

Welcome to KINDERGARTEN

School Year 2026-2027

Dear Chatsworth Avenue School Families:

Welcome to Kindergarten! My name is Samantha Weng. I am excited to be your child's Kindergarten teacher this year.

I often say that the teaching profession chose me—and I quickly fell in love with it. My journey began at an afterschool program located inside a public school, where a principal noticed my ability to nurture and engage children. He encouraged me to pursue my teaching license and told me he would have a job waiting for me when I graduated.

Sure enough, midway through an accelerated graduate program, I received a call from that principal. After interviewing and earning my license six months later, I officially began my teaching career. I have taught grades K–2 in NYC Public Schools for nearly two decades and have also served in administrative roles as a Staff Developer mentoring new teachers and as a Literacy Coach supporting research-based instruction. This will be my fourth year teaching Kindergarten at Chatsworth Avenue School, and I am thrilled to continue this meaningful work with your children.

Kindergarten is a special time filled with wonder, growth, and discovery. My goal is to nurture the whole child—socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Your child will be supported as they grow in understanding themselves, the world around them, and their relationships with others. They will begin their journeys as readers, writers, mathematicians, artists, and researchers—and, most importantly, as thinkers who engage their curiosity, ask questions, make connections, and explore solutions.

Building confidence and creating a strong foundation for future learning are always at the heart of my work. I strive to help children become well-rounded individuals who take pride in their efforts, both independently and as valued members of our classroom community. Together, we will celebrate growth, encourage perseverance, and create meaningful learning experiences each day.

Communication and partnership with families are essential to your child's success. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to a wonderful year **together** and to helping your child develop a joyful, lifelong love of learning.

Warmly,

Samantha Y. Weng

yweng@mamkschools.org



***Please find the Kindergarten Supply List, and Teacher Wish List below.**



KSW - Important information for the first days of school...

- **First day of school:** **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**
 - From **September 2-12th**, door open at **8:30am** for Kindergarten students only - Classroom aides and other support staff will meet children at the **Dinosaur Playground** and accompany them to our classrooms.
 - *Starting Tuesday, September 16th**, doors will open at **8:38 a.m.** Please have your child enter through the **Chatsworth Avenue** doors. An aide will be stationed there each morning to greet your child and direct them to our classroom, which is located just inside that entrance.
 - **Dismissal, 11:30am (First Day Only)** - Kindergarteners will have a half-day on the first day of school. Our class will exit through the doors by the **Dinosaur Playground** and line up along the railing outside.
 - *Starting Wednesday, September 3rd**, we will follow our regular dismissal time of **2:55 p.m.**
 - **Please make sure your child says goodbye to me and wait for my acknowledgment before leaving with them. This helps ensure your child's safety and provides peace of mind for everyone.**
- **Supplies:** Please see the **Kindergarten Supply List & Teacher Wish List** below
 - Place all supplies in a **bag marked clearly with your child's name**. Label your child's name on the **folders, notebook and binder** only. All other supplies will be shared.
 - Please do not place supplies in your child's backpack, as we may not have time to check individual backpacks.
 - Supplies may be dropped off at school on **Wednesday, August 27th**, during the Kindergarten Ice-Pop Party 9-9:45am (held at the Dinosaur Playground), or on the first days of school. Please make sure all supplies are in by **Friday, September 5th**.
- **Backpacks:** Your child will need a backpack big enough to fit a two-pocket folder, a notebook, etc. - no toddler sized backpacks or ones with wheels please!
- **Water bottles:** To help your children stay hydrated throughout the day, please send them to school with a **refillable, spill-proof water bottle**.
- **Snacks:** We have a 5-10 minutes snack time every day, including early dismissal days. Please send your child to school with a small, nut-free snack.
 - **Reminders:** we are a **peanut- and tree nut-free** school; so snacks must **not** contain any nuts or nut products.
 - If your child's snack requires a **spoon or fork**, please pack one, as we do not have utensils available in the classroom.
- **Photos:** Please send **1 photo of your child alone** and **1 family photo**. These will be kept in the classroom to help with separation anxiety and foster a sense of connection between home and school. You may place the photos in one of the folders in your child's supply bag.
- **KSW Questionnaire:** Fill out this form to help me learn more about your child:
[KSW Questionnaire](#)

- **Communication:** If you have any questions/concerns, email me at yweng@mamkschools.org. Please allow 24–48 hours for a response, as our school days can be quite busy.



