



September 6, 2016

Dear Families/Guardians,

Hi and welcome to Cass Elementary! I hope that you and your family had a nice summer and that your child is excited to come to school. I had an excellent and quiet summer: I LOVE to travel, but that had to take a hiatus this summer, because of my two young children. I had a baby boy in March, so my family (Elodie, 23 months, and Benjamin, 5 months) stayed local this summer and enjoyed swimming and spending time at our lake house in Howell. My husband and I celebrated our four year anniversary with a weekend trip to Petoskey-what fun to get away! I hope that you and your family were also able to enjoy your summer vacation as well. I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year. My name is Kristyn Gierak and this begins my tenth year teaching in the center program here at Cass. I truly adore teaching kindergarten, and I hope that my enthusiasm and love for my students becomes evident to you and your child.

The purpose of this beginning of the year letter is to inform each family of how our classroom operates, as well as to give you necessary information about what your child needs. The most important factor in your child's education is your interest and involvement. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. You can call, email, or write a note! You can also stop up at Cass and visit us anytime, as long as you stop in at the office to sign in first. Email is the best way to get ahold of me, as I check it many times a day.

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Phone: Cass (734) 744-2695 ext. 13826

THIS NOTE IS JUST TO GET YOU STARTED WITH PIVOTAL INFORMATION. PLEASE COME TO CURRICULUM NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 15th, FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN KINDERGARTEN AND WHAT HIS/HER DAY WILL LOOK LIKE. The kindergarten session will be from 5:30-6:15pm in the LMC (library) with Open House from 6:15-7pm.

Paraprofessionals: I have two wonderful paraprofessionals working in my room with me this year. Your child will be seeing them daily. Their names are Mrs. Pathe and Mrs.. I am so lucky to have them this year!

Communication Notes: Your child will receive a weekly note with school and classroom reminders. It will go home in his/her binder on Monday, but will travel back and forth DAILY for the week. It will include homework, announcements, and behavior updates. Please sign the back of the weekly note every day (i.e. on Mondays, sign or

initial then send back in the binder). More information will come on Curriculum Night. These need to be signed and returned daily. They are the main communication source for us, as they are checked first thing every morning.

School Bag/Folder: It would be helpful if your child could bring a backpack/tote bag EVERY DAY. He/she will need it to take home projects, library books, drawings, notes, etc. The buckles, zippers, and clasps, should be simple enough for your child to do independently. Please be sure that your child's name is on the bag. Cass Elementary is providing each student with a folder that will come home every night. The right side of the folder will have items that will be kept at home (papers, notes, projects, etc.) and the left side will have items that need to be returned (**signed** daily behavior notes, etc.)

Extra change of clothing: Please send in extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name clearly marked. This comes in very handy when accidents happen.

Tennis Shoes: Your child will need to wear tennis shoes to school on gym days, which will be Mondays. No sandals or boots should be worn on these days, or your child will not be able to participate.

Library: We will attend library every week, on Fridays. Your child may select one book to take home. He/she must return his book from the previous week before he will be allowed to check out a new one.

Specials Schedule: Your child will attend 5 different specials: gym, library, music, art, and computer lab. I will teach computer lab, but different teachers teach all the other specials. Both paraprofessionals will travel with the students to each special and remain there with them. Your child will be expected to abide by the same rules and expectations while at a special as he or she does in the classroom. Specials will also be denoted on the calendar. Please be sure to check the calendar before your child comes to school that day so as to make sure that they are wearing tennis shoes on gym days and bring their library book back on library days. The special teachers are as follows:

Monday: P.E. with Mrs. Dazer
Tuesday: Art with Mrs. Mitchell-Gordon
Wednesday: Computer lab with me
Thursday: Music with Mr. Turner
Friday: LMC with Mrs. Wolffe

Snack: We will have a snack time each day, 2 times a day. **Each child will bring his/her own snack, 2 each day. We ask that you try to send in healthy, nutritious snacks for your child like fruit, veggies, crackers, goldfish, yogurt, etc.**
**Please send in spoons if your child brings in applesauce, yogurt, or pudding.

Birthdays: Because of peanut allergies in the room this year, we have elected to have our birthday treats be non-edible items, like stickers, pencils, bubbles, items from the dollar store, tattoos, etc. Your child will be recognized and feel special that day.

He/she will be sung to, wear a crown, and get a special treat from the office. But please, no edible food items that day.

Clothing: Please try to dress your child in comfortable clothes so that he/she will feel free to participate in all activities. Washable clothing is preferred! Please write your child's name on all jackets, boots, hats, mittens, and any item that he/she brings to school. It also tends to become very hot in our room, so you may want to dress your child in layers.

Website: I do have a website through Livonia Public Schools. The website can be reached through the LPS website via Cass Elementary, or can be reached directly by going to:

http://lpscass.ss5.sharpschool.com/our_school/teacher_s_websites/mrs_gierak_s_kinder_garten/.

OR, head to www.livoniapublicschools.org, then click on School, K-4 Elementary, Cass Elementary. You'll find my website on the left hand side.

Lunch: Your child will be starting lunch tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7th. A paraprofessional will be with your child at lunch and recess. If your child will be bringing a lunch from home, please try to make sure that containers are easy open. If your child will be buying lunch from lunch services, the cost is \$3.25 a day. Breakfast is also served in the morning at a cost of \$1.75 a day. You can pay in advance (weeks, months, etc.) with a check made out to LPS Cafeteria Account (this is your best option!) When your account gets low, a reminder will be send home to put more money into the account. FYI-in the beginning of the year, kindergarteners tend to not eat much. That's why we provide a snack time in the morning and a snack in the afternoon. Do not be surprised if your child brings home a large portion of his/her lunch in the beginning.

I want you to know how excited I am to have the opportunity to help your child grow this year. Your child can look forward to many fun, exciting, and challenging learning activities. It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Kristyn Gierak