

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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. See our attached schedule for more information on our daily routine.

### **Trips and Swimming Lessons**

- Leelanau Outdoor Center: 9/13 and 5/28-5/30
- High Rollaway Observation Deck (phonology study): 9/27, 10/18, 2/21, 4/18
- Swimming: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/10
- Other trips (going out, extra field trips, etc.) We need drivers!

### **Spelling and Math:**

**Math:** We hold daily math facts practice in the classroom, and students will move forward once they master that concept, whether daily, every other day, or weekly. Each student receives the individualized time needed to master a specific concept. **Spelling:** We will assess on Thursdays, and lists will come home in their folders; we explicitly teach spelling rules and red words in the classroom. Ask your learners to give you their weekly lesson on spelling rules and red words (I give new lessons on Mondays).

### **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. We will keep their rain gear and extra clothing in their cubbies. If your child has something from home that they would like to share with classmates, 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 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. Email is an effective way to communicate: my address is [jaime@traversechildrenshouse.org](mailto:jaime@traversechildrenshouse.org).

### **Friendship Groups**

Trisha Short, a counselor that works with the TCH staff and the jr. high supporting mental health, will be investing in our lower elementary classrooms this year as well. She will meet with Willow Classroom monthly as a group.

### **Room Parents:**

Emily Modrall – Mother of Jane - [emily.modrall@gmail.com](mailto:emily.modrall@gmail.com)

Lauren Magnatta – Mother of Cassie - [ljmagnatta@gmail.com](mailto:ljmagnatta@gmail.com)

I am thrilled to get to know each of your families! I am excited to know your children and share a grand adventure of curiosity, learning, and discovery with them!

Warmly,  
Jaime Janiszewski  
Willow (lower elementary) Guide  
She/her/hers