

Mrs. Higgins'
Kindergarten Survival Guide



Heritage Elementary School

Welcome Parents and Students!!

I am so excited to begin this new school year and even more excited to be working with you and your child! Kindergarten is a very important and exciting time in a child's life and I am thrilled to get to be a part of it. I am looking forward to partnering with you in educating your child. Together, I believe we can help your child reach their biggest dreams! Our partnership is the key to your child's growth in learning. I think that you will be very impressed with the growth that you will see in your child this year!

I hope the following information will help you better understand our classroom and comfort you in knowing the basics of your child's daily routines.

Please understand that this is a very unusual year and the following information is fluid and may change as the specifics of our situation change.

Sincerely,

Savannah Higgins

o Supplies

- o Please do not send all of your child's supplies next week. You will only need to send the following items that will last us hopefully until Christmas. I have a way of storing them in class that will maintain a healthy and safe organizing system. Please store the rest of the supplies somewhere at home where you can access them easily in case we have to return to virtual learning.
 - Pencil box labeled with name with: 1 pack of crayons, 1 pack of markers, scissors
 - Binder labeled with name with sheet protectors placed inside, dividers, and pencil pouch
 - Half of their pencils
 - Headphones labeled with their name in a gallon bag
 - 12 glue sticks
 - The journal they have already been working in PLUS one additional
 - Watercolor paint set
 - NO REST MAT NEEDED: Per the re-entry plan from Dr. Nichols

o Devices

- o For now, please keep your Madison City Schools device at home. I will eventually have them bring them to school but we will not need them this first week of school with our staggered start days.

o Water Bottles

- We will not be using water fountains to drink from. Please send your child to school with a LEAK PROOF water bottle that they can open on their own. From previous experience the last several years, the metal Thermos brand water bottles leak a lot once you get a few uses out of them. Something with a pop-up straw or pull-up mouth piece will be best.

- ***Masks***

- Students are required to wear masks. We will have mask breaks throughout the day. I will have a lanyard for your child to clip onto their mask each morning so it will not get lost, fall on the floor, etc. The lanyard will be left at school but the mask will go home.

- ***Shoes***

- Please make sure your child is wearing tennis shoes each day. They are required to wear tennis shoes to PE for safety reasons. Normally I let the kids bring a change of shoes if they want to wear sandals or boots, but with the amount of spacing and storage we do and don't have, it may not be feasible this year.

- ***Binders & Tuesday Folders***

- TUESDAY Folders will be sent home each Tuesday. This is when most of your child's work will come home from the previous week. You will also find important school-wide information in this folder (information from PTA, etc.) Please be sure to empty the folder and return it to school with your child every Wednesday.
- Due to the nature of the school year, we are still deciding how we are going to use binders in kindergarten this year. I will keep you up to date on any decisions that are made.

- ***Getting In Touch With Me***

- Please feel free to e-mail me anytime throughout the day. I can't promise an immediate response, but I promise I will get back with you as quickly as possible.
- My e-mail address is: seburton@madisoncity.k12.al.us
I will send e-mail reminders and information to parents often. Please provide me with any email addresses you would like to be added to my class e-mail list.

- You may also message me on ClassDojo at any time. I am more likely to answer that before an email as I am constantly updating ClassDojo. *More information coming about how to connect to Class Dojo.*
- If you have an emergency and need to get in touch with me, it is best to call the front office at: 256-772-2075

○ ***Transportation From School***

- Through email and our “First Day Need-to-Know Info” form, you let me know how you plan on your child going home each day. I need to know whenever there will be a change. Make sure I am informed by sending in an e-mail, Class Dojo message, or by calling the office. **Any transportation change must be made by 1:45 p.m.**
- Car Riders: If your child is a car rider, you must have a car tag visible in your car when picking up your child. Please know that if you or anyone else comes to pick up your child without a car tag you will be asked to go to the office so an I.D. can be checked. This is for the safety of your child!

