

Welcome To
KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten Orientation Handbook
Mountain View Elementary
2022-2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are looking forward to a very exciting and successful school year. To ensure this success, it will be helpful for you to know a few things about our kindergarten classrooms. This handbook may answer some of the questions you may have and will be a good future reference.

Upon entering kindergarten, your child becomes a member of our community of learners. In this community, your child's interpersonal relationships will be encouraged and enhanced. At the same time, classroom community increases independence in an expanding social and geographical world, providing continuing security and support. Your child's interest and knowledge will be displayed throughout the rooms. Your child will be invited to inquire, evaluate, explore, discover and create. Your child will be developing self-direction and learning strategies and skills of the 21st century.

The Douglas County District has adopted the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for all students in grades K-12. Colorado Academic Standards are measures that determine what a child needs to know and be able to do by the end of the year. Your child's progress report will reflect the CAS for kindergarten. You will have two formal conference times during the year to discuss your child's progress. As educators, we anticipate that children develop at their own pace and come to us with a variety of needs and areas of competency. In recognition of individual differences, we strive very hard to meet individual needs while continuing to work towards standards attainment.

In our kindergarten classes this year, we will work toward developing each child's sense of self and community along with attitudes and styles of learning and creating. Your child's interest and knowledge will be an integral part of our direction. We are pleased to have your child in our kindergarten program.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team

Access classroom websites:

From our website: mve.dcsdk12.org /current families/ K-2 classroom/Kindergarten/Teacher's name

Office

Main Line: 303-387-8675

Attendance Line: 303-387-8677

Fax: 303-387-8676

School Hours

Full Day 9:00AM-3:45PM

KINDERGARTEN Curriculum

READING

- Shared Reading Experiences – Shared reading experiences support beginning readers by providing a successful reading experience that encourages your child to take risks in predicting events and outcomes, as well as stressing the construction of meaning. The repetition of language patterns helps your child see patterns in letter-sound relationships.
- Benchmark Workshop – Your child will engage in phonics lessons and activities focused on early literacy concepts, phonological awareness (sounds in a word), letter knowledge; both recognition and letter/sound relationships, spelling patterns, high frequency words, word meaning/vocabulary, word structure, and word-solving strategies. Your child will revisit these concepts throughout the year and apply this learning as he/she develops as a reader on a daily basis.

WRITING

Beginning Writing – In the initial stages of writing, your child will be encouraged to illustrate his/her ideas or experiences and to tell about them using “writing-like behavior. He/She may then “read” what he/she has written. This is an extremely important precursor to writing as all children need to understand that writing is a meaningful and purposeful activity and must know what writing “feels” like. Next your child will be encouraged to express his/her ideas through letter representations and temporary spellings. He/She will be encouraged to put in writing the sounds, which are readily heard. Your child may begin by recording beginning consonant sounds, moving toward ending consonants, and then middle consonants. Vowels are usually the last sounds to be recorded. Finally, students will learn to use more difficult spelling patterns such as digraphs, vowel rules and endings.

MATH

enVision® Mathematics © 2020 is the only math program that combines problem-based learning and visual learning to deepen students' conceptual understanding. enVision is used by

classrooms across the country and around the world. Lessons start with Problem-Based Learning, where students must think critically about a real-world math problem, evaluate options, collaborate, and present solutions. This is followed by Visual Learning to solidify the underlying math concepts. It's the best way to help kids better understand math ideas.

SCIENCE

Your child will be involved in activities and discussions that may include simple experiments to build his/her vocabulary and understanding of the following topics:

- o Life Science- How organisms can be compared, described and sorted by their physical properties.
- o Physical Science- Force and motion; Observing, measuring and sorting objects by physical properties
- o Earth Science- The sun and weather

SOCIAL STUDIES

Your child will be involved in activities and discussions that may include simple experiments to build his/her vocabulary and understanding of the following topics:

- o History- Understanding ideas and share info about the past; Place information in sequential order
- o Geography- People belong to different groups and living in different places around the world; Maps and globes
- o Economics- Recognize ownership as a component of economics; Wants and needs
- o Civics- Making decisions using democratic traditions (rules); Identify characteristics of quality citizens.

