



**PARENT
MEETING**

2023 - 2024

Ms. Jenkins

Lisa.Jenkins@houstonisd.org

ms. jenkins'

KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING

Arrivals:

- The bell will ring, and the school entry doors will be open at 7:30 (1st bell) every morning; your child is tardy after 7:40. If your child is late, please take him/her to the front office and get a tardy slip before entering the classroom. In addition, if your child is arriving after 7:50 you will also need to sign them in at the front office. If you happen to arrive early, you are more than welcome to wait outside of the entry door your child goes through.

Absences:

- Please email excused absence notes within 3 days of your child's absence. Please include the reason for the absence and dates gone from school, as well as your student's ID. All emails must include your child's legal name. If your child is absent for 3 consecutive days, you will need to bring a doctor's note to return. You can bring a doctor's note, but please also email. I will forward it along to the registrar.
- Attendance is taken at 9:30 AM. If your child is not present at that time, they will be counted absent for the whole day.
- If your child has a morning doctor appointment of any kind, please let me know and you can attach a doctors note, if needed. This will erase the absence..
- If you are picking up your child early from school, please sign your child out in the front office first. They will give you a pink slip to give to me before your child can go home.

Dismissal:

- I will dismiss in the front courtyard by the flagpoles at 2:50 each day.
- I will release your child to you by calling out his/her name, please DO NOT leave with your child without my knowledge.
- You may park and walk to pick up your child from our designated area or use the carpool line.
- Communicate with your child about after school arrangements. If your child is going home with a friend, please email me, call the office, or send a note.
- If your child's dismissal is different, please write an email or call the front office. If your child attends after school care, please call the after-school program as well so they will not be waiting or looking for your child.

Schedule: (Copy Attached)

- Lunch is 10:30-11:03AM. School lunches are available for purchase each day through HISD. Students have a lunch card that I will keep in class. You can load money on your child's lunch card online at schoolcafe.com. Please email me for their student ID number, if needed. If your child is bringing a lunch from home, please make sure to practice opening and closing items at home so they are comfortable in the cafeteria. We ask that parents do not join their child for lunch until after the 1st 6 weeks.

Folders:

- Monday Folder - (WUES folder) Please return every Tuesday with any papers that need to be signed and returned.
- Friday Conduct Folders - will be sent home every Friday with present weeks' conduct report along with daily graded work. Please keep work at home, sign conduct report, and return on Monday. If there are any major discipline problems throughout the week, I will contact you the day of to make sure you are aware. If there is any incomplete work, that work will be labeled with an "I" and will be in the folder. Incomplete work will need to be done at home and sent back to school.
- Homework Folder - (Spiral inside) will be sent home on Mondays with the weeks' homework inside. Please keep the folder at home and return with completed homework on Fridays. Instructions will be inside the folder. We will email you to let you know when homework will begin. Homework will begin at a later date.
- Book Bag Books - (Found inside Book Buddy Bag) will be sent home Mondays (sometimes Tuesday/Wednesday). Please return every Friday. This includes a book that your child can read at an independent level, and a folder for parents to document the books being read each week. If you need the weekend to read books more thoroughly that is allowed too.

Kindergarten Curriculum:

- Language Arts:

- a. HMH Into Reading: HMH Into Reading Program incorporates reading, vocabulary, foundational skills, writer's workshop and small group instruction. This curriculum introduces the students to genre study, story elements, phonemic awareness, and different styles of writing.

- b. Sight Words - students are introduced to non-decodable HFW throughout the year. By the end of kindergarten, they should recognize over 100 sight words with automaticity. These lists have been provided and an assessment for each 6 weeks will go home with your child's report card.

- c. Book Bag Books – Weekly Book Bags: A home-school connection to strengthen reading skills.

- d. Literacy Stations - ABC/word study, writer's workshop, puzzles, write the room, creation station, listening center, library and computer workstation. Workstations take place while I conduct small group instruction.

- e. Wordly Wise - Vocabulary and listening skills.

- f. Reading Groups – Small group instruction using leveled books, decodable readers and incorporating the HMH Reading Group Lessons.

- Math:

- a. Calendar (daily) – covers several math skills

- b. Math Journals - strategies for solving word problems.

- c. Math Workstations - hands on learning and reviewing skills

- d. Go Math! – Multiple instructional approaches aligned with

- assessments that are designed to help student's successfully master the TEKS.

- Science and Social Studies:

- o Science and Social Studies are taught through lessons that revolve on a weekly theme or unit. In Science, the student is challenged to explore his environment through topics such as the five senses, seasons and weather, living and non-living things, and plant and animal lifecycles.

- a. Texas Science Fusion – Science program designed for building inquiry, STEM, and optimized learning for our classroom. Our textbook develops important critical thinking skills.

- o In Social Studies, the student will recognize responsibilities and roles in the family, at school, and in his larger community.

- These topics vary and some included are family and holiday traditions, community helpers, fire safety, state symbols, etc.

