



Welcome to Pre-K 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to be your child's teacher and look forward to an enriching and rewarding school year. So many great things will happen in our class! Our objectives this year are to help better prepare your child for kindergarten emotionally, socially, and academically in a positive and nurturing environment.

School Information

Please note that school begins at 8:15 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. Breakfast begins at 7:45 a.m. Students must be in the lunchroom by 8:00 a.m. to eat breakfast and to avoid being tardy. We ask that after your child is settled in that you say your good-byes quickly. We understand that the first few weeks may be a little harder to make the separation, but there are a few things you can do to help ease the transition. It is so important to develop a routine that works for you and your child. Always say good-bye and communicate with them when you'll be back or see them again. Reinforce that you support and feel comfortable with them being here. We will communicate with you if your child does not feel comfortable. We want what is best for your child.

Transportation: Each student will be released to go home based on the information provided on his/her contact sheet. If at any time transportation arrangements change, it must be in writing and signed by a legal guardian. Phone calls and e-mails will not be accepted to change students' transportation.

Attendance/Tardy/Absents: Students are considered tardy at 8:16 a.m. If a student walks into class after the 8:15 a.m. bell a tardy will be issued. After 10 tardies students will be issued an unexcused absence. Late buses will not result in a tardy if the child arrives to school on the bus. If a student is absent, an excuse is needed on the day of his/her return. Only 5 parent/guardian notes can be accepted for the year. Other notes can come from a doctor, emergency room, etc. Please review the Code of Conduct for more information about attendance.

Classroom Information

Personal Items: Please send in an **extra set of clothes, including socks, to keep at school in case of an emergency.** If your child does need to be changed, please make sure their extra clothing gets replaced by their next school day. Also, please make sure you have **your child's name on all extra clothes** they bring to school. This includes jackets, sweaters and sweatshirts.

Daily Folders: Each child will have a folder that will be sent home daily. We ask that you check your child's folder each day and return it the next school day. There may be forms to be filled out, reminders, school/classroom announcements, and/or classwork for you to view.

Money: All money (including, but not limited to: ice cream, fund raiser, picture, book fair etc.) needs to be put in an envelope, zip lock bag, etc. Also, the money needs to be labeled with your child's name, amount, teacher's name, and purpose of the money. (Note: Pictures and fund raisers may come with their own envelope.) The money needs to be placed in your child's folder.

Health and Safety Information

It would be very helpful if your child knew the following skills and information. Please work on any of the skills and/or information below to help reduce close personal contact.

- How to wash his/her hands with soap and water as well as how to dry them without assistance.
- How to use a tissue when blowing his/her nose.
- How to cover his/her mouth with his/her arm while coughing or sneezing.
- How to take off and put on clothing including socks, shoes and jackets without assistance.
- How to unfasten and fasten clothing including zippers, snaps and buttons.
- PLEASE make sure that your child knows how to take care of ALL his/her bathroom needs including wiping him/herself without assistance.

We realize many students may not have mastered all of the above, but working together, we're sure, it can soon be accomplished.

Personal Supplies/Materials:

Headphones: Each student will need a pair of headphones that will stay in the classroom. The headphones will be used by your child only, in the Technology and Listening centers.

Individual Materials: Your child will have his/her own daily materials (ex. Crayons, markers, pencils, playdough and small manipulatives). These materials will be kept in a bag or container in his/her own cubby.

Sleeping Supplies: Each student will need/have their own sleeping mat and own blanket (optional) for rest time. The sleeping mats will be sanitized weekly or as needed and the blankets will be sent home to be washed weekly or as needed. These items will also be stored in your child's cubby.

Communication Information

We believe communication between parents and teachers is imperative. Feel free to call the school, email, or use Class Dojo if you have any concerns or questions. If it is more convenient to write a note, please place it in your child's daily folder. We can be reached by e-mail at SimEb@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us and DeanBr3@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Class Dojo: Hephzibah Elementary will be using Class Dojo to promote positive behaviors. A letter will be sent home inviting all parents/ Guardians to join each student's homeroom. Class Dojo can be downloaded to most electronic devices. Teachers, Administrators and other Hephzibah Elementary Staff members can add points on Class Dojo when positive behavior is recognized. Parents/ Guardians can

also use Class Dojo as a communication tool. We will post weekly pictures of our fun and learning on our closed classroom page.

Curriculum Information

The Creative Curriculum:

The Richmond County School system is implementing a new curriculum for our Georgia Pre-K program. The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that promotes exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills.

Please visit <http://www.decal.ga.gov/Prek/About.aspx> and <http://www.gelds.decal.ga.gov/> to learn more about the Georgia Pre-K program and the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards.

IB:

Hephzibah Elementary is an authorized IB PYP World School (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program).

IB is used to create a world view in the classroom. We teach the same standards, concepts, and assess the same skills as other schools, we just do it a different way. We teach all standards through different transdisciplinary units. This means that all subjects are intertwined with each other. All subjects will connect in some way.

We also teach the students different profiles. We teach them to be knowledgeable, principled, balanced and caring. We teach them to be thinkers and reflective in their work and to be risk-takers to learn beyond the standards. We teach them to be open-minded, inquirers, and communicators not only in the classroom, but in our community as well.

Please go to the IB website www.ibo.org and look around. There is so much information that is there and you can see how they will use IB all through their school careers.

We are looking forward to working with each child and are excited to be a part of their growth and development. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the school year.

Let's work together to make this year full of fun, learning, and personal growth for your child!

Thank you,

Ms. Sims and Mrs. Dean, Lead Teachers

