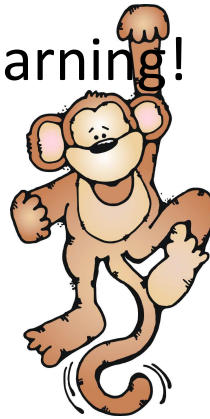


WILD!

about learning!



O'Loughlin Elementary School

Kindergarten Handbook



Welcome!

We are so excited to welcome you to our O'Loughlin Elementary family! We look forward to having your child in school next fall, and we want to make this transition to school a happy, easy one for you and your child.

Your child will learn so much in Kindergarten. Our students learn more than just the alphabet and coloring...so much more! By the end of the year, your child will be reading, writing and using a computer. We learn to add, subtract, and count to 100 and higher. We also learn to share, be kind, and to enjoy learning from the world around us.

To enter Kindergarten next fall, your child needs to turn 5 on or before August 31, 2014 We want all new kindergarteners to be ready to learn in school, so if you have any concerns that your 5 year old isn't ready, please ask. This handbook also contains a few checklists you can use to prepare your child for this adventure called Kindergarten!

We hope you enjoy your time at O'Loughlin Elementary and please always feel free to call the office at 623-2510, or visit our website at www.o'loughlin.usd489.com. We are so thrilled you and your child are joining us, and we look forward to getting to know your family.

Nancy Harman, Principal
Krystal Randa, Kindergarten Teacher
Rainell Goodale, Kindergarten Teacher
Nancy Wertenberger, Kindergarten Teacher

O'Loughlin Elementary * 1401 Hall St., Hays
623-2510 * fax 623-2518

Before the first day...

If you're not sure your child is ready for Kindergarten, you can work on these things before the big first day! All children develop differently, but these are some common things we hope our new kindergarteners can do.

*Say his or her first and last name.

*Take care of basic needs on their own (restroom, tissues, washing hands, etc.)

*Try to write his or her first name.

*Tell an adult when help is needed or something is wrong.

*Follow two-step directions.

*Know the teacher's name.

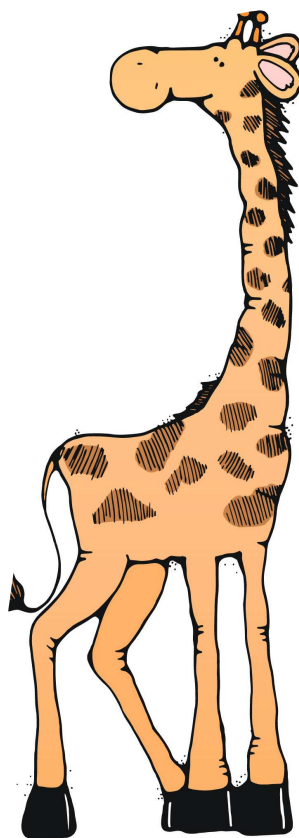
*Take turns and share.

*Read often. (You read to them, and they pretend to read to you).

*Count to 10.

*Sing the alphabet.

*Zip and button clothing; Attempt to tie his or her shoes.



What We Learn

One thing is for sure...Kindergarten is not what it used to be!
 Here are some of the skills your child will learn based on the
 Common Core Standards, which Kansas and 47 other states use
 as academic guidelines.

<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Understand features of print: left to right, top to bottom *ID the parts of a book *Name and write upper & lower case letters and sounds *Rhyming words *Break words into syllables *Isolate beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words *Substitute/add sounds in words *Long and short vowel sounds *Read high frequency words *Read emergent level text for purpose and understanding *Answer questions about and retell stories *ID character, setting, and events in a story *ID author and illustrators roles *Compare stories *Write a variety of stories ranging from research papers to personal narratives *Spell simple words phonetically *Write multiple sentences with proper spacing, capitalization, punctuation and content *Recognize uses for nouns, verbs; use singular and plural *Use inflections and affixes correctly (-ed, -ing, un-, -pre) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Count to 100 by ones and tens *Count on from a given number *Write numbers 0-20 *Represent objects with a written number & answer how many *Count with one number and one object at a time *Understand counting means one more *ID if a group of objects is greater than, less than, or equal to another group *Compare two written numbers *Addition and subtraction word problems within 10 *Take apart numbers to 10 in more than one way *Find the number to make 10 when given a number *Add and subtract fluently within 5 *Put together and take apart numbers up to 19 (18=8+10) *Understand tens and ones *Describe/compare/contrast measurable features of objects *Put objects into categories and sort those categories by count *Name shapes *Use position: below, beside, etc *ID 2 and 3 dimensional shapes *Use language to describe shapes similarities and differences (corners, vertices, sides, etc) *Create and model shapes in environment and in other shapes

Ready to Enroll

To enroll your child at O'Loughlin, we need the following paperwork turned in to the office. You can turn it in at Kindergarten RoundUp or by stopping by during normal school hours.

- *Immunization Record

- *Completed physical examination forms

- *Call the transportation department (623-2560) if you live more than 2.5 miles from school and you want your child to ride the bus.

Our School Day

Students can begin arriving at 7:40, unless they ride the bus or eat breakfast, which is served from 7:30—8:00. When students arrive, if they aren't eating breakfast, they report to the playground where they are supervised. Our first bell rings at 7:55, and the second at 8:00. Students arriving after the 8:00 bell are considered tardy.

At the end of the day, the bell rings at 3:00. Students can ride the bus, be picked up outside the Kindergarten outside doors, or go to our after-school program. Before the school year begins, the Kindergarten teachers will ask how your child is to leave after school.

If your child will attend the after-school program, there is separate paperwork and fee information we can get for you.

