

St. Clair County Schools Pre-Kindergarten Handbook 2019-2020



410 Roy Drive
Ashville, Alabama 35954
205.594.7131

www.sccboe.org

Superintendent- Mike Howard, EdS

St. Clair County Pre-Kindergarten Teachers

Ashville Elementary School

Pre-K #1-Lead Teacher-Julie Gage and Assistant Teacher- Kelley Helms
Pre-K #2-Lead Teacher- Amy Gomez and Assistant Teacher- Taylor Brady

Margaret Elementary School

Pre-K #1-Lead Teacher -Kristy McNutt and Assistant Teacher- Jackie Taylor
Pre-K #2-Lead Teacher-Tomie Hicks and Assistant Teacher- Wendy Frederick

Moody Elementary School

Pre-K #1-Lead Teacher- Debbie Ugolini and Assistant Teacher- Tina Russell
Pre-K #2-Lead Teacher- Stacy Farlow and Assistant Teacher- Shelby Chappell
Pre-K #3-Lead Teacher -Nikki Donahoo and Assistant Teacher- Anna Lackey
Pre-K #4-Lead Teacher –Brandy Wix and Assistant Teacher- Bobbie Barker
Pre-K #5-Lead Teacher- Cindy Joiner and Assistant Teacher- Jessica Chambless
Pre-K#6-Lead Teacher-Darla Owens and Assistant Teacher - Kaeley Tipton

Odenville Elementary School

Pre-K #1-Lead Teacher-Jessica Stansell and Assistant Teacher- Julie Braden
Pre-K #2-Lead Teacher- Amanda Black and Assistant Teacher- Ashley Brantley
Pre-K #3-Lead Teacher- Meg Lowry and Assistant Teacher-Michele Simpson

Ragland Elementary School

Pre-K -Lead Teacher-Stephanie Waters and Assistant Teacher-Lacey Turner

Springville Elementary School

Pre-K #1-Lead Teacher-Amy Crotts and Assistant Teacher- Rachel Johnson
Pre-K #2-Lead Teacher- Amber Harris and Assistant Teacher- Julie Cowley
Pre-K #3-Lead Teacher- Roseanna Whisenant and Assistant Teacher-Heather Carson
Pre-K#4-Lead Teacher-Melissa Echols and Assistant Teacher-Daphne Long

Steele Jr. High School

Pre-K-Lead Teacher- Courtney Ryder and Assistant Teacher- Stephanie Tallent

What is First Class Pre-K?

First Class Pre-K provides effective, high quality early childhood experiences that prepare Alabama's children for school success and lifelong learning.

Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education defines school readiness as a condition whereby children enter school with:

- **An enthusiasm for learning**
- **An ability to function in a social setting**
- **Age-appropriate communication and problem solving skills**
- **Age-appropriate physical and social-emotional skills and optimal health**

Why High Quality Pre-K?

Numerous studies have shown that students who have participated in high quality pre-kindergarten programs:

- **Are less likely to repeat a grade, require remedial education, or be placed in special education**
 - **Score higher on achievement tests**
- **Are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college**
 - **Receive higher paying salaries as adults**
- **Are most likely to stay out of prison and off welfare**

For more information, visit the website below:

<http://children.alabama.gov/firstclass/>

Letter from the SCC Pre-Kindergarten Department...

St. Clair County Schools' early childhood philosophy reflects a nurturing and warm environment for young children to grow and learn. As we bridge the gap from the home to school, we guide children to a continued positive self-image while building social skills in a community classroom setting.

We strive to meet the needs of all children. Through the concept of "play is a child's work", we focus on developing and improving cognitive, language, motor and socio-emotional skills. Children are encouraged to explore their environment and think creatively. Teachers guide and enhance the process through developmentally appropriate strategies and activities. We are committed to providing a stimulating child-oriented classroom, which is clean, healthy and safe. Classroom activities are arranged to encourage discovery, purposeful experimentation, and reinforcement through repetition. Schedules are designed to balance classroom structure, which includes free choice, and small as well as large group instruction.

We are committed to supporting our teachers with specific and appropriate training experiences. Staff are required to earn professional development annually.

