The ABC’s of Kindergarten

A is for Attendance, Absences, Arrival and Allergies
Attendance: A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, parents and the school. Your child’s progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation.
Absences: Excessive absences hinder a child’s progress. If your child is going to be absent, you must call the school at 402-697-1433.
Arrival: School starts at 9:05. Children should arrive no earlier than 8:55 if they are not eating breakfast. If your child is eating breakfast please have them here by 8:40. Your child will be marked tardy if they arrive after the 9:05 bell. Allergies: Please let us know as soon as possible if your child has any food allergies.

B is for Birthdays and Backpacks
Birthdays: Birthdays are very important to all children. In class, we celebrate your child’s birthday in a special way. For your child’s birthday you can donate juice and a snack that day if you would like. Birthday invitations can only be passed out if there is one for every child in the class. Otherwise, they need to be mailed so no feelings are hurt.
Backpacks: Please be sure your child has a backpack large enough to hold a folder and a lunch box. It is very important for parents to check your child’s backpack everyday.

C is for Clothing and Cycle Days
Clothing: Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that is appropriate for school. Please consider appropriate footwear for children playing in gravel and running up and down the playground equipment. Flip-flops are not the best shoes to wear to school. Also an extra set of clothes is nice to have in case of an accident. (underwear, socks, pants and shirt)
Cycle Days: We will send a monthly calendar and on that calendar will be the special class that the children have that day. Such as P.E., music, art, guidance or library. These will be sent home at the beginning of each month.

D is for Dismissal
Dismissal: School dismissal is at 3:55, everyday. We will walk your child out of the Kindergarten doors and wait with them until we see you. If they go on a daycare van, or a bus we will walk them to the bus or van. If they go to kid’s Club or the JCC a designated safety patrol student will walk them to the gym or the JCC door.

E is for e-mail
Email: E-mail is a great way to communicate with your child’s teacher. However, we are not always able to check our e-mail throughout the day. If you need to relay an important message to your child or the teacher, please call the office and they will get us the message promptly. Jodi.kelly@ops.org Anna.clausen@ops.org
F is for Field Trips and Friday Folders
Field Trips: We will take a few field trips throughout the school year. You will receive a note before the trip with all the details plus information on volunteering. Parent volunteers will be expected to supervise a group of students without the distraction of younger siblings.
Friday Folders: Every Friday a purple folder will be coming home with your child. Please sign it and return. Important information will be in it please look through it in case forms need to filled out and returned to school.

G is for Good Behavior
Good Behavior Folders: Our Kindergarten is a safe and happy place where lots of learning happens. We are a classroom family where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. Problems will be dealt with one on one using our warning system. If misbehaviors continue, we will contact you for support. Our daily behavior folders will be going home daily with notes or e-mails if there are any problems. Please discuss these issues if any with your child and help solve the problem. Otherwise look for a sticker or stamp on your child’s chart for good behavior.

H is for Hands-on Learning
Hands-on Learning: The best way to help children learn is to make activities fun. Kindergarteners learn best through hands-on experiences. There are times when seatwork at the tables is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classrooms will be active learning environments.

I is for Illness and Independence
Illness: If your child should become ill during the school day, they will be taken to the health office. If your child is running a fever, please keep them home until they are fever-free for 24 hours, without medicine. Childhood illnesses can spread very quickly in a Kindergarten classroom.
Independence: This is an area we work on everyday in Kindergarten! We have a few suggestions for your child to work on. Practice sight words, letter sounds and names, cutting with scissors, opening and closing backpacks and lunchboxes, coloring with markers and tying shoes.

J is for Jackets
Jackets: Please be sure your child has a jacket if the weather requires. We go out for recess everyday after lunch and it can be chilly. Also, please practice zipping coats and fixing inside out sleeves at home. This is a great skill of independence they can be working on too.

