

September 7, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Jana and I are looking forward to sharing the year ahead with your family. Below you will find information regarding the logistics of our classroom. Please contact me with any additional questions that may arise after reviewing this information.

Schedule

We start our morning work time promptly at 8:20 each day. Students are marked tardy if they arrive after 8:30. Morning carline runs from 8:00-8:15. Any students arriving before 8 am must sign up for Early Care in advance. Our mornings consist of P.E. at 8:30 am. followed by work cycle, read-aloud, and class meeting. Lunch starts at noon, followed by recess. Our Afternoons include work time, jobs, quiet reading, and time with our specialists. Cultural enrichment activities are something that the children look forward to throughout the week. Those include art and music (Thursday) and Spanish on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Trips and Swimming Lessons

We will visit the Leelanau Outdoor Center twice this year; a day trip on 9/15 and an end-of-the-year trip during the first week of June. We will add other field trips, and your child may schedule outings that coincide with their classwork throughout the school year. We always need parent drivers; please submit a volunteer form if you can assist with this. We will attend swimming lessons in January. Please stay tuned for further details as the date approaches.

Spelling Tests and Math Fact Sheets

Repetition is the best aid for memorization, so please support your child with their weekly work in math and spelling. Each Thursday, a spelling and math list will be in your child's home folder. Please practice with your child at home throughout the week. Spelling and math tests will take place on Thursday mornings. If your child has not achieved at least 80% on their tests, they will repeat the same material the following week, and you will see the same sheet in their home folder again.

Lunch/ Allergies/Snack

We eat lunch outdoors or in the great hall and classroom. We have students who have peanut, tree nut, sesame and shellfish allergies. Please label peanut products, tree nuts, sesame and shellfish in your child's lunches. The school will provide a daily morning snack for all elementary children. Please keep any other snacks for home.

Personal Belongings

Please label all your child's personal belongings; this aids our effort to help the students keep track of their things and minimize lost and found objects. Many children have the same or similar items, so labels are helpful! We will keep their rain gear and extra clothing in their lockers. If your child has something from home that they would like to share with classmates,

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they will have an opportunity during **“Show and Tell”** on Fridays. Please help us limit items to the following: something from nature, photographs, something they have made, or something from another culture. ****Please keep toys at home.**

Birthday Celebrations

We will celebrate with your child on their birthday or half-birthday during the school year. Your child will bring home a letter detailing the celebration before the big day. Each student brings in a poster of photographs (please, no digital frames). There should be one picture from each year of life. We encourage your child to write captions to help them present their story. You are welcome to send in a healthy birthday snack to share with the class on their celebration day. Please let me know if you plan to send something.

Home-School Communication

Each student will have a “home folder” that comes home and should return to school every day. We will utilize this folder to send notes and forms back and forth to school. Please help your child develop a system to share the contents with you, have a spot where they keep it, and help them get in the habit of bringing it to school daily. This is an excellent opportunity for them to develop independent responsibility.

During the school day (8:20 - 3:40), the person at the front desk will forward your calls to my voicemail. If there is something I should know during the day, please leave a message at the front desk. Should the need arise, please reach out so we can schedule an in-person meeting. I am available to schedule appointments:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:00 am
- Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 3:30 – 4:00pm
- Thursday from 1:45 – 2:45 pm.

Email is an effective way to communicate: my address is jaime@traversechildrenshouse.org.

Room Parents:

Mindy Beers – Mother of Leland - mindybeers12@gmail.com

Emily Modrall – Mother of Jane - emily.modrall@gmail.com

I am thrilled to begin this journey with your family! I embrace this new role with the passion and humility it deserves. I am excited to meet and get to know your children and share a grand adventure of curiosity, learning, and discovery with them!

Warmly,

Jaime Janiszewski

Lower Elementary Guide