Additional Educational Opportunities:

- MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) – MVE believes that all students can be successful in school. In order to meet the needs of all students, Douglas County School District has implemented a three-tiered approach, which enables teachers to provide high-quality instruction by matching interventions based on a student's need, whether it is academic, social-emotional, or behavioral. This process is called MTSS. These interventions include students needing academic or behavior remediation or enrichment. Students may receive remediation or enrichment in their classroom or with our MTSS Specialist.
- Library - Kindergarten visits the library once a week and each student is allowed to check out one library book. It is important for the children to return their book every week. Your child's book must be returned prior to checking out another book. Please help your child remember to return books weekly. Books may be returned before the due date and placed in the classroom library book basket. The librarian has provided a special bag to keep books protected during travel to and from school.
- Specials – Your child will actively be participating in Specials each day. Your child will have the opportunity to attend Art, Music, PE and Science on a rotating basis.

KINDERGARTEN TIDBITS

Arrival - Our first bell rings at 8:50 for our soft opening. School starts promptly at 9:05 a.m. Any child arriving late will be marked tardy. Students arriving after 9:05 a.m. must report to the office with a parent for a late pass. Students should not arrive early without a parent, as there is no adult supervision before 8:50. Students may not play on playground equipment before school.

Kindergartners will enter the building upon arrival and proceed directly to their classrooms. Throughout the year, teachers will assist bus riders to and from the bus loop. If your child is a car rider, the driver may park in a designated area and walk your child to the flagpole area or the driver may use the “carpool” line for immediate drop off and departure. You cannot go around the car drop off line into the oncoming lane, please wait until you can park in the gravel areas. As students enter the building, teachers kindly ask you to wave good-bye at the front door and let the learning begin.

Attendance/Absence - Regular attendance is essential to a student’s success in school. Most subjects are taught in sequence, requiring the understanding of each concept in the order of its presentation. Persistent absenteeism creates a genuine hardship for a student. Students should be absent from school only in cases of illness or emergency. Every attempt should be made to schedule appointments after school hours. If an absence occurs, call the attendance line, 303-387-8677, and leave your message. While teachers also love to be notified ahead of time for planned absences, only messages left on the Attendance Line are used to “officially” report the absence.

Backpacks - Each student should bring a backpack to school every day. It should be large enough to hold his/her Communication Folder (10X13), papers, and a library book. No wheels please! Label the backpack with your child’s name and make sure he/she knows how to open and close it. We also recommend that you have your child pack his/her folders, lunches, snacks, etc. into the backpack. This will help your child know where to find things once they arrive at school and provide practice in the process. They will receive a backpack tag that will have their name, teacher and bus number on it.

Back-to-School Night - On this special night, parents are invited to the classroom to learn more about the curriculum and the ways children will learn at Mountain View. This meeting is held shortly after the school year begins. Look for an exact date on the website or through communication with your child’s teacher. This evening is for parents only.

B.A.S.E. - Mt. View Elementary has a childcare program offering services before school, as early as 6:30 a.m. until the start of school at 9:05 a.m. and after school from 3:45 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Child care will also be offered during breaks, staff development days and during the summer. If you are interested in services, please contact Marc Hollins at mvebase@dcsdk12.org. Or visit: mve.dcsdk12.org/AboutMVE/B.A.S.E.

Birthday Celebrations - Students may bring birthday treats to be passed out at the end of the day or an arranged time with the classroom teacher. Please let your teacher know ahead of time what you are planning to bring. RED JUICE is NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME! *Parents frequently ask teachers for the addresses and/or telephone numbers of students in their class. This is confidential information and cannot be given to parents.* Parents may use the student directory created by the PTO at the beginning of each school year. Please note that many families choose not to be listed in the directory. Parents are discouraged from sending flowers, balloons, or other presents to school.

Birthday Party Invitations - *Students are not allowed to distribute birthday party invitations at school unless all students are invited.* Children's feelings are hurt when some children receive an invitation, and others are not invited. Consider using the PTO Directory for this purpose.

