

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Gayman Elementary School! I am very excited to be your child's Kindergarten teacher and look forward to working with you to make this year a positive learning experience. The first day of school, August 29<sup>th</sup>, is quickly approaching. I know that this time of year can be both exciting and hectic for your family. **Below are some tips that should help get your child off to a smooth start.**

1. Our classroom is room #1. You can tell your child to look for the **RED** flag above our door. We are the only red flag in the building so it can be a useful landmark for the children as we learn to navigate the school.
2. Each day there is a brief 5–8-minute snack break. Your child's snack should be quick and easy to eat and should **not require utensils**. To be safe for the start of school, please do **not** send in any food items with nut products in the event that we have individuals with food allergies in our classroom. Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle that closes tightly. **Please avoid sending juice or other beverages.** *Please pack your child's snack in a lunchbox labeled with your child's first and last name each day.* This will help your child independently find their snack each day.
3. A **large** school bag or backpack is the most convenient way for the children to carry things to and from school. Smaller, preschool size backpacks can be difficult to fit everything inside. Small backpacks can be very frustrating for the children as we are learning to independently pack up our things! Your child will be given a folder that will go home with them each day. Please make sure your child's backpack is LARGE and roomy enough to hold a 9"X12" folder, a library book, and a lunchbox/snack/water bottle.
4. Most of the school supplies your child will need to start school will be provided. However, please send in the items listed below, as they will help us with sharing supplies in the classroom. **All materials should be brought to school on Kindergarten Orientation Day!**
  - ✓ **AM Students:** 1 container of Clorox wipes (or Lysol/generic cleaning wipes) and 1 box of tissues
  - ✓ **PM Students:** 1 container of Wet Ones (or generic anti-bacterial wipes) and 1 box of Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
  - ✓ **All Students:** 3 boxes of Crayola Crayons (24 count), 2 boxes of #2 Ticonderoga pencils (18 count), 1 box of Elmer's Jumbo Glue Sticks, and 1 pack of black Bullet or Chisel tip Expo dry erase markers
  - ✓ **All Students:** Your child will also need to bring **headphones** to use with laptops/iPads. These headphones will stay in the classroom. **Please do not send in ear buds.** The headphones should be removed from the packaging and clearly labeled with your child's name. Headphones **should not** be Bluetooth or wireless as we do not have a way to charge headphones in the classroom.

5. Please discourage your child from bringing toys or anything that is a distraction into school.
6. In the "WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN" email from me, **you will find a digital version of the "Getting to Know Your Child" form – Please fill out this form and submit the form by Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> as I will need to know this information about your child prior to the start of the school year.**
7. Please make sure ALL personal items are clearly labeled with your child's first and last name. This should include jackets, hats, lunchboxes, water bottles, headphones, and backpacks.
8. Weather permitting, recess is usually held outside, and our playground can get very windy. Even though it is only for 10-15 minutes, little hands and ears get cold quickly. Hats and gloves, as the weather gets cooler, are definitely a good idea. If you are planning on purchasing a new jacket or coat for your child this fall, please check to be sure they can zip, snap, or button it by themselves.
9. Communication is key to all great relationships.
  - My email address is [kecell@cbsd.org](mailto:kecell@cbsd.org). I check my emails as often as possible throughout the day and that is the best way to communicate with me quickly. However, if there is a change in your plans for picking up your child, you need to contact the office or send in a written note just in case I am not in or I am unable to check my email that day.
  - I will invite you to join our classroom Seesaw account. This is a fantastic tool for teachers and families to communicate. More details about this app coming soon!
  - My classroom website is a wonderful place to visit for Kindergarten information, important documents, and extra practice resources! You can visit my website by visiting: <https://www.cbsd.org/Page/63500>

Finally, I hope that I will get a chance to meet you and your child on **Kindergarten Orientation Day on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M.** On this day you will have an opportunity to learn about walking to school/transportation in CB and your child will get to take a practice ride on the school bus! While your children are riding the bus, I will share important details with you about the year. When the children return, there will be a scavenger hunt to visit the classroom, drop off supplies, and tour the school.

I'm looking forward to an excellent school year!

- Ms. Katelyn Cell