Kindergarten Supply List 2025 - 2026

- ☐ 1 family photo
- ☐ 1 individual photo of your child
- ☐ 1 large backpack – A standard-size folder, notebook, etc. should fit comfortably inside.
- ☐ If your child brings lunch from home, please send it in a lunch bag with a handle and a compartment for a water bottle. **Since students walk up and down stairs during the day, it's important that they have a free hand to hold the railing safely.*

Please bring the following supplies to school in a bag labeled w/your child's name:

- ☐ 2 Plastic 2-Pocket Folder in any color. **Write your child's name on it*
- ☐ 1 composition notebook, wide ruled **Write your child's name on it*
- ☐ 1 box of thick Crayola washable markers
- ☐ 1 box of thin Crayola washable markers
- ☐ 1 box of 24 count Crayola Crayons
- ☐ 1 box of 24 count Crayola Colored Pencils
- ☐ 4 Expo low odor, dry erase markers - black, fine point
- ☐ 6 giant glue sticks - preferably, Elmer's Disappearing Purple Glue Sticks
- ☐ 1" Heavy Duty AVERY View Binder, white (Cover must have a plastic sleeve and round metal rings inside). This will be for your child's end-of-year portfolio. **Write your child's name on it*
- ☐ 1 pack of high capacity sheet protectors - 50 count, top loading, with three holes for the binder rings
- ☐ 1 large box of tissues
- ☐ 1 roll of paper towels
- ☐ 1 box of gallon-size Ziplock bags

If your last name begins with letters A-L:

- ☐ 1 container, **Clorox** wipes
- ☐ 1 ream, **color cardstock** - pastel colors!
- ☐ 1 box, **Ticonderoga #2 pencils**, pre-sharpened, yellow, 12-pack
- ☐ 1 ream, **colored copy paper** - pastel colors!

If your last name begins with letters M-Z:

- ☐ 1 container, baby wipes
- ☐ 1 ream, **white cardstock**
- ☐ 1 box, **Ticonderoga My First Pencils**, pre-sharpened with eraser, yellow, 12-pack
- ☐ 1 box **quart-size Ziploc** bags

***Please do not place supplies in your child's backpack, as we may not have time to check individual backpacks.**

****Supplies may be dropped off at school on Wednesday, August 27th, during the Kindergarten Ice-Pop Party 9-9:45am (held at the Dinosaur Playground), or on the first days of school. Please make sure all supplies are in by Friday, September 5th.**



KSW's Teacher Wish List

The items below are not required, but if you're able and willing to donate any of them, they would be greatly appreciated to help enrich our classroom!

The items linked below can be found here: [Amazon Wish List](#)

- ☐ laminating sheets, 5 mil
- ☐ Googly eyes
- ☐ Model Magic
- ☐ Dot markers, multicolored
- ☐ Watercolor paints
- ☐ Hand soap
- ☐ white paper lunch bags
- ☐ small paper plates (the thin kind, we're using for crafts)
- ☐ a box of individually packaged Goldfish snacks or Popcorn (**for emergencies, in case students forget to bring a snack from home*)
- ☐ Lego People

If you have any of these things laying around at home that you no longer want (or someone is giving away on Buy Nothing Larchmont!:

- ☐ Leftover birthday party favor toys (*for our Prize Box*)
- ☐ Pretend Play Toys: baby dolls & accessories, doctor's kit, vet kit, etc. (*nothing that involves hats, wigs or dressup bc possible cases of lice in the school setting*)
- ☐ Ribbons

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We look forward to a great year ahead!