Book Orders - Throughout the year, various book order forms for K-2 grade levels may be sent

home. Your child's teacher will provide directions and necessary information for you.

Communication - Communication is vital for a successful school year and we will make it a priority to communicate with you on a regular basis. You will be able to reach us via email or with a note. Some other examples of communication may include:

- Website- A newsletter will be posted from your child's teacher highlighting the weekly happenings in the classroom. Please be sure to read weekly. You can follow the following steps to access your teacher's website:
 - o mve.dcsdk12.org / Current Families / K-2 Teacher Website / Kindergarten / Teacher's Name
- Communication Folders - This weekly folder contains communication from school including handouts from the district, office, teacher notes, and your student's class work. Please empty the folder, read the contents and ALWAYS return the folder to school with your child the following day.
- Conferences - Mt. View plans for two formal conferences during the school year. The first conference is scheduled after approximately nine weeks of instruction and the second conference is held nine weeks into the second semester. We are also available to meet with parents at scheduled meetings throughout the year.

Contact Information - Please keep the school office and teachers informed of your latest contact information. Please update your parent portal with any changes in home address, email addresses, or phone numbers (home, work, cell). If there are permanent changes in daycare arrangements, or transportation to and from school, please let us know in advance *with a written note, email or phone call to the office*, so that we can help your child make the transition smoothly and safely.

Cubbies - Your child will have a designated cubby to keep their belongings. This includes a coat/jacket, boots, and backpacks. Backpacks must be able to fit into the cubby along with all belongings. This is also the place they keep their snacks. At the start of the day, students are responsible for unpacking their own backpack. This includes lunches, library books, homework, and notes for the teacher.

Departure After School - It is very important that all children and their teachers know where they are going after school. If the normal arrangements change for the day you must call the school before 3:00pm. Please do not email changes to teachers on the day of the change. Teaching keeps them busy and they may not see the email change until after dismissing your child. We will always go with the most recent plan we have in writing. Please stress to your child that if he/she is unsure of the plans, they should not leave the teacher. Bus riders will walk to the buses with staff at first. Car riders will walk to the carpool lane with a staff member and be guided to the pick-up-lane on the side of the school. You also have the option of parking and meeting your child outside their classroom door. Students going to our BASE daycare proceed to the cafeteria with a BASE staff member.

Elementary Progress Report (EPR) - Elementary Progress Reports are issued two times during the kindergarten school year, at the end of each semester. Parents will log into their Parent Portal accounts to access the EPR.

Label - Please use a permanent marker to label coats, gloves, lunch boxes, backpacks and other personal items. If you label your child's belongings, this will help prevent the loss of these articles and assist in locating misplaced items.

Lost and Found - The school's Lost and Found contains items that children have left around the school. If lost articles have names on them, they will be returned. If your child loses an item, encourage them to check in his/her classroom first and then to visit the Lost and Found area. Items such as jewelry, watches, eyeglasses, and money are often turned into the front office and kept there for safekeeping. Eventually, the Lost and Found is donated to charity.

Lunch - Students may bring a packed lunch from home or buy lunch in our cafeteria. The cafeteria does have a nut free table for those with a need. Payments to lunch accounts may be made by dropping a personal check at the school or by logging on to www.myschoolbucks.com

Parent Volunteers - It is important that parents be actively involved in their child's education. We provide a variety of parent involvement activities such as classroom support, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and School Accountability (SAC). You are invited to volunteer in classrooms, field trips, parties and "home helpers." Individual teachers will arrange volunteer schedules after school begins. Please help us make your volunteering day special for your kindergartener by arranging childcare for younger siblings.

PBIS - This stands for Positive Behavior Intervention Support. PBIS is based on the philosophy that children (and adults) respond most effectively to clear expectations and recognition of positive behavior. It is our goal at Mountain View that students hear eight positive comments about their behavior to every one correction of their behavior. Each class works together to earn paw cards by being safe, being respectful and being responsible. When students perform admirably in specials, the hallway, etc. the class can earn a "paw card" for the class. Students can also earn individual "paw cards" for being a role model academically or with behavior. When the class earns 100 paw cards, they earn a reward. Students choose the rewards they would like to earn for their behavior. Each subsequent 100 paws earn another chosen reward.

