



Junior Kindergarten Information Packet

Dear JK Families,

Welcome to the Burbank Unified School District's Junior Kindergarten program. I am thrilled to have your child in my class!

I have planned many wonderful experiences and opportunities in the days ahead. Working together, we can make this a semester of growth and discovery for your child. I need your help to make the year a success:

- Fill out the student inventory on my website before January 13. This will help me get to know your child better. It also includes a photo release so that I can take photos of the students in class and send them out to parents via ClassDojo or Shutterfly.
- Review the behavior expectations with your child and return it filled out on or before January 13.
- Review this document so that you know expectations for snacks, clothing, restroom needs, and drop-off and pickup.

I look forward to working with you to provide the best possible experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Lisa Robertson
lisarobertson@burbankusd.org / www.lisamarierobertson.com

Meet the Teacher

Hi! My name is Lisa Robertson and I am honored to get to teach and make a difference in our community. I have lived in Burbank for almost 15 years. I am a mother of three sons, all of which attend Burbank USD schools. I have coached Burbank AYSO soccer for five terrific seasons and my family is very involved with Burbank Parks and Rec baseball. During my time teaching, I have taught almost every grade, junior kindergarten through twelfth. At the elementary level, I have worked as a regular classroom teacher, as well as a math and reading intervention specialist. At the high school level, I have taught health science. Every grade is rewarding and wonderful. I love connecting with my students and their families.

During my career, I have worked outside teaching as well. I have more than 10 years of experience working in the health care industry with most of that time focusing on writing about and promoting child and adolescent health and wellness working for some of the country's leading hospitals and health care companies. I have also worked as a freelance columnist and feature writer for the *Orange County Register* specializing in pediatric health and education.

I always teach and treat my students how I want my own children to be taught and treated. I set firm, high expectations for children, while always looking for ways to infuse fun and whimsy into our learning. My goal is to create independent students who take personal responsibility for their learning and behaviors.

Areas of Study

The purpose of JK is not kindergarten mastery. My goal is for students to become familiar with kindergarten concepts and help your child become ready for the rigors of their school career. This semester, we will investigate the following concepts:

- Letter recognition and sounds
- Numbers
- Colors
- Shapes
- Same vs. different/more vs. less
- Friendship & families
- Animals
- Seasons & weather
- American leaders
- Following instructions
- Proper school/social behaviors
- Teamwork & sharing
- Rhyming
- Writing letters, numbers and name
- Concepts of print
- Body awareness
- And more!

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival

Students may be dropped off at the Avon gate starting at 8:15 each day. The gate closes at 8:30 when the bell rings. Once the gate closes, parents will need to take their child to the office to check-in. Students who arrive after 8:30 are marked tardy.

Dismissal

Students shall be picked up promptly at noon daily at the Avon gate. If someone is not at the gate to pick up your child by the time the last child has been excused, your child will be taken up to the office to wait to be picked up. Students may only be picked up by people listed in their Aeries account. If you make a change to your child's Aeries account, please let me know, as I am not notified of changes.

Absences and Leaving Early

If your child is absent, please send a note with him/her the day that they return for the school's records. If your child has to leave early, please send a note or email ahead of time, so that we can make necessary accommodations in the classroom.

Dress Code, Supplies, Snack, & Restroom

Dress Code

- Students should be dressed in comfortable, distraction-free clothing that they can pull up, fasten, snap and button on their own. Jewelry, accessories, light-up shoes, and clothing with color-change sequin designs can be *very distracting* to child wearing them and their classmates.
- Shoes must be close-toe and worn with socks. Velcro shoes (and any shoes without laces) are a teacher's best friend.

Extra Clothing

- Please pack your child a full change of seasonally appropriate clothing in a labeled ziplock bag. The clothing should be kept at the bottom of their backpack and changed out as needed. Don't forget a shirt, pants, underwear and socks.

Supplies

- Each student needs a backpack that is large enough to hold a folder, plus their lunch/snack bag/box and change of clothing. Students hang their backpacks on hooks outside our room, so please be sure the backpack has a hook on the back.
- Please also provide your child with a standard, two-pocket folder for the semester.

Snack

- We will have snack time each morning. This is not intended to be a full lunch—just a light snack to get them through until they can head home for lunch after school. Snacks can be along the lines of a granola bar, a piece of fruit or half of a sandwich. Students should also bring something to drink like a juice box or water bottle. (I recommend all students have water with them.)
- Please be mindful of how your child's snack is packed; they should be able to open their food and drink on their own.