K is for Kindness
Kindness: Students in our classrooms are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others in our school, with respect. Bothering others, bullying, and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

L is for Library and Lunch
Library: We will have a scheduled library class twice a week. During this time the children will either checkout or learn a skill on the computer. Children will be able to check out everyday if they would like. Children are expected to bring library books back on checkout day if they haven’t been getting new ones daily.
Lunch: Lunch is at 12:10 everyday. Please send milk money if your child is eating a cold lunch and needs a drink. It is nice if you tape the money inside the lunchbox so they don’t lose it. Milk is $0.35. If you would like to eat lunch with your child please call the office and let them know by 9:30 if you need a lunch. Adult lunches are $3.10. Water is available for each child.

M is for Music
Music: Your child will have music 2 times a week with Mrs. Schoening.

N is for Newsletters and Nightly Reading
Newsletters: The school newsletter, Cobra Courier, will be sent to a family every Friday in Friday folders. Your child’s teacher will also send a class newsletter on Fridays. We would like to send this to you via e-mail. If you prefer a paper copy let us know.
Nightly reading: Nightly reading is essential for future success. Please spend each night reading at home to your child.

O is for Open Communication
Open Communication: Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child throughout the year. We feel that it is our job to work together as partners to help your child have a successful first year of school!

P is for parent Involvement, Parent/Teacher Conferences and P.E.
Parent Involvement: Please support your child’s kindergarten year. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school.
Parent Teacher Conferences: There will be conferences twice during the year, one in October and one in March. We will be discussing your child’s accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress.

P.E. We will have P.E. 1 time a week with Mrs. Ripa. Your child will be required to wear tennis shoes on those days. They will not be able to participate if they are not wearing tennis shoes.

Q is for Quick Goodbyes and Quiet Time
Quick Goodbyes leave dry eyes!
Quiet Time: We have a quiet rest time everyday in kindergarten. Your child’s teacher will let you know what they would like you to send for their classroom. Mrs. Kelly’s room: a small pillow, favorite stuffed animal and small blanket. Mrs. Clausen’s class does not require anything for this time.

R is for Report Cards, Recess and Restrooms
Report Cards: They will be sent home 4 times a year. The first one will be discussed and explained during the first parent/teacher conference.
Recess: We will have a recess after lunch. Sometimes if weather permits we will take the children out in the afternoon for an “extra” recess.

S is for snacks and Star of the Week/Cobra of the Week.
Snacks: We will have snack everyday in Kindergarten. We greatly appreciate donations of snack items. We are a nut-free kindergarten so please see the suggested snack list if you would like to donate. Thanks for your support with this.

Star of the Week/Cobra of the Week: Each kindergartener will have one week where they get to be the star. When it is your child’s week we will send a letter of information on the Friday before their week explaining what to bring. This is also a good time for you to come in and eat lunch with your child and read a book to the class if you would like.

T is for Tardies
Tardies: Students who arrive after 9:05 will be marked tardy. Excessive tardies can affect your child’s learning. Be sure to walk your child to the office if they are late.

U is for Unique
Unique: Each child in our class is unique and special. In Kindergarten, we learn about how we are unique and special. We celebrate our differences and our similarities.

V is for Volunteers
Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer in your child’s classroom you can sign up at Open House in September. Your child’s teacher will give you details as to what you will be doing when you visit. Sometimes it will be working with small groups or individual students.

W is for Websites
If you would like to visit our website type in www.ops.org/elementary/columbian. Click on staff and teacher name.

X is for eXciting
eXciting: Kindergarten is such an exciting and magical year! It is a big year of growth, both academically and socially. Just wait and see!

Y is for YOU!
You: Please remember that YOU are your child’s first and most important teacher. You can help your child feel successful this year by discussing your child’s school day with them. Let them know you are excited about school and what they are learning!

Z is for zzzzzzzzz’s
Zzzzzzzzz’s: It is so important for your child to be alert and ready to learn each day. Set a bedtime and be consistent. It will help them to be attentive and prepared to learn each day!

Thank you so much for coming tonight! We are off to a great start!

The Kindergarten Team,
Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Clausen