Parent involvement is a vital part of the Pre-K program. You are a very important part of the pre-kindergarten team. We look forward to seeing you often. We value you as a team member and welcome you to come and participate in the classroom activities.

Our purpose and direction is to ensure that our pre-kindergarten students receive an experience that will help them succeed in Kindergarten and promote lifelong learning. We encourage you to become an active part in your child's school.

Important Paperwork needed before or at Pre-K Orientation

Updated Blue Form

Copy of Parent Driver's License

Copy of Child's Social Security Card

Copy of Child's Birth Certificate

Proof of Residency

During Pre-Kindergarten instructional time, children will:

meet friends have cooperative play experiences

play with toys explore how things work

look at books learn social skills

listen to music develop motor skills

share with others enhance expressive language skills

Concepts and skills introduced are age appropriate to each child's stage of development. While implementing a state approved pre-kindergarten curriculum, children learn about objects in their environment and build vocabulary skills. The rate of growth is different for each child; is highly patterned, unpredictable and cannot be rushed. The St. Clair County Pre-Kindergarten Program is designed to provide a language-rich, child-centered, literacy-focused setting.

Activities are structured to include healthy growth in the following developmental domains:

- *Health and Physical development*
- *Social and Emotional Development*
- *Language development*
- *Cognitive knowledge*
- *Approaches to learning*

Pre-Kindergarten links:

<https://consciousdiscipline.com>

<https://highscope.org>

<https://helpmegrowalabama.org/families/parent-child-activities>

<https://centerforresilient.org>

<https://children.alabama.gov/parents-families>

A is for Attendance and Arrival

- **Attendance** is very important... Children enrolled in our program are expected to be at school every day unless they have a doctor's excuse or other excused reasons. If your child is absent, please send your teacher a text and send a note from home in their binder explaining their absence.

-**Arrival**- Your teacher will be the one to let you know at Pre-K Orientation exactly what time your child can be dropped off in the morning. They need to be on time! We want to get them started on the right foot to success! Please do not drop your children off before the time your teacher informs you off. Parents need to limit walking children into school after the first week of school.

B is for Binders, Backpacks & Breakfast.

-Every day your child will need to have their communication **binder**. Inside the binder, you will find the calendar, weekly newsletter, and special notes for the week.

-We ask that you buy a regular size backpack. **NO SMALL BACKPACKS** OR ROLLING BACKPACKS. They may look big on them in the beginning of the year, but they will grow into them. This allows us to fit everything we need in the regular size backpacks.

- **Breakfast** is offered on a school to school basis. Ask your Pre-K teachers what your school offers.

C is for a change of clothes & Centers.

-Your child will need to have a **change of clothes** to keep at school in their cubby. This is for an accident during school hours. Please include socks, shirt, shorts (or pants), and underwear. If a child has an accident we will send home the soiled clothes and will need new clothes sent the following day. Please put the child's name on a Ziploc bag with the clothes inside.

- We will play in **centers** for 1 hour and 15 minutes daily. During this time, students will learn social skills, exploration, creativity, and how to play well with others.

D is for Dismissal.

-PM: **Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm** in the afternoon. Parents will need to use the PRE-K Carline. **Please make arrangements to be on time daily for pickup and place your car sign in the front windshield. Make arrangements with daycares because the school will not offer after school care this year.**

E is for Emergency Contacts.

-Please make sure your phone numbers stay up to date. If your phone number, address, **emergency contact**, etc. changes please let us know.

F is for Field Trips.

-We will have one or two **field trips** during the year. We will need at least 1 chaperone PER CHILD to attend each field trip. We will update you on the field trips and dates as soon as they are scheduled. Students will ride with parents or legal guardian.

G is for “Getting Messy”

-Please be aware that we like to have fun and get dirty in Pre-K! We love to paint, glue, play outside and get **messy** throughout the day. Please dress your children accordingly 😊

H is for Homework.

-It is important for you to work with your children at **home** on their letters, numbers, colors, and shapes weekly! Read to your child nightly or as much as possible. Reading to your children builds a positive relationship, expands vocabulary, opens up the imagination, and so much more.

I is for Illness.

-We want everyone at school to stay healthy! If he/she is **ill** please keep them home until they have been fever free and have not vomited for 24 hours. If he or she goes to the doctor or is absent please send an excuse when they return.