Writing - Morning Journals: Comprehensive primary writing that includes sentence stems given each morning. Teachers will hold writing conferences throughout the year with each child as they begin to write. In your Parent Meeting folder, you will find an extra writing spiral. This is yours to keep to informally practice any handwriting skills at home.

Testing:

Universal screening no longer takes place in kindergarten. Students are encouraged to test to qualify for the GT program. Once your child has tested into the program, they will remain in the program. Testing will take place in the fall. You are always welcome to reach out to our GT/Testing Coordinator: Angela Crowley (ACrowle1@houstonisd.org)

- Vanguard Program (Gifted & Talented) – Qualification criteria is used from the following categories:
 - Achievement Test scores
 - Ability Test scores
 - Teacher Recommendation
 - Report Card scores

(Notification of acceptance for the GT program is usually mailed to parents sometime in late spring. Parents will be informed when the application process opens and how to apply}

Teacher Communication:

- If you need to discuss a problem or concern, please contact me. Most problems are best solved when we work together! Please use one of the following ways to contact me:
 1. Send an email – Lisa.Jenkins@houstonisd.org.
 2. Send a note with your child

I will try to respond to notes and emails the same day. If we need to meet, we can arrange a conference before school, or during my conference period from 12:05 – 12:50pm. Please make an appointment rather than just stopping by before school or during dismissal. That way I can give you my full attention and assure your privacy. Because of my teaching responsibilities, I cannot conference with you during class time.

- Newsletter – Goes home every Monday in the folders. Please read it carefully because important dates and information will be listed each week.
- Mustang News – This is Mr. Disch's newsletter that also is sent out weekly. You will need to sign up online to receive the paperless version weekly.

Rules and Conduct:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand.
3. Keep hands and feet to yourself.
4. Be respectful.
5. Work Quietly.
6. Have Fun!
 - If there is a serious problem, I will contact you immediately.
Please reinforce these rules at home.

Conduct Colors:

- Blue (Excellent) – Students who are exhibiting great behavior and making good choices may move their color up to blue. These are students who are going above and beyond what is asked of them and setting a great example.
- Green - Every student starts off on green every day. Student is making good choices and following directions.
- Yellow - Student needs to stop and think about the choices he/she is making and change behavior.
- Orange - Parent will be contacted about student's behavior and they will come up with an appropriate punishment. Student will lose Friday Treasure Box privilege.
- Red (Administrator Contact) - Student has seen Mr. Disch and the appropriate punishment will be given. This also means a loss of Treasure Box for the week.

* 5s are given out for great behavior, good choices, being helpful/respectful, etc. Students must have 25 tickets each week to go to treasure box on Friday. We use a ticket reward system in class where students can turn in tickets on Fridays for prizes.

Homework:

- It will be sent home on Monday and returned on Friday. Students have the week to complete homework assignments at their own pace). Once again, homework directions will be located in the homework folder each week.
- Homework will include a worksheet listing one activity to complete each day. We prefer students do each activity on the listed day, but I understand that things come up during the week. Activities and student work are to be completed inside of the homework notebook with a pencil only.

Grading Policy:

- ☺ = Excellent
- Check Plus = Satisfactory
- Check = Improving
- Check Minus = Needs Help (review & return)

* If by chance I send home any work with an "Incomplete" at the top, please work with your child at home to finish the assignment and return the following week.

Report card (HISD grading policy)

What the grades stand for

- 1 Discovery – First Steps
This is the stage where a child develops an awareness of their surroundings and exhibits a need for more instruction and interaction with objects, people, events and concepts.
- 2 Exploring – Showing Progress
This is the stage in which children develop and understanding of the components and attributes of their surroundings and exhibit a need for more practice with objects, people, events and concepts.
- 3 Connecting – Ready to apply
This is the stage where a child brings their own personal meaning to make use of their surroundings and link purposeful interaction with objects, people, events and concepts.
* You will be receiving more information when report cards go home to better explain the grading system.

Ancillary:

- Students rotate between 9 ancillary classes. They attend one 50-minute ancillary class daily.
- Our ancillary time is from 12:00 – 12:50pm.
- The ancillary classes include Science, PE 1 & 2, Computer Lab 1 & 2, Library, Art, Theatre, & Music.
- Side Note about Library – The books that children check out during library will stay in the classroom.

Parent Involvement:

- As of now, all visitors in the building must be pre-scheduled and VIPS approved. You will need to go online and register at www.houstonisd.org/vipslogin and click on the hyperlink for "start course" listed in blue under the picture. You should start this process ASAP as it can take some time to complete.
- Even if you have older students at WUES, please still check to make sure you are registered because it does expire, and you need to renew every year.
 - ➔ There will be a lot of opportunities to help our class available by next week when our room moms send out the class sign-ups. Opportunities throughout the year include Friday Mystery Readers, Parties (Winter and End of Year), Field Trips, Fun Friday Snacks, Boo Bash, etc.