It is very important your child is dressed for the weather every day. We have recess outside whenever the temperature and wind chill are above 20 degrees. Coats, hats and mittens should be labeled with your child's name so the items are not lost.

In warmer weather, children may not wear flip-flops on PE days.

Safe and Secure

If your child will leave school a different way, you must send a written note or call the office. For everyone's safety, we cannot just listen to how your child wants to go home!

If your child is sick, please call the office between 7:30 and 9 a.m. If you know ahead of time, you may also talk with your child's teacher. If we do not hear from you, your child will be marked Unexcused.

You are always welcome to visit O'Loughlin Elementary! We enjoy having parents volunteer or visit, and it means a lot to your child that you took the time for him or her. All visitors must enter through the front doors and check in at the office. After you present your driver's license, you will be given a printed tag to wear in the building.

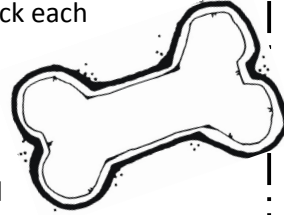
Our school is monitored at all times by numerous video cameras to help ensure the safety of all students, staff and visitors.

Throughout the year, we practice school-wide fire and tornado drills, as well as various safety drills.

Time to Eat!

Our Kindergarteners love to eat! Your child can have breakfast at school, and either eat the served lunch or one brought from home. Our Kindergarteners also have one snack each day.

We are a peanut-aware school, like every building in USD 489. Peanuts and any items containing peanuts may never come to school because of children with allergies. Please do not send any of these items; allergies for some kids can be very severe.



Breakfast and lunch are served every day. The meal fees have not been determined for next year yet, but will be available in August. You can pay for your child's meals by sending payment to the office, or online. Reminder notes will be sent home when your child's account is low. If you'd like to eat lunch with your child, please let us know by 9 a.m.

All students are asked to send a box of cereal, crackers, etc. for snack time. Your child's teacher will have a monthly snack calendar for bringing afternoon snacks, which can be fruit, pretzels, vegetables, etc.

Your child can have milk with their afternoon snack, though it is an additional fee per semester. These fees will be determined by enrollment in August.



The Free and Reduced Lunch program may be able to help with your child's breakfast and lunch fees. The application will be available at enrollment.

Special Classes!

All O'Loughlin students enjoy many special classes every week. Our Kindergarteners love going to art, library, PE, computers and music. Your child's teacher will let you know the scheduled days of each special. These classes have their own curriculum and goals.

In library your child can check out one book twice per week. If the book is damaged or lost, your family is responsible for the cost of a replacement. In computers, the students learn basic computer and keyboarding skills. The computer teacher also uses math and phonics programs that correspond to what students are learning during class. Our music class teaches students the joys of song and instruments, and prepares them for the Winter Sing and Spring Sing concerts that take place during the year.

Health Information

Good health and nutrition are important to your child's success in school. Students should be well-rested and dressed for the weather each day.

All students enrolled in a Kansas school must submit proof of immunizations when beginning Kindergarten. Your child's doctor can give you the documentation needed; we will make a copy and return the original to you. If your family has a medical or religious exemption for immunizations, you must also have the proper paperwork on file with our nurse. These are laws set by our state and help everyone stay as healthy as possible.

If your child needs to receive medication at school, there is a procedure that must be followed. All medication should be in its original container with label, and we must have a Medication Request form filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian. All medication should be turned into the office or nurse—students are NOT allowed to carry any medication (including over-the-counter medicines or cough drops) with them.

Some medications, including Ritalin or Dexedrine, are controlled substances and can only be brought in by parents. These must come from the pharmacy in their original bubble pack.

We appreciate your support in following our medication guidelines. We want to protect your child and the person giving the medication. Medication given incorrectly can be very dangerous and is an entirely preventable situation.



All O'Loughlin Elementary families are invited to join our O'Loughlin PTA. The goal of our PTA is to support and help our children's school.

Our PTA meets at least four times per year, and all families are encouraged to attend. We encourage all parents support our PTA by volunteering at one of our events (cookie dough sales, class parties, Family Fun Night, Family Literacy Night, etc.). Notes are sent home with the children about meetings and events, and we also have a monthly electronic newsletter.

All money raised by PTA benefits the students. In the past, we have purchased playground equipment, library books, computer software, and each fall the teachers are given a small grant to use for classroom purchases.

O'Loughlin classes celebrate Halloween, Valentine's Day and have an end of the year celebration. Volunteering to plan and/or bring supplies is always appreciated by the teachers, so please consider which party you would like to help with.

PTA collects BoxTops for Education and McDonald's receipts. We send these in to the respective companies and earn money and/or items for our school. Please start saving these now! We like to sponsor contests for the classes to see who can bring in the most BoxTops.

Several times per year, PTA hosts dine-out nights at various restaurants. These businesses agree to donate back a portion of their sales to our school, so it's an easy way to help our kids and not have to cook for a night!

Traffic and Safety

All O'Loughlin students are dismissed at the same time each day, and because of the location of our school, it's very important that all families follow these traffic and safety rules. Most of our kindergarten students are picked up at the classroom doors on the west side of the building. Students stay with their teacher while waiting for their ride.

In front of the school (Hall Street), please do not park in the circle drive. We have a crossing guard there every day to help children cross the street safely. Please pull up to the curb to pick up your child. Do NOT stop in the middle of the street. We will NOT allow any children to enter the street to get to your car.

Behind the school (Victory Drive), we also have a crossing guard. The parking lot on the south side of the building is used for student arrival and dismissal; however, no crossing guard is on duty at this location.



Before the first day...

Once again, we thank you so much for your interest in O'Loughlin Elementary.

If you have any other questions or comments, please let us know and we'll work together to get it figured out. We are here not only for your child, but also for your family.