

# Mrs. Hassell's Kindergarten Class

2009-2010

## Welcome!!!

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Marilyn Hassell. I am beginning my 34th year as a teacher and the past 30 have been at Christ the King. I graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in early childhood education. I live in Nashville with my husband Warner and we have two daughters Rebecca and Meredith. Both are graduates of Christ the King School.

Recently, I have been honored with the following awards: In 2000, I was named Junior Achievement Elementary Teacher of the Year. In 2001, I received the Bronze Leadership Award for contributions to Junior Achievement. In the spring 2003, I received the Excellence in Teaching Award at Christ the King School. In 2005, I was honored to be listed in the ninth edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year and helping him/her to achieve his/her full potential.

## Parent/Teacher Relationship

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through notes, newsletters, telephone calls, progress reports, and parent-teacher conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You may call me at school and leave a message on my personal voice mail box at anytime (783-0244 ext. 362), send me a note, or my email address is [marilyn.hassell@ctk.org](mailto:marilyn.hassell@ctk.org).

## Parent Participation

Throughout the school year, there will be a variety of special classroom activities and celebrations. I encourage you to attend these functions when possible and to support them by sending needed supplies or treats. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school.

# School Attendance

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. I can't emphasize this point enough!!! Most kindergarten learning activities are group oriented and involve interaction with classmates. Therefore, it is next to impossible to make up work at home. Please view school as a priority, and see to it that your child attends everyday except in cases of illness or emergency. There is a copy of my excused absence form on the kindergarten web page for your use when your kindergartener has been absent to inform the school. <http://www.ctk.org/school/classpages/k/excuseform.pdf>

# Changes in Transportation

If you wish for your child to go home a different way than usual, you must send a written note. Do not rely on your child to tell me this information, because 5 year olds often become confused and relay messages incorrectly. **If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method (that includes After Care).**

# Discipline/ Conduct

A letter explaining the behavior plan will go home with each child. Parents should read and discuss the rules with your child and then sign and return the bottom part of the letter.

# Outdoor Recess

The children will be going out for recess everyday unless it is raining or extremely cold. For the most part, if your child is well enough to be at school, he/she is well enough to participate in outdoor recess, if properly dressed. In fact, the germs that cause colds thrive more readily in the heated indoor air and it is beneficial to go outside and get some fresh air.

# Label Clothing

**Please label** coats, jackets, sweaters, fleeces, hats, backpacks, lunchboxes, etc. with your child's name. It is easier to get things back to the owners if there is a name on it.

# Extra Change of Clothing

Please send in an extra change of clothing and underwear with your child's name marked on each piece. Sometimes accidents happen and it is very helpful to have this at school when such occasions arise. You may put the clothing in a large zip-lock bag to be kept in their backpack this year. Girls need to wear shorts under their jumpers.

# Backpacks

Your child will need his/ her backpack every day because it makes it much easier to bring things home from school. Remember no rollers. Also, the backpack needs to be able to hold the B.E.E. binder.

# Sleeping Bags

Your child will bring their bag home each Friday for you to laundry over the weekend. Please return it on the first day of school the following week. We have no extras if forgotten.

# Money

On occasion it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information written on it:

- Your child's first and last name
- The amount of money
- The purpose for the money (book money, lunch/snack money, etc.)
- Teacher's name
- Place in Bee Book Money Pouch

With 24 kids to keep track of and several reasons to collect money, this helps me out tremendously and reduces the likelihood of errors.

# Snack Time

Every day we will have a 20 minute snack time. Your child may purchase a snack/drink either through the cafeteria or they may bring it from home.

# Lunch

Our class eats lunch at 11:30-12:00 each day. If lunch money is sent to school, please send it in the BEE book money pouch in a marked envelope.

# Newsletter

A weekly newsletter will be sent home on Fridays to keep you informed about what is happening in our class. It will also be available and updated weekly on my Kindergarten Class Web Page:

<http://www.ctk.org/school/classpages/k/k1.html>

# Library

Our class will visit the library once a week. Your child will check out a book when we visit the library and return it the following week. If your child forgets to return the book, they will not be allowed to check out a new book until it is returned.

# Art Class

We go to art class once a week. Your child will need to bring an old t-shirt that is able to cover their uniforms. It will be kept in their cubby.

# AR tests

Our Accelerated Reading Program encourages all students to...read, read, read! AR tests usually begin after Spring Break. I sit with each child at the computer and read the test to them off of the screen. Progress reports will be sent home after each child takes his/ her test. Please keep in mind that the goal is to check for comprehension and it also gets students use to the AR program before they begin 1<sup>st</sup> grade. For your child to take an AR test please send a note with the name of the book you think they are ready to be tested on.

# Book Orders

Your child will be bringing home a form to order books about once a month. If you wish to order, simply fill out the form and send a check made out to the book company in an envelope and place in the Bee Book money pouch. These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their child at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on

books, I earn bonus points which are used to purchase books for classroom use. This is a win-win situation because you get quality literature at a low price and you are helping to provide quality literature for the classroom. Of course, you are never under any obligation to order.