J is for JOY.

-We are blessed and thankful to have your child in our class. It is a **JOY** to be a part of your child's early educational foundation!!

K is for Kid Friendly.

-We have our classroom set up to be **kid-friendly** and age appropriate. Safety is our top priority!!!

L is for lunch.

-Students can buy a **lunch** every day in the lunchroom for \$2.75, or they can bring their lunch. If they bring their lunch from home it needs to be in a lunchbox with their name written on it. No carbonated drinks please.

M is for Monthly Calendar, Medicine, & Money.

-We will put a **monthly calendar** in your child's binder with special dates for you to be aware of every month.

- If your child needs **medicine** while at school, please let us know. You will need to fill out a medicine form from the nurse and bring the medicine to the school. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEDICINE WITH THE CHILD.

- **Money** needs to be sent in the zipper pouch in the front of the binder. Please write a note or let us know what the money is used for as well.

N is for Newsletters.

-Every week we will put a weekly **newsletter** in your child's binder. Please make sure you read these newsletters and check your child's binder daily for notes and updates.

O is for Open Door Policy.

-Our doors are always **open** for you! We are always available if you need to talk to us or have any concerns about your child.

P is for Progress Reports, Parent Conferences & Playground.

-We will have a **parent conference** to go over **progress reports** two times a year. They will be set up mid-way through the year and closer to the end of the year.

- We have our own Pre-K **playground** where we play daily or when weather permits.

Q is for Questions.

-If you have any **questions** or concerns please feel free to text, call or email us ☺ We will be glad to answer your questions!

R is for Rest time & Restroom.

-We will have **rest time** every day for 1 hour in the afternoon. Every child will need a beach towel to use during rest time. We use towels because they are easy to roll up and put in their backpacks. Towels will be sent home every Friday to be washed and then returned on Monday.

- **Restroom** is a big part of our every day schedule. Please make sure your student is **potty-trained and ready to come to BIG school**. They need to be able to wipe and take care of business in the restroom. Accidents are expected at times, but not on a daily basis.

S is for Snack, Schedule, and School Supplies.

-If your child brings a **snack**, please put in a brown sack with their name written on the sack. Some schools offer end of the day meals (snacks), so ask your teacher about what your school offers.

- We will have a daily **schedule** that will be located in your child's binder.

- Your child will not be required to have any **school supplies**. We use pre-k tuition money to buy everything your child will need in our classroom. However, **SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS** are always appreciated 😊

T is for Tuition.

-Every week your child's **tuition** is \$25/week. You may choose to pay it weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or all upfront. Checks need to be payable to your child's school. We also take cash and money orders. A receipt will be placed in your child's binder on the day of payment.

U is for Unique.

-Children in our classroom are **unique** and special in their own way. We are a family in our classroom and want everyone to treat each other with love and respect!

V is for Vehicle Car Sign and Volunteer.

-We will provide a car sign for your child. Please place these signs in the front of your **vehicle** every day for pick up.

-Ask your teacher about how you can **volunteer** and be involved in your child's early education experience.

W is for Website.

-Our county's **website** is www.sccboe.org. Ask your Pre-K teacher where you can find your child's classroom pictures and news.

X is for eXciting school year!

-We are **excited** to have your child in our class and know they are going to grow and learn as the school year goes on! We are prepared for a great year!!!

Y is for YOU and yearbook!

-**YOU** are your child's first and most important teacher!!!! We can do so many things at school, but we can do SOOO much more with YOUR help! Please keep your child's success TOP PRIORITY!!

- Ask your Pre-K teachers when your **yearbook** goes on sale!

Z is for Zzzzzzzzz, Zoning and Zippers.

-Please make sure your child is getting the adequate amount of rest every night. Prepare yourself that they will be SUPER tired the first few months of school until they get into a good routine!!!

-Only register your child for the school they are **zoned** to attend

-Please work with your child at home on **zipping** and buttoning their pants after bathroom time!! We are happy to help sometimes, but want them to feel as BIG as they can 😊

Here's to a GREAT year!! 😊

For more information:

lisa.glasgow@sccboe.org

Elementary Education Coordinator

melanie.stone@sccboe.org

Admin Assistant for PreK