

Dear Up and Coming Kindergartners,



We are so excited for you to come to Kindergarten next Fall here at Netzaberg Elementary School! We have compiled a list of skills that we hope you can already do or will work on over the summer.

In Kindergarten we will be conducting home visits the first week of school and have a "Staggered Start" to help the kids acclimate to Kindergarten here at school. These 2 programs will help students feel more comfortable with their first school experience and it gives teachers the opportunity to meet and devote individualized attention to their new students.

It is going to be a great school year and we look forward to meeting you and your Kindergartner student! Please look over the list that we have attached and work on those skills over the summer so your child is ready for a successful Kindergarten year.

We look forward to a wonderful year,  
Netzaberg ES Kindergarten Teachers

### **Maturity/ Self-help skills**

- Dress self
- Able to put on coat/ shoes etc. even if not able to button/zip or tie
- (Be able to zip clothing items)
- Be able to separate from mom/family for most of the day
- Able to sit for 15 min. quietly
- Being able to say first and last name
- Manage bathroom needs independently
- Can walk in line
- Can follow 2-3 step directions

### **Fine motor/gross motor skills**

- Be able to write some of the letters
- Grip a pencil, crayon, or marker correctly
- (With thumb and forefinger supporting the tip)
- Use scissors, glue, and other art materials with relative ease

### **Pre-reading/math/ skills**

- Recognize first name. (Knows own name when shown)
- Be able to write some of the letters.
- Know some letters (Identify some letters of the alphabet)
- Knows colors and some shapes
- Counts to 10

### **Additional ideas to help your child be ready:**

- ❖ Write child's first name using upper and lowercase letters
- ❖ Bounce a ball
- ❖ Classify objects according to their size, shape, and quantity
- ❖ Speak using complete sentences \*
- ❖ Recognize some common sight words, like stop
- ❖ Identify rhyming words
- ❖ Repeat full name, address, phone number and birthday
- ❖ Play independently or focus on one activity with a friend for up to ten minutes
- ❖ Follow directions \*
- ❖ Clean up after himself
- ❖ Listen to a story without interrupting \*

June 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parent,

In SY 2012-2013, Netzaberg Elementary School will have a Staggered Start program for kindergarten students. We are confident that you will find this helpful as your child transitions into school.

### **What is “Staggered Start”?**

Staggered Start is when a class is randomly divided into equal parts (For example: a class of 21 will be split into three groups of 7 children each). Each small group attends ONE FULL DAY OF SCHOOL (One group will attend all day on Tuesday, September 4; one group will attend all day on Wednesday, September 5; and the last group will meet on Thursday, September 6. On Friday, September 7 the ENTIRE CLASS MEETS (ALL STUDENTS-Friday). This arrangement allows Kindergarten students to enjoy their first day of school in the company of only 6 to 7 other classmates. Kindergarten teachers, aides, and specialists can devote individualized attention to their new students and are able to present information in a relaxed manner.

### **Why is “Staggered Start” is a good idea?**

- Students feel safer and more comfortable with their first school experience. Anxiety can be lessened with a reduced group size.
- Students get a chance to learn school/classroom rules and routines in a smaller group setting. They can be acclimated to their environment before being faced with their entire class.
- Parents and students have the opportunity to address questions and concerns in a more intimate setting on day one.
- Students have the space and time to make/meet a few friends before the first day with the full class in attendance.
- Teachers and specialists have a unique opportunity to meet and observe each child in a small group setting helping address individual needs and concerns.
- Students and parents can receive more individualized attention on what may be their first separation. Needs can be met and trust established, helping to create a positive caring classroom environment from the very first day of school.

The teacher will assign your child to a group and will inform you of the start date when you come to the Kindergarten meeting on Monday, August 27. At this meeting, you will also sign up for an appointment for your home visit. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions.

We look forward to a wonderful year,

Netzaberg ES Kindergarten Teachers