Please use a permanent marker to label extra clothing, sweaters, jackets, lunch/snack bag, folder and backpack with your child's first and last name.

Restroom

- Students must be able to tend to their own restroom needs. School staff may not assist with clothing or hygiene.
- Please encourage your child to use the restroom just before leaving for school each morning. This helps to minimize students missing lessons early in the day.

Get Involved

Family members can be involved in our class in many ways by:

- Volunteering to help in the classroom during independent work time.
- Volunteering to help with special in-class projects.
- Taking home and cutting out projects.
- Printing out documents in color that we can use in the classroom.
- Donating classroom supplies.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering in our classroom at any time this year, please speak with the Stevenson office. They can walk you through the process of getting approved and/or work with another school you are already approved at to get your information transferred.

Room Parent

I would love the assistance of a room parent (or room parents). The role of the room parent is to communicate school information like fundraisers and special events and coordinate the Valentine's Day party and class birthday party. Please reach out to me via email if you are interested.

Supplies

As you can imagine, the supplies needed for early childhood education can be very expensive. A full list of supplies needed can be found on my website www.lisamarierobertson.com in the junior kindergarten section.

Items of most critical need include:

- Unscented baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Playdough
- Unscented saving cream
- Color sugar sprinkles

Communication

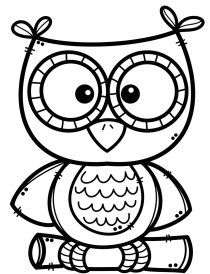
I prefer to communicate via email and I always try to respond right away. I will also send home information on ClassDojo, which a terrific way to send information in text format.

I will also try to send out a monthly newsletter, similar to the one passed out at the parent orientation. Past versions of the newsletter are available on my website under the junior kindergarten tab.

If your kiddo has had a bad morning, bad night sleep, or has something going on at home or health-wise that may affect his or her emotions or performance at school, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. These are things that I always want to know so that I can provide your child with support academically and emotionally.

JK Tips

- One of the first things we will be covering is identifying and writing your child's name. Please work with your child at home to write their name.
 - The first letter should be uppercase and the rest should be lowercase.
 - As a general rule, all letters start from the "top" and never the bottom. Most children want to start their letters from the bottom, but this is not correct letter formation and if this habit is not corrected early, it can be difficult to break later.
 - If you aren't sure how to explain how to write a certain letter, I highly recommend looking up Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) videos on YouTube. I use HWT terminology as I teach students to write and it is highly regarded as the best way to teach children to write.
- If you are counting with your child, it is important that they learn to count one thing at a time, pointing to each item as they go.
- We refer to colors a lot in class. We use colors to define where we sit, for behavior management and so much more. We will be reviewing colors, but students should know the basic colors of the rainbow.



Behavior Agreement Plan for Junior Kindergarten

Classroom Rules:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Listen actively to teacher and others.
3. Speak softly in class.
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
5. Stay seated unless given permission.
6. Respect each other's work and space.
7. Raise a quiet hand to speak.
8. Respect adults and school property.
9. Stand and walk safely in a quiet line.
10. Share with our friends.

If You Choose to Break a Rule or Be Unsafe:

- First time: Verbal warning and student moves name to green.
- Second Time: Move name to blue. Immediate time out to think.
- Third Time: Move name to purple. Lose privilege and note sent home.
- Further disruptions in a day will result in loss of all privileges and a phone call home (if warranted).
- Severe Disruptions: Student sent immediately to the office.

Students are responsible for moving their names and accepting the consequences. Students will return their names to yellow at the end of each school day to prepare for the next day. Students may move back up the chart to yellow if they make good choices. Students exhibiting exceptional behavior or work ethic may even move their name up to orange or red.

Rewards:

- Praise (daily)
- Participation in all daily activities (daily)
- Opportunity to move name up the color chart. (daily)
- Treasure Basket Prize after earning 10 green tickets. (These will be introduced later.)
- Class Treasure Jar - once the treasure jar is full, we will have a whole class party.

Please detach and return the section below by January 13, 2019 -----



Student: I have read this plan and understand it. I will do my best to make good choices.

Signature: *(Student to write name in box.)*

Guardian/Parent: My child and I have discussed the importance of good behavior and making good choices. I understand and will support the behavior expectations for junior kindergarten.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

Email Address: _____