

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MRS. ABBOTT'S KINDERGARTEN

August 20, 2010

Dear Parents,

I want to personally welcome your child to kindergarten. Beginning school means new friends and new learning experiences. Every year in your child's education is important, but kindergarten holds special importance to me. Many of your child's attitudes towards himself/herself and toward learning and school will develop this year.

My goals as your child's teacher include helping each student to reach his/her potential in all areas, including development of a love of learning. I am looking forward to working with you and your child to make this a positive and productive year.



I would like to take a minute to tell you about myself. I have thirty years of teaching experience with twenty five years of experience in the kindergarten classroom. I am originally from Tennessee and have lived in Muscatine for sixteen years. My husband, Dave, and I have two daughters, Kylie and

Christie. Kylie, her husband Nate and our grandchildren Kennedy and Brayden live in Connecticut. Christie will be a sophomore at UNI this fall with a major in Elementary Education.

I am excited about getting to know you and your child in the coming months. I feel close communication between the home and school is extremely important. I am expecting the best possible year for your child. When you and I work together the children are the ones who benefit.



We will begin the year talking about bears, including fairy tales and nursery rhymes followed by a self/body/ family unit. Your child will also be learning about colors and shapes.

The children will be exposed to a variety of reading and writing experiences. Big books, stories, songs, puppets, cooking projects and other varied activities will help us learn letters and the corresponding sounds.

Your child may bring something each week on Friday that begins with the letter being studied for show and tell on Friday.

We begin the year with an overview of letters. I will let you know the date of individual letter study and the first show and tell.

As a child learns to read and write, he/she progresses through a variety of stages. It is important to remember that each child develops at his/her own rate. To encourage writing, an author bag will be sent home with the snack helper each day.



Many skills are learned during our snack break each day. When your child brings home the author bag, please send a snack and juice boxes for all children the next day. I have attached a snack schedule so that you will know when to expect the author bag.



GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MRS. ABBOTT'S KINDERGARTEN



Each month a See-Saw book order will be sent home with your child. These are the best in children's literature at affordable prices. As an added bonus we earn free materials for the classroom. If you would like to order from the attached issue please send the order form and money in a sealed envelope labeled with your child's name by September 3rd. The books will arrive in approximately two weeks.

If your child does not ride the bus I ask that you come to the classroom to pick him/her up after school. This will help us to insure their safety at dismissal time.

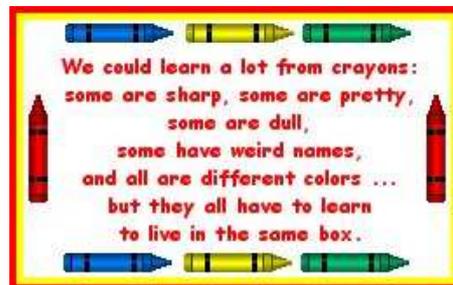
Our classroom structure is very hands on and interactive. I need parent volunteer's who can work in our classroom. Two heads are better than one and the value of another pair of hands in the classroom is tremendous.

Parent helpers will be engaged in a variety of activities. These will include working with the students individually and in small group activities. Many of the related art activities could not be done without your help.

Parents and grandparents are always welcomed and valued in our classroom and are urged to participate when your schedule allows. Please stop in the office to sign in and get a visitors pass when you visit.



As part of the kindergarten curriculum I like to include cooking activities. The children practice counting, measuring and reading recipes. These activities are educational and a lot of fun for the children. If I need help with ingredients, I will send home a request for specific ingredient giving you plenty of notice.



I have attached a volunteer sign up sheet to this letter. Please return it to school by September 3rd. I will get a schedule to our helpers and look forward to your help in our classroom.

This year we will be using agendas in the classroom. Please check these every night and return the next day. This is one of the ways that you and I can communicate and work together. Although you or I may not write a note every day, I would like the children to develop the habit of showing this to us each day. Please sign or initial the agenda each night.



Mrs. Hafner, the teacher for our other kindergarten class, and I will work closely together to provide the children in kindergarten at Grant Elementary School with a positive and successful school experience. We welcome your participation and involvement.

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year for all of us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. My phone number is 260-5151.

My email is:
rfabbott@muscatine.k12.ia.us

I ♥ Teaching

Rita Abbott