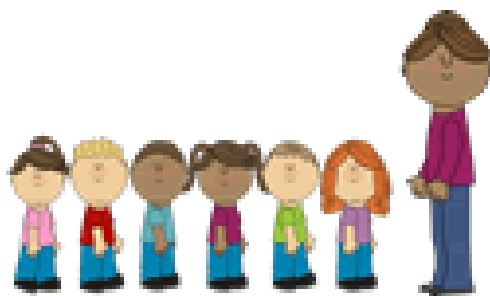


# Mrs. Burton's Kindergarten

2025-2026

## Classroom Information



### Tips For Starting School

1. Your child may bring a family photo to tape in his or her cubby as a reminder of home. Sometimes it helps to see parents' or siblings' faces during the day.
2. **Please make sure that I know exactly how your child is to get home everyday.** Although it is best to maintain a consistent routine, if changes are necessary, notify me by sending a note with your child or by calling the office.
3. If your child is crying on the first day (or any other day), remember that the longer you stay, the longer it will take your child to calm down. It is best to say goodbye with a hug and kiss and be on your way. Know that I and other adults at school have lots of experience with this and will do everything we can to help your child relax. Be assured that I will contact you if there are any prolonged problems.
4. Please demonstrate a positive attitude about kindergarten. Your child will follow your lead.

### Bathroom Breaks

Many children are concerned about using the bathroom at school. We take frequent bathroom breaks throughout the day. Please encourage your child to at least try to go when the class goes to the bathroom. Children may also ask to go to the restroom when needed, and I will try to let them go. However, there are times when I am unable to allow a child to go for supervision/safety reasons and he or she may have to wait until a teacher is available.

### Extra Clothes

Please keep a complete change of clothes and underwear in your child's backpack or cubby at all times. "Bathroom accidents" do happen in kindergarten and we also have spills at lunch or find mud puddles on the playground. It is a good idea to update the change of clothes seasonally or send something that is comfortable for any season—I have had kids have to change into shorts and tank tops in January! Oops!

### Recess and Appropriate Dress

Weather permitting, we go outside every day—even in winter. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather each day. Also, your child needs to be able to run and play safely in his or her shoes. Flipflops, high heels, and platform shoes can be dangerous on the playground.

### Snack

You may send a snack with your child each day, and I will provide an opportunity for him or her to eat it. Please send nonperishable items that can be eaten quickly with as little mess as possible (i.e. granola bars, fruit snacks, dry cereal, bananas). Children will not be allowed to share snacks unless they bring enough for the whole class (birthdays, special occasions, etc.). Students are welcome to share a snack/treat with the class for birthdays or celebrations.

### Quiet Time

I feel it is important for young children to unwind or rest during the hectic school day. This will be achieved through "quiet time" which will typically be held after lunch. I require students to remain in one spot and be silent for a short period of time. Students do not have to sleep, but may do so if needed. Throughout the year our quiet times change with the needs of the students to include reading books, listening to soft music, watching storybook videos, or coloring. It is not required, but students may bring a small beach towel to rest on. Please make sure it will fit easily in the cubby (no large blankets—they don't fit in our cubbies).

### Folders

Students will be expected to bring their "everyday folder" and "red class folder" home each day and return it to school the next day. The everyday folder will contain your child's work and papers. We will use the folders you provided from the supply list for "everyday folders". I will store the extra folders and replenish when necessary. (Students decide what goes in this folder.)

The "RED CLASS FOLDER" will contain a calendar with upcoming events, reminders, and any notes about your child's day (if necessary). A sticker/stamp on the date means a good day! Later in the school year, homework will also be noted on the calendar. **Notes or important school information will be in the red class folder.** You may send any correspondence to school in the RED CLASS FOLDER. (I control what goes in this folder.)

Your child will be responsible for getting folders out each morning and giving me notes, lunch money, etc. Please help your child develop the habit of being responsible with these items.

### Sending Money

Any time it is necessary to send money to school (lunch money, book orders, special events) please send it in an envelope labeled with your child's name and what the money is for.

### Keeping Informed

I will send newsletters and notes home on a regular basis to keep you informed. I also have a class website that I try to update regularly. I post copies of newsletters/notes, photos, updates on class projects, etc.

### How to Contact Me

The quickest way to reach me is through a text via the Remind App or email at [burtone@unionrxi.org](mailto:burtone@unionrxi.org), as I check it several times throughout the day.

If you would like to speak with me, you can send me an email with a number and good time to call, or you can call me at the school at 583-3152. You may be asked to leave a message if I am with students and unable to come to the phone.

You may send a note to school with your child in his or her Red Class Folder.

## Learning Activities

- Students will participate in a wide variety of learning activities each day.
- Some of the activities will involve the entire class, while others will be completed in small groups or individually.
- Some activities will involve "pencil and paper" but many will be "hands-on".
- Because we are so hands-on, the work your child brings home each day may not necessarily represent what he or she did that day. For that reason, I will send home newsletters and update my website.
- I encourage you to talk with your child at home about what he or she is doing at school. Asking specific questions shows your child that you are interested and value learning.