Don't forget:

- Please be sure your child's name is labeled on backpacks, lunches, snacks, jackets, bottom of water bottles, etc.
- Also, our classroom gets a bit chilly so please make sure your child has an extra jacket or sweater in their lockers. They can keep them in their lockers all week and take home to wash on Fridays.
- Please be sure to keep a change of clothes in their backpacks or lockers in case of accidents or spills.

Kindergarten Policy:

- We are building LIFE LONG LEARNERS. This policy not only builds independence, but also helps the child start organizing themselves. All kindergarten classes plan together and work with each other as a team. Some units/themes will be taught at the same time, while other times, subjects might vary by a week from class to class. Kindergarten skills include but are not limited to:
 - Independent Skills
 - Examples Include:
 - Bringing their backpack daily and putting it in their locker.
 - Unpacking folders and materials independently.
 - Putting away lunches, snacks, and water bottles.
 - (Eventually) being able to tie their own shoes.

Other Important Notes:

- **Birthdays** – We celebrate birthdays during snack and recess time (1:45-2:30pm). You may send a treat with your child at drop off (please bring individual items that do not require cutting. I.e.- cookies, cupcakes, chips, etc.). If you plan on sending something on a Friday, please sign up for bringing the Fun Friday snack for that day. Fun Friday sign-up sheets will be available soon on our class website.
 - Teachers cannot distribute invitations at school. A school directory will be posted soon with a list of names and addresses; I cannot share addresses of students with parents.
- **Fun Friday Snacks**- A parent will sign up each Friday to bring snacks for the students during recess. However, some students are very picky when it comes to snacks. I would recommend sending a snack with your child every day, regardless. Especially on Fridays so they can have something else to eat if they don't want the fun Friday snack. We have a severe dairy & egg allergy in our class, so please be mindful when sending in snacks.
- **Friday Treasure Box** – Students who have 25 tickets will get to get a treat from our toy treasure box! (If the student has been on orange or red at any time during that entire week, they will not be able to participate.) If it is your child's week for Star Student or if you have signed up on our class website, you may bring in small trinkets to fill our treasure chest.
- **Morning Jobs** - Students will come to the front door of the classroom after they drop off their backpacks and lunch kits in their lockers. They will enter the classroom, turn in any folders that belong in the folder cubby, and begin morning work at their desk.
- **Labels** - Please be sure that names are on backpacks, lunches, snacks, jackets, water bottles, etc. Our classroom/cafeteria/other ancillary classrooms can get very cold during the day.
- **Extra Clothes** - Please pack your child an extra pair of clothes & under garments in his/her backpack or store them in a Ziploc bag in their backpacks, in case of an accident.
- **Water** - You may send your child with a water bottle that they can keep in their locker during the day and take home in the afternoon. Please remember to label these as well!

Other Important Notes (cont'd.):

- **Bad Weather** - University Drive floods quickly. Your child will be safe and supervised at ALL times in the case of bad weather. Please feel free to pick your child up early if you know there is bad weather approaching but be sure to sign out at front office first.
- **Rainy Day Dismissal** - If there is bad weather, students will be dismissed from inside the gate. I will have them lined up there and as we see you, I will send them out to you. Patrols will pick up students who are in carpool or after school care for their normal routine.
- **Star Student**- For each full school week, I have randomly picked a student to be star student for the week. I will send home a star student flyer with instructions on the Friday before. The star student for the week and their family will make a poster to share with the class and bring in something for show and tell on the Friday of their week. The class really enjoys getting to know each other. ☺
- **Scientist for the Week** – Each week, I will send home the “Scientist Bag” with one student. This student will be the scientist the following week and perform their science experiment in front of the class on Friday. Inside the bag you’ll find further instructions. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have about your kiddo being the scientist once you review the instructions in the bag. This is completely optional. So, if your child would not like to participate, please let me know.
- **Five Star Club** – This is another optional activity we do in class throughout the year. For the kiddos to be in the “Five Star Club” they must know how to write their first and last name, know their birthday, address, a phone number, and how to tie their shoes. It usually takes a while for the kiddos to be able to do all of these things, but they are so proud of themselves once they can! They will receive a medal and have their picture hung up on the wall. Please help them practice and encourage them to learn these activities at home.

Thanks for your all your support!

Contact Information:

Speech: Ashlea Stuart- Astuart@houstonisd.org

(If you have a concern regarding your child's speech, please contact me immediately)

Counselor: Brian Castle-

Brian.Castle@houstonisd.org

(If you ever need help getting resources to help with your child's social and emotional needs)

WUES Phone: 713-295-5215

WUES Website:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/domain/12650>

Room Parents:

Katy Pilmer – Mkspilmer@gmail.com

Sarah Covington – Sarahlcovington@gmail.com

Class Website:

- We will have a class website set up ASAP. Our Room Moms will send out the link to the website once it is up and running. You will be able to find all sign ups here on this website as well as any other helpful information pertaining to our classroom.