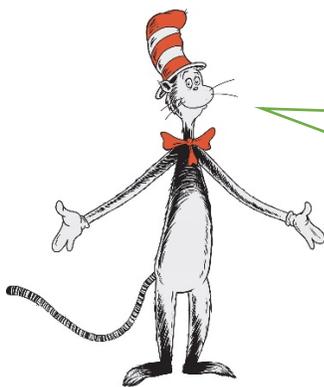


Greetings Kindergarten Parents,

My name is **Ms. Kennedy**, and I will be your child's teacher this year at Eastland Preparatory Academy. I am very excited for this endeavor and the chance to teach your children. I am very passionate about teaching and creating a fun, engaging, and safe learning environment for everyone. I have been in the education field for almost 15 years with various educational levels and backgrounds. I am very patient, enthusiastic, and enjoy teaching. I believe in, **"Being the Change I wish to see in the World."** This is why I feel it is important and an honor, to be your child's first educator in their academic journey. I am excited to help them build a strong academic foundation and **encourage** a lifelong love for learning. With your help I believe we can provide them a strong structure and the tools needed **to dream and achieve** anything they put their minds too!



**They will move
mountains!
Welcome to
Kindergarten!**

Oh, The Places Your Kindergartener Will Go!

Oh, The Places Your Kindergartener Will Go! is the classroom theme this year. It incorporates the many lessons your child will learn to **build a foundation for continued success**. I hope to help each student to become excited about their education. In my classroom, I love to speak life and positivity into my students and help them achieve their dreams. Ms. Dent (the Kindergarten Paraprofessional) and I, will foster an environment of learning, **patience**, and **positive energy** to help them **learn and grow**. This is going to be a fun year!

Through **songs, games, stories**, and engaging lessons, your child will learn everything needed to master the curriculum standards for kindergarten and so much more! They say **"Everything you need to learn you learn in Kindergarten,"** I am not sure how true that is, but we hope to successfully prepare each student for the next grade level. They will maneuver through: **Math, Language Arts, Reading, Handwriting, Social Studies, Science, Art, Gym and more!** With your help and support we will prepare them to **succeed and achieve** academic goals. Attached are a few papers with the Kindergarten curriculum and behavior goals we will learn, and also a list of the books we will read in class.



*Did you know statistics show,
"Children who are read to at
home are more successful
academically and in life!"*

You are essential to your child's education!

I am **grateful** to work with you to benefit your child. There are many ways in which you can help **support your child's academic growth**. I would appreciate if you could help them to become familiar with a few of my classroom expectations. Each evening I expect my students to **read/or be read to, for at least 15 minutes (or one children's book)**. They will receive a reading log each month and when they read for 15 minutes (or one children's book) they can color in one of the pictures (I attached the August reading log as an example). I will also send home a monthly newsletter describing what we will learn in class, the **weekly sight words**, and other information needed to be successful. If you could work with your child daily on the sight words (three words per week) and/or any letter/words recognition in your day-to-day travel (such as reading street signs, familiar places, etc.), it will help them with the skills needed **to read**. Lastly, each day please expect a folder from your child. I will make sure it is placed in their backpack. It will have their behavior chart along with any completed work for home and their homework. The folder pockets are labeled: *Keep at Home* and *Return to School*. Please be mindful of the directions for each pocket and check your child's folder for important information. With your help, I know we can make the 2020-2021 school year a **successful** one!



Safety First!

How are we protecting your child from COVID?

I am also a strong **believer** in providing a clean and **safe atmosphere** for my students. As a parent to an incoming Kindergartener myself, I had many questions about how this school year will

differ from a traditional school year and what procedures are being implemented to provide a **safe place for learning**. I understand you may have similar fears. I hope to alleviate some of those by making it a **top priority to keep a clean and safe classroom** for all. In my classroom, I have incorporated many **clean practices** per CCD guidelines. The following is a list of some of the changes I made to ensure safe practices and minimize the spread of any germs within our class. If you have concerns about anything I may have missed, please feel free to contact me. The goal is to keep your children, and families safe while providing a **fun learning environment**:

- 1) Prior to the start of each day, teachers and students will be checked for COVID related symptoms with the use of a thermometer and symptom checks.
- 2) Each student will be spaced 6ft apart and will be expected per state guidelines to wear a mask for the safety of themselves and others.
- 3) Each teacher interacting with your child will wear both a mask and face shield as mandated by state guidelines.
- 4) Only the children and teachers in our class will be together throughout the day for all activities.
- 5) Each classroom is equipped with PPE, hand sanitizers, and will be cleaned after each activity.
- 6) There will be multiple scheduled bathroom breaks throughout the day, so that your children will be able to frequently wash their hands after activities and safely use the bathroom.
- 7) There will be no sharing of any supplies. Your child will only use their own personal supplies that you send with them and store them in a labeled space.
- 8) There will not be any sharing of space for their backpacks. Each student will be provided with their own place to store their personal items. They will also have a plastic Ziploc clothing bag to place their items in upon arriving to school each day.
- 9) When out of the classroom each child will continue to be distanced 6ft apart.
- 10) Lunch will be in the classroom daily along with other activities.
- 11) There will be smaller class sizes which means your children will be provided with more individualized learning.

12) Children will not share classroom toys, books, or other items. Each item will be disinfected and returned to the shelf only after the allotted time.

13) You will be notified directly if any safety protocols are changed.

Again thank you for your time and patience during this time. I feel that with these classroom additions we will be able to **minimize** the amount of **germs** and **provide a safe environment for all.**



First day of Kindergarten ready!

I know for parents of a Kindergartener it is bitter sweet. We are **excited** for our children beginning school, but maybe saddened by the fact it will not be a traditional first day. For their first day I will make sure to take plenty of pictures for you so that you can share in the day (which will be posted on Classroom Dojo). We will also do many **fun activities** to make them feel comfortable and have a **wonderful day**. I do ask that along with their school supplies, you send an **extra pair of clothing** (Tops, under ware, bottoms and socks). We will store the extra clothing in their cubby space in case of an accident. The clothing will be returned at the end of the school year or if an accident occurs. I look forward to working with you and your child to have a **successful school year**. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me via email at rkennedy@eastlandprep.org.



**Oh the places you'll go,
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So get on your way!
Dr. Seuss**

I cannot wait to meet your child on **our first day!**

Ms. Kennedy