Zones of Regulation - This is a curriculum geared toward helping students gain skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to increased control and problem solving skills.

Picking Up Students Early - All students leaving before the regular dismissal time need to be signed out by an adult at the front office. Student's cannot be checked out after 3:30pm, you will have to follow normal pick up procedures after that time. ***For safety reasons, your student will not be called out of class until an adult arrives and ID is checked, so please plan your time accordingly.*** If anyone other than a parent or a designated emergency contact is picking up a student, the office must be notified ahead of time. We feel this policy is necessary in order to ensure the safety of the child.

Recess - Recess is considered an integral part of school. Children will be expected to participate in this activity. We have recess outside most days. Only in cases of extreme weather (temperatures/wind-chill under 20 degrees) will students stay indoors for recess. Please send your child to school with the appropriate clothing for outside play. Kindergarten begins the year with three scheduled recess times, which eventually drops to two.

Shoelaces - Mountain View uses the motto, "You wear them. You tie them." Please model and teach your child to tie his/her shoelaces.

Show and Tell - There is not a daily show and tell in kindergarten. Occasionally, the children will be asked to bring something from home to share during a particular unit of study, otherwise, please keep all toys at home.

Snacks - Snacks are an important part of meeting a child's nutritional needs. Most children prefer to eat small amounts of food more frequently than large amounts at one time. After eating a nutritional snack, students are more alert and ready to learn. We have a scheduled time during our day for the children to eat a snack. Snacks should be healthy. Some popular healthy snacks that the students seem to enjoy include cheese and crackers, fruit, cut veggies and granola bars. PLEASE AVOID NUTS AS WE HAVE MANY CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES! Each child must also bring a filled labeled water bottle with them daily. Please do not send juice or beverages other than water.

Supplies - Supply lists will be available for all grades at Mountain View Elementary before the school year begins. Individual teachers may request additional supplies for your child's classroom. Please label your student's headphones. Consumable supplies such as crayons, markers, pencils, etc. are shared, so please DO NOT label them.

Transportation - To register for busing please go to www.dcsdk12.org, click on "A-Z," then click on "T" and select transportation. (303) 387-0415, option "3" for Parker Feeder area. Information for bussing can be found on the parent portal under transportation also. Your student will receive a backpack tag that will include their name, teacher and bus number. This is very important because it ensures the safety of your child. Teachers will be helping your child find his/her bus. Anytime your child will not take the bus or there is a change in the normal routine, please contact the school office.

Weather/Emergency Schedule

- **Emergency Dismissal/Lighting Dismissal** - During the first days of school, a school closure form will be sent home that will be used during an early dismissal due to severe weather or in an emergency. We suggest that parents make arrangements for their children to be picked up by other family members, friends or neighbors in such a situation if you cannot be available. This form should be completed and discussed with your child before sending it back to school. Please make sure that everyone with your permission to pick up your child is on your emergency contact list in the main office.
- **School Cancellation/Delay Information** - Should inclement weather cause cancellation, delay or early dismissal of school, this information will be available in several places:
 - Parent Portal
 - Douglas County Website - www.dcsdk12.org
 - Phone - 303-387-SNOW (7669)
 - Television Stations 2, 4, 7, 9, and 13
 - Radio Stations KOA-850AM, KHOW-630 AM, KLAQ-1600 AM and KLZ-560 AM
 - Douglas County Facebook page
- **Delayed Schedule** - A school delay means school will begin one and a half hours later, at 10:35, but dismiss at the regular times.



@Mve Cubs

Mountain View Elementary Vision and Mission Statements

Vision: To create a positive learning environment that inspires young children to reach their highest potential.

Mission: All who enter MVE value the diversity of each person; prepare for the future by exploring the world beyond the walls of the classroom through collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication, and technology.

Ponderosa Feeder

Vision: Every student, every family, everyday: A community of excellence.