



August 27, 2018

Dear Families,

A warm welcome to all our kindergarteners and their families! I hope you had a great summer and are ready for this year's learning adventure. Kindergarten is a time for children to expand their love of learning, their general knowledge, their ability to get along with others, and their interest in reaching out to the world. We will create a nurturing environment to help you and your child have a successful year. While kindergarten marks an important transition, it is important that children still get to be children. Kindergarten life is sweet with all the fun and exciting activities. I am looking forward to meeting you and getting started.

My name is Edie Linton and I will be your kindergarten teacher. Here is a little bit of information about me to help us get to know each other. I look forward to learning more about you soon.

I have been teaching for somewhere around twenty years. My first three years I taught preschool at a University of Michigan Center and the rest here at the Open school. I have taught kindergarten through third grade during my time at AA Open. Also, I have two children that attend school here.

I am a graduate of Kalamazoo College and Vanderbilt University. I enjoy reading, running, walking my dog, and spending time at the beach with family.

I hope you will see me as a partner in your child's education. Our classroom is a learning community. We (children, parents, and teachers) all need to work together to help everyone have a successful year.

***Here is some information that will help get us started this year:***

- We try to have a day before school starts to see the classroom and meet the teacher. The classroom may not be entirely ready, but I will be there on August 29 from 4:30-6:00 pm. I hope to see you there.
- On September 4th, the first day of school, parents are invited to stay in the classroom with their child for the first ½ hour if they wish to ease the transition. Then parents can enjoy refreshments provided by the Coordinating Council in the media center.
- Parents are certainly welcome in the classroom, and we will soon set up regular opportunities for visits and volunteers. Once we have had a chance to set up the routines and procedures with the students, we will be asking for parent help in the class at various times during the day.
- My classroom is Room #233. You should enter the building after the first bell rings. The doors that you will come into are straight up the sidewalk from the parking lot (on the Red Oak side of the building). You walked towards the front door of the building and the outside door is door #3.

- When school is out, the children will be walked to the bus, Child Care, or wait by the outside classroom door to be picked up.
- **Please let me know your child's pick-up schedule on the first day of school.**
- It is a good idea for students to have a backpack to carry things home. I also suggest that students have a change of clothes in the backpack. In case of accidents, students prefer having their own clothes. Please label everything.
- **Also, please put in their backpack an index card with the following information:** an after-school schedule for each day of the week including an address and phone number if the destination is somewhere other than home or AAOS child care, and your home address and phone number. When a child is anxious about the end of the school day, this makes it much easier for us to quickly share correct information.
- One of the big concerns for parents at the beginning of the year is the school bus. After a few days everything falls into place easily. Children go to regular bus stops and ride with other students. Throughout the year, please let me know, preferably in writing, if there are any changes in your child's schedule. I will make sure they get on their usual bus unless I hear differently from a parent. Bus drivers will not let students change schedule unless they have a note signed in the office.
- Most days we will begin with a class meeting. Each morning, weather permitting, we will have an outdoor recess. Send your child prepared to be comfortable playing outside.
- We'd like to serve a snack each day, something simple like crackers or fruit. It helps the students feel more comfortable and is a valuable social experience. Parents provide the snack; we can discuss this further on curriculum night. Please let me know right away about allergies. Those students will bring their own snack. Until a snack schedule is ready, it would be helpful if some families would send in some fresh fruit or vegetables.

I am looking forward to getting to know both you and your children this year.

Please call or e-mail with any questions or concerns. I look forward to a year filled with new and exciting learning experiences for all of us.

See you soon.

Eddie Linton

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