### Math

Students will participate in daily lessons, hands-on activities, and complete work pages as well as work in math centers.

### Science

Much of our science learning will be achieved through observing the changes in seasons. We will also study 4 units throughout the year. Our reading lessons will also incorporate science topics.

### Social Studies

Our social studies lessons will develop as we learn to work together as a classroom community. We will also explore social studies topics through our reading lessons.

### Literacy

Poetry, songs, rhymes, stories, big books, oral storytelling, and charts will all be used in our lessons. We will do a lot of alphabet, phonics, and phonemic awareness work as we begin learning to read. Sometimes the whole class will work together on an activity and sometimes children will work in smaller groups. We will do lots and lots of writing. In the beginning, I will do most of the writing with the students, but soon they will be writing all on their own. Some writing activities include Morning Message, Kindergarten News, journals, book making, and various writing center activities. Whatever we are doing, it almost always involves reading and writing. As we progress through the stages of learning to read and write, I will keep you updated on specific activities through my classroom newsletters.

### Literacy Centers

After we get settled into the school day routine, I will introduce literacy centers, or what the kids call "ABC Centers". Literacy centers are literacy-based activities that the students rotate through. They have a task they must complete with a partner. The center tasks change approximately every 2 weeks. During literacy centers, I work with children in small groups or individually, as needed. We read books together and practice other kindergarten literacy skills.

### Book Boxes

After students have worked with me on a particular book, it will go in their book boxes. I provide other books for each student based on his or her reading needs. Also in the book box will be a poetry journal. This is a collection of poems, rhymes, or songs that we have practiced. Students will spend time each day reading their books and poems.

### Centers

Our regular center time is different from literacy or math centers in that there are a wider variety of activities available and children may choose their own activities. Centers in our room include writing, art, messages, touch table, magnets, kitchen, math, science, Legos, light table, blocks, ABC's, puzzles, books, listening, and ipads. Students will be responsible for planning their work at the beginning of center time each day and often share their work with the rest of the class at the end of center time.

\*We will spend the first few weeks of school learning how to use the materials in each center appropriately and how to clean up properly. Once the children know the rules and routines in the classroom they will have access to all of the centers and materials on a daily basis—this includes paint and markers. While I try to use materials that are labeled “washable” and provide paint smocks, accidents and stains do occur sometimes. Please be aware of this when selecting clothing for your child each day.

# Our School Rules

The following 5 rules are used throughout our school building and this is how they apply to our classroom specifically:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand in order to speak.
3. Raise your hand to get out of your seat.

(Rules 2 and 3 apply mainly to large group activities, the cafeteria, assemblies, and special classes. Since much of our day is spent participating in hands-on or small group learning activities, we will learn when/where this is appropriate.)

4. Make smart choices.

(This rule is about thinking through the consequences of our actions.)

5. Keep your teacher happy.

(In our room, we use this rule for teacher and kiddos. We want everyone in our classroom to feel safe and happy to promote the best learning environment possible. With this in mind, students will be expected to be kind and considerate. They will be encouraged to treat teachers and classmates with respect. Happy kids make a happy teacher!)

Students will be expected to be responsible for their actions, but will also be taught and shown appropriate behaviors on a daily basis. When problem behaviors occur, we will use several methods to address them, including the following:

- Reminders and Warnings

Learning to get along at school is a major goal of kindergarten. For this reason I will give warnings and reminders of appropriate behavior when necessary. Often, a possible behavior problem can be a learning experience for an individual or the whole class.

- Redirection/Buddy Room Breaks

Sometimes giving a student something else to do can solve a particular behavior problem. A change of environment or a break can also help redirect a child. Students may be asked to take a break in our "buddy room" (Mrs. Titter). Depending on the situation, the student may take something to work on, just "chill" for a short period, or participate in whatever the buddy class is doing.

- Peace Area \*We will begin this later in the school year, if needed.\*

I encourage students to talk out their problems and work out their own solutions. Two chairs in a quiet spot in the room are used as the Peace Area where students meet with each other to talk if they are having a conflict.

- Rewards

Everyone likes to be rewarded for a job well done. Children will be continually praised for their efforts and good behavior. I will also give small occasional rewards such as stickers/treats or extra privileges (ie. more center time, class choice of activity, etc.). I also stress to the students that good behavior is its own reward—we can do so many fun things when everyone cooperates!

- Individual Plan/Checklist

Sometimes it may be necessary to create an individual behavior plan to help a student with a specific behavior or rule. If you or I feel that this becomes necessary for your child we will discuss the plan by phone or in person.

- Other/School Wide PBIS

We will also participate in any grade-level and school wide behavior programs (Paw Points, Paw Parties, celebrations, etc.) that arise during the school year. Watch school and classroom newsletters for information regarding these events.

