are ready to work with you to ensure that the kindergarten experience is a happy and successful one for you and your child.

Again, welcome to kindergarten.

REGISTRATION

Children who will be five years of age on or before September 30 are eligible for admission to kindergarten in August of that school year.

SCHOOL HOURS

Morning or afternoon session assignments will be mailed to parents in June. Teacher assignments will be mailed in August. Punctuality and regular school attendance are important in the development of solid school habits. AM kindergarten begins at 9:05 and runs until 11:50, and PM kindergarten is from 12:35-3:20.

SCHOOL FORMS

Children will be assigned to a class only upon the completion and return of the required registration forms and documents.

Prior to the opening of school, parents will receive an Emergency Medical Authorization form. The purpose of this form is to authorize provision for emergency treatment of a child who is injured or becomes ill when the parents/guardians cannot be reached.



WORKING TOGETHER

Parents and teachers need to work together to form a partnership in helping a child learn from school experiences. Parents may have valuable information to share about their child which helps him/her learn better. Teachers appreciate being alerted to home situations which may affect the child's school performance.

Parents should encourage their child to participate actively, to cooperate with others, and to accept responsibility. By discussing school activities, school friends, and new things learned, the parents greatly influence their child's attitude towards school.

Taking advantage of parent-teacher conferences, the open house, personal visits, and reading written reports will provide opportunities for parents to become familiar with the school and their child's teacher. These activities also provide ways for parents to meet other parents, to discuss common concerns, and to become actively involved in their child's schooling.

PARENTS CAN HELP

During kindergarten, children are beginning to mature mentally, as well as physically. They are beginning to think, reason, and are curious. They need answers to their questions. Their thoughts are becoming organized and are being expressed in words. Words are used to acquire skills and to identify and solve problems. Understanding and applying words and ideas are essential to gaining knowledge. Help your child by doing the following:

- ✚ listen to what he/she has to say
- ✚ appreciate his/her efforts with creative materials
- ✚ reinforce specific skills
- ✚ read often to him/her
- ✚ help him/her to use correct speech patterns
- ✚ select entertainment that is suited to his/her age level
- ✚ take him/her to interesting places and provide a variety of experiences

REPORTING TO PARENTS

A parent-teacher conference is held in the fall. Additional conferences will be scheduled as requested. Report cards are sent home three times a year to inform the parents of their child's personal, social, physical and academic progress.

Please check your child's book bag daily for important notes, reminders and papers. Also, look for the "Weekender" newsletter, which is usually send home each Friday. This will ensure that you and your child will be aware of homework, field trips and other special events.

A HEALTHY AND SAFE START

Food plays an important part in a child's life. A balanced diet helps the child to grow stronger and have energy to work and play. A well-nourished child is more receptive to learning. Adequate rest is important for good health. Most five-year old children need ten to twelve hours of sleep each night. Some children still may need a nap or rest time during the day.

Dress your child to suit the weather. Label boots, raincoats, and other outdoor clothing. A book bag or backpack is essential to carry papers and library books. Be sure it is of adequate size to accommodate library books and part projects. Clothing, including boots, should be large enough and simple enough so your child can manage all clothing independently.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The Learning Resource Services Department offers a comprehensive range of services including guidance, testing, tutoring, special classes, health, speech and hearing, and child study evaluation. The school psychologist conducts individual evaluations and offers recommendations to parents and teacher concerning children having special needs.

SAFETY

Preventing an accident is part of the practice of good health. Teach safety by helping your child to learn:

- ✚ to cross streets safely
- ✚ to be extra careful in bad weather
- ✚ policemen are friends
- ✚ to obey bus drivers
- ✚ to avoid talking to or riding with strangers
- ✚ what to do in an emergency
- ✚ his/her address and phone number

HEALTH PROGRAM

The health program, closely coordinated with the total school program, strives for the complete mental and physical growth and development of the child. It includes:

- ✚ a nurse assigned to the Rocky River City Schools by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- ✚ periodic screenings, including vision, postural, and hearing with notification to parents when problems are found
- ✚ consultation by the nurse during the kindergarten registration

The Coordinator of Learning Resource Services is available to confer with school personnel and parents when specific strategies or materials are requested for use with children.

The speech language therapist is available on a referral basis for diagnostic testing and for on a referral basis for diagnostic testing which have been identified.

The school health services include health screenings, a first aid clinic, maintenance of school health and agency support from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

MESSAGE FROM MS. NORMAN PRINCIPAL, GOLDWOOD PRIMARY

The teachers and I are looking forward to meeting your child and to ongoing communication with you. Parent participation is vital during these formative years. We urge all parents to become involved as partners with us during this educational journey. Welcome to our Goldwood family!

.....A Caring Environment with Successful Students

