

# Welcome to Kindergarten!



Welcome to Kindergarten! My name is Melissa DeVries and I am the Kindergarten teacher at Grant Christian School. I am so excited to start this year! I look forward to getting to know you, your children, and the rest of your family this year!

I thought I would start off by letting you get to know me a little better. This is my sixth year teaching and my sixth year here at GCS. I graduated from Calvin College with a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. I grew up in Kalamazoo, MI and come from a family of six. I absolutely adore my 6 nieces and nephews! I am truly blessed! I love all things owls, pink, bright, and positive! I love to swim, fish, play with my nieces and nephews, drink coffee, spend time with friends and family, and teach!

I have always had a passion for teaching and for sharing the love of Christ with children. Every year my faith grows stronger as I teach and learn alongside my students! Their child-like faith teaches me, touches my heart, and challenges me! I absolutely adore Kindergarteners! They are such at such a fun age where we can learn and play together! I am so excited for this new adventure together! Our classroom décor this year will be cactus and llamas! We will “stick together!”, “no problama!” I am excited to walk along side of you and your Kindergartener this year!

## Communication:

I love parent volunteers, and I invite you to help out in our classroom as much as you would like. I offer many different ways for you to get involved including weekly guest readers, joining us on field trips, and helping out with special events. I would love to get to know any and all of you, so feel free to stop in and say hi!

I will be sending out a weekly newsletter on Friday's to let you know some highlights from the week and what big things are



happening in the coming week. I will keep you updated on our learning progress throughout the year. Our weekly newsletter can be accessed on gradelink, and if you would like a paper copy sent home as well, just let me know!

### Snacks & Lunch:

We have a morning snack just before morning recess. Students will have 15 minutes for snack each day. Each student should bring his or her **own** snack to school each day. We will also have 15-20 minutes for lunch. There is also milk/chocolate milk offered for lunch.

### Birthdays:

You are more than welcome to send or drop off a birthday treat for your child's birthday. Please send me a note or e-mail me if you are going to bring in a treat for your child's special day. Many choose to bring enough for the class, and enough to share with the school staff, but please do not feel obligated to do so! I know birthdays are fun and very special, and we will certainly enjoy celebrating as a class! Birthdays are a big event in Kindergarten and I love how special each child gets to feel on their special day! If your child has a summer birthday we can celebrate their half birthday!

### What your child needs:

For the first day of school, please be sure your child has the following materials:

- Backpack & Lunch box
- Take home folder with pockets
- Clear Pencil Box (we will be putting nametags on them)
- 2 packs of Beginner Pencils (they're fatter than normal pencils)\*\*
- 2 pink erasers\*\*
- Box of Crayola **Washable** Markers (classic colors)
- 6-10 Glue Sticks (these go so fast, but work the best!)\*\*
- 1 Glue Bottle\*\*
- Scissors
- 1 1 inch 3-ring binder



- 2 Lysol wipes (or similar brands) \*\*only used by teacher\*\*
- 2 packs of baby wipes \*\*

\*\*These will be community supplies, so no need to label them with your child's name!

If you would like to donate any extra supplies to our classroom, they would be greatly appreciated! If ever we are in need of more supplies, I will put them in the newsletter under our classroom wish list!

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call or text me (269-370-1084), stop in, or send me an e-mail (mdevries@grantchristianschool.org).

I feel very blessed to have your child in my class this year and I can't wait to see what the year holds!

Your partner in Education,

Melissa DeVries