## Highlights Magazines

An order form for a magazine called "Highlights" will be sent home twice a year to see if you would like to subscribe. Even if you do not want to subscribe, please mark "No" and return the form back because points are given for the number of forms returned, not for how many subscribe. However, it is a great magazine and I highly encourage you to subscribe if you do not already.

## Parties

We will have the following parties this year

Halloween                      Mardi Gras (special snack)

Christmas                      Egg Hunt

Valentine's Day              End of the Year Buddy Picnic

Our room parents will contact your for help with refreshments, paper products, etc for these parties.

## Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays here at school, but they must be kept simple. Birthdays are special occasions for young children. If your child wishes, he/she may bring treats (cookies, cupcakes or some other small treat work the best) for the class on his/her birthday. Please send a note a day or two in advance, so I can give you an exact number of children in the class. **If your child has a summer birthday, you may like to celebrate their half-year date.** Remember no invitations to parties will be handed out at school.

## Friday Folders

Each Friday your child will bring their weekly classroom work home in their Friday folder maintained in the back of the B.E.E. Book. Important notes from school will also be included. Review all materials. Remove all materials before returning the folder back to school the following Monday. There is a section holding items that should be returned to school and a separate section of classroom work that remains at home. Please sign the folder beside the appropriate date before returning to school.

# B.E.E. Books

These notebooks help keep us organized. The three-ring binder houses a homework folder, newsletters, school handbook, and other items that assist with communication between home and school. B.E.E. stands for Bring Everything Everyday.

# Homework

Each night your student will come home with a homework page for you to work on together. Please sign the parent line and have your student sign their line as well. This will allow you to have some quality time working with your child on things we are working on in the classroom. This will be checked daily by me to see that the assignment has been completed. In September, your child will start receiving a baggy holding sight words each week to be practiced at home.

# Grading Scale

In kindergarten, students will not receive a progress report at the end of the first nine weeks. Conferences will be scheduled to discuss your child's progress. An example of the progress report used in Kindergarten is available on the web site for your review at: <http://www.ctk.org/school/classpages/k/k1.html>

Please note that kindergarten students do not receive interim report cards. They only receive progress reports at the end of the second, third, and fourth nine week periods.

# Field Trips

We will take several field trips during the school year. In order to make field trips a safe, learning experience, there are several things I will ask of my parent chaperones:

- In order to give the kindergarten students proper supervision, younger siblings may not attend field trips.
- If you planned to go on our field trip but have to cancel, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can make other arrangements for the group of students that you would have supervised.
- If you plan to go on the field trip with us, you will need to supervise other children in addition to your own.
- Since not all parents can go on every trip, please do not purchase souvenirs, food, etc for other children in your group.
- All children must use child booster seats in your car. No child may sit in the front seat.
- You must have a Green Diocese Insurance Information Form on file in the school office.

### Scheduled Field Trips for This Year

- Morning Glory Apple Orchard/ Johnny Appleseed
- Gentry Farms/ Pumpkin Patch
- Children's Theatre/ by bus/

## Speakers/Special Guests

We have several guests during the school year to share information about their professions. If you or anyone you are acquainted with would like to share, please contact me and we will see what can be worked out. Examples of speakers that are already scheduled: Fireman, Police Officer, Mail Carrier, Dentist, Junior Achievement, Native American Program, Clay Lady and Mother's Day projects.

## All About Me

Each week one child is featured on this bulletin board. You will receive a schedule early in the year. In the Friday folder prior to your child's week, you will be sent a questionnaire to fill out about your child. This will also have what other items are needed to be sent in for their special week. Cat in the Hat will go home with this person. You can take photos and journal Cat's visit at your house to share when he returns.

## Character Program

Each week two children are chosen alphabetically to have lunch with Dr. Gebhardt. For this special recognition, they receive a certificate about their unique characteristics, a holy card, and a certificate for free ice cream.

## Mass

Each week we will attend mass with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddies. Please send money for a **mass collection in an envelope**. Your contribution will be part of the overall class contribution to the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

## School Wide Collections

Each classroom has a special container for collection of Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education. Please send in by your child as you collect them.

# Service Projects

We will be supporting a program named **Soles4Souls** during January collection time. This is a Nashville based charity that collects shoes and distributes them to people in need around the world. We will also participate in the "Cards from Kids" campaign. This involves sending Christmas cards to local nursing homes and homeless shelters. We will also participate in the school wide service projects during the school year.

# Volunteers or Visitors

Each time you come to school during the school day you must sign in at the office and receive a visitor sticker.

# Early Dismissal Days

On early dismissal days students do not eat lunch and are dismissed at 12 noon.

# Conclusion

I would just like to say that I am looking forward to a great year working with your child! I would also like to suggest that you save this letter for future reference. Thank-you in advance for your concern and support throughout the year!!!