

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values®.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our **Big 3**:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

2023-2024 Big Ideas

August / CREATIVITY: Using your imagination to do something new

September / FRIENDSHIP: Using your words and actions to show others you care

October / INTEGRITY: Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

November / GRATITUDE: Letting others know you see how they've helped you

December / GENEROSITY: Making someone's day by giving something away

January / RESPONSIBILITY: Proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you

February / KINDNESS: Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

March / PEACE: Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

April / PATIENCE: Waiting until later for what you want now

May / COMMITMENT: Making a plan and putting it into practice

It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of art projects, crumpled writing assignments, and worn-down crayons. After that, your child will be a first grader and you'll never know them as a kindergartener again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it. Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project® about kindergarteners:

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project® about Kindergartners:

Kindergartners...

- ...want to please and help adults.
- ...may have a hard time asking for help.
- ...need guidance in things like taking turns and how to lose well.
- ...tend to be optimistic.
- ...can be fanatical about the truth.
- ...benefit from relaxation techniques (like take a deep breath).
- ...love to have fun! (Play games together like: Uno, tic-tac-toe, Candyland, Twister or Bingo. Do activities like: Play-Doh, Simon Says, sidewalk chalk, water balloons, beanbag toss and playing in water.)
- ... can do work! (Some things kindergartners can do include: making their beds, combing their hair, brushing their teeth, making phone calls, sorting toys and putting them away, loading and unloading the dishwasher, fixing a bowl of cereal.)