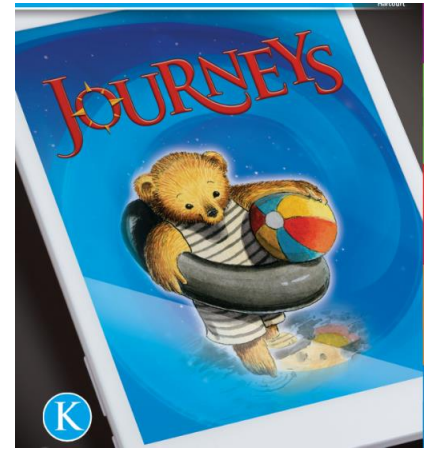


Dear Kindergarten Families,

WELCOME TO SCHOOL!



This year we are using Journeys, a comprehensive, K–5 evidence-based, English Language Arts program. In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes.

These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others, and speaking aloud. Kindergarten students will:

- Name upper- and lower-case letters, match those letters with their sounds, and print them
- Compare the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories, such as fairy tales and folktales
- Retell familiar stories and talk about stories read to them using details from the text
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to describe an event, including his or her reaction to what happened
- State an opinion or preference about a topic or book in writing (e.g., “My favorite book is . . .”)
- Take part in classroom conversations and follow rules for discussions (e.g., learning to listen to others and taking turns when speaking)
- Speak clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas, including descriptions of familiar people, places, things, and events
- Ask and answer questions about key details in stories or other information read aloud
- Understand and using question words (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how) in discussions
- Learn to recognize, spell, and properly use those little grammatical words that hold the language together (e.g., a, the, to, of, from, I, is, are)

There are many ways you can help your child at home. Invite your child to talk about what he/she is learning each day in class. Read to your child each night.

Your child can access Journeys at home using his/her personal login & password. Students can read/listen to the week’s anchor text, paired text, and leveled readers.