○ ***Breakfast & Lunch***

- We will eat lunch in our classroom each day. Please do NOT send anything with nuts in it. We have a severe nut allergy in our classroom!!!
- School breakfast and lunch are free until December 31, 2020. Please make sure your child knows whether or not they are buying lunch each day.
- If your child needs breakfast, please make sure they know to go straight to the cafeteria when they get to school.
- Currently, there are no extra items to be purchased in the cafeteria. If that is to change in the future, the “extras” available for your child to purchase in the lunchroom are items such as chips, flavored water, fruit drinks, ice cream etc. These items are not part of the regular lunch and cost extra. I will let you know if/when these become available.
- If/when we get to buy extras, kindergarten is allowed to purchase ice cream on Fridays. This is another “extra,” so it is up to the parents if your child can get ice cream or not. My one rule with ice cream is students have to eat most of their meal before they can

have their ice cream. Otherwise, they would only eat ice cream for lunch on Fridays!

○ *Snack*

- Please pack a small, healthy snack for your child each day. We will have a short snack time in the afternoon, which will last about 10–15 minutes. If your child brings their lunch and you pack their snack in the same lunch box, make sure they know which item they should eat for snack or pack their snack separately! If possible, write your child's name or class number on their snack. Sometimes it gets confusing and they forget what they brought for snack!
- Please do NOT send anything with nuts in it. We have a severe nut allergy in our classroom!!!

● *D.E.A.R. Time*

- We will have quiet time daily. This time will be called D.E.A.R Time (Drop Everything And Read). I will use this time to assess students on different skills and standards, pull small groups, and work individually with students. We will not use rest mats this year. Instead, students will sit at their desk quietly, eat snack, read books, or lay their heads quietly.

○ *Extra Clothes*

- **IMPORTANT!!** Make sure your child always has an extra change of clothes in their backpack. This is in case they have a bathroom accident, a playground water puddle incident, a milk spill, etc.
- Your child's change of clothes needs to include everything: an extra mask, undergarments, socks, and weather appropriate clothes (so they do not need to have shorts and a t-shirt in their backpack in the winter!!!). These clothes will stay in their backpack and may never be used, but better safe than sorry! 😊

○ *Show and Tell*

- **First Semester:** Every Friday students may bring an item for Show and Tell. The item must be able to fit in their backpack and stay there until it is time to share. If students are playing with their

Show and Tell any time other than the sharing time, they will not be able to share with the class. This is a wonderful time for students to practice their speaking skills and is a great way for students to get to know one another better. If a student forgets to bring something to show they are always invited to tell about something they would have liked to bring!

- **Second Semester:** We will only have show and tell once a month the second semester. The academics become more rigorous second semester. The first Friday of every month will be our Show and Tell day. I will email a reminder about this.
- Our first Show and Tell will happen on Friday, September 11th.

○ ***Absences***

- If your child misses school for any reason, please scan and send all correspondence regarding attendance (doctor notes, parent notes, etc.) to hrtgattendance@madisoncityk12.al.us. (Please do not send these notes physically to the classroom teacher or front office!)
- Students may have only TEN parent notes and an unlimited amount of doctor's notes.
- Please see the September 1 Update on the district website for information regarding absences related to COVID-19: <https://www.madisoncityk12.al.us/Page/5903>.

○ ***Kindergarten Grading Scale***

(There will be much more information shared as we get closer to sending home progress reports and report cards.)

- Academic scale:
 - 4- Demonstrates an understanding of the standard independently
 - 3- Demonstrates an understanding of the standard with minimum supports
 - 2- Demonstrates an understanding of the standard with continuous supports
 - 1- Does not demonstrate an understanding of the standard
 - / - standard not assessed at this time
- Behavior scale:
 - S (Satisfactory) - Consistently demonstrates the behavior
 - N (Needs Improvement) - Inconsistently demonstrates the behavior
 - U (Unsatisfactory) - Rarely demonstrates the behavior and learning is affected

○ ***Parent Teacher Conferences***

- All parent teacher conferences will be held over the phone or through video chat.
- Conferences are typically held in November and March/April, but you are welcome to ask for a conference at any point in time.

Important Dates to Remember

In order to help with the transition into Kindergarten with the special health and safety measures, we will observe the following schedule the first week of school:

Tuesday, September 8th: Students last name A–L

Wednesday, September 9th: Students last name M–Z

Thursday, September 10th: Students last name A–L

Friday, September 11th: Students last name M–Z

Monday, September 14th: ALL elementary students return to school

Monday, October 5th–Friday, October 9th: Fall Break