

Mrs. Gina's Class
Daily Schedule

9:00-9:20 AM	Arrival/Morning Work
9:20-9:30 AM	Clean Up
9:30-9:50 AM	Circle Time
9:50-10:20 AM	Small Group/Centers
10:20-10:30 AM	Clean Up
10:30-10:45 AM	Snack
10:45-11:00 AM	Recess
11:00-11:25 AM	Student of the Week/Story Time
11:25-11:30 AM	Pack Up/Dismissal

Mrs. Gina's Class



2020-2021
Parent FAQ Packet

Welcome to Preschool!

Dear Preschool Families!

Welcome (or welcome back) to Kenowa Hills Early Childhood Center! I am looking forward to a working with you and your children this year and helping them to achieve their full potential. Our days and weeks will be filled with many wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn and grow. We are so excited you will be part of our school family this year!

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Gina Klatt and I am delighted to be your child's teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. This will be my tenth year with our school district, and my fourth year here in the Community Education Preschool Program. For the six years prior to that, I taught in the 4-5 year old room in the KH Early Childhood Learning Center down the hall. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you!

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. I will communicate with you through notes, telephone calls, e-mail, assessments, our classroom Facebook page (should be up and running soon), and parent teacher conferences. You are welcome to visit our classroom at any time. We can always use an extra pair of hands and another smiling face when working with the children.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can call me at school: (616) 647-0910 ext 3250, send me a note, or e-mail to gklatt@khps.org. You will soon be able to visit our class website - I will send home a link and basic info once I get it completely up and running in the next month or so. Our website will have plenty of information about our classroom and school as well as lots of pictures of our activities this year.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child!

Love,

Mrs. Gina Klatt



Beginning of the Year Checklist

Are you ready for the first days of school?

- ❖ Backpack or tote bag large enough to hold Home/School Communication Folder
- ❖ Extra Change of Clothes
- ❖ Tennis shoes for recess/gym time (if not wearing them to class)



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What time does school start?
2. What time does school end?
3. Where do I pick up my child after school?
4. What if my child is late for school or absent?
5. What is the best way to contact my child's teacher?
6. Will my child bring home a weekly or daily folder?
7. Will my child have homework?
8. Will my child bring home a daily behavior report?
9. When will report cards be sent home?
10. Should I send money to school with my child?
11. What if my child is sick?
12. What should my child wear to school?
13. Does my child need a backpack?
14. Does my child need an extra change of clothes?
15. Can my child ride the bus to school?
16. Do I need to purchase school supplies?
17. Can I bring a treat to school for my child's birthday?
18. What are the classroom rules?

1. What time does school start?

Our classes begin at 9am.

2. What time does school end?

Our classes end at 11:30am. Please arrive a few minutes early - it makes the children nervous if they are the last to have a parent/ride arrive to pick them up! It is easier on them if you are ready and waiting when we bring them to the door! :)

3. Where do I drop off my child/pick up my child after school?

From our drive up drop off/pick up lane. For the first few days, please have a sign in your window with your child's name. Mrs. Jill and I will bring each child out as you arrive - please be patient with us as we learn our new routine!

4. What if my child is late for school or absent?

We understand that there may be instances when it is not possible to be here on time. Also, illness happens, as do schedule changes. Just give us a call or send me an email so we don't worry about you!

5. What is the best way to contact my child's teacher?

Calls made during class times will be answered by office staff. Messages can be given to me at any time, and I will call back as soon as possible. Of course, you may also send a note to school with your child at any time in his/her Home/School Communication Folder, or you may send an email to gklatt@khps.org. I check email as frequently as possible during downtimes in the day, so it really is the simplest way to contact me.

6. Will my child bring home a weekly or daily folder?

Yes. I will be using a folder called a "Home/School Communication Folder". This will be placed in the box outside our classroom door, when you arrive with your child in the morning, and I will send them home in your child's backpack after school. Every day, I will enclose any work or notes from the week in the folder, along with any calendars, newsletters, or other information. Anything in the side labeled "Return to School" should come back the first day of school the next week. All other items can be taken out and kept at home.

7. Will my child have homework?

Your child will be bringing home some type of reading or activity once every two weeks or so, to be completed and sent back on the first day your child attends the following week. This program will not start until about a month into the school year, so that we have time to settle in before sending extra work!

8. Will my child bring home a daily behavior report?

No. If any behavioral incidents occur, you will be notified via a note in the Home/School Communication folder. :)

9. When will report cards be sent home?

Progress reports will be sent home twice per year. I will always be happy to discuss your child's progress in my classroom with you. at any time. but conferences will be scheduled twice, once in the fall and once in the spring. I will be doing basic assessment of ability on all students during our academic times together. I will notify you in advance so you can look in your child's communication folder for his/her progress report. Our assessment portfolio folders will be discussed at conferences and sent home and the end of the school year for you to keep.

10. Should I send money to school with my child?

There may be times during the school year when a note is sent home with your child to purchase certain items like books, fundraising items, or individual pictures. Please know that you are never obligated to send money to school for any of these purposes. We also send home party fee and field trip cost requests a few times throughout the year. Should you need to send money to school for any reason it should only be sent to school in the Home/School Communication Folder in a sealed envelope or Zip-loc bag and labeled with your child's name, teacher's name, and the purpose for the money, or handed directly to a staff member. Please do not send loose money to school for ANY reason.

11. What if my child is sick?

If your child is sent to school sick or becomes sick during school hours we will be contacting you to pick up your child. If you will not be sending your child to school due to illness please call the school and leave a message with a staff member, or send me an email.

****IMPORTANT****

PLEASE KEEP ALL CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS CURRENT IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY

12. What should my child wear to school?

Please send your child in weather appropriate clothing and shoes. We spend time outside in various kinds of weather, and it is important that all students are dressed for comfort regardless of the conditions.

13. Does my child need a backpack?

YES. All students will need a functional backpack large enough to hold our Home/School Communication Folder. Please do not use undersized bags, as it makes it very difficult for the students to put their folders and library books in them. Backpacks will also be used for storage of extra clothes, for sending Show and Tell Bag, Take Home Reading and Activity Kits, and to store crafts, artwork etc. . so please make sure that your child brings his/her backpack each day. Many backpacks look alike, please label your child's backpack with his/her first and last name.

*****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD BRINGS A BACKPACK TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY!**

***TOYS, CANDY, and FOOD:** For safety reasons please do not allow your child to bring any toys or candy to school. Toys can easily become broken, lost, or stolen. Toys from home will not be allowed in our classroom unless the student is taking his/her turn as our Star Student. We will not be allowing outside food at this time, due to the current situation, and gum is not allowed at school at any time.

18. Does my child need to bring a change of clothes to school?

YES. Please send an extra change of clothes to school enclosed in a Zip-Loc bag in your child's backpack as soon as possible.

****Please include the following items: Underwear, socks, shirt, pants or shorts****

The change of clothes will be stored in your child's backpack- **DO NOT REMOVE THE CHANGE OF CLOTHES.** This is why it is so important for your child to bring a backpack to school daily.

19. Can my child ride the bus?

No. Parents are responsible for all drop off and pick ups for the class.

20. Do I need to purchase school supplies for my child?

No. We supply everything necessary. If you would be interested in donating any classroom supplies, I would be delighted, just ask if anything is needed. I will only ask for donations for holiday parties.

21. Can I bring treats to school for my child's birthday?

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we will not be allowing outside food brought into the classroom beyond our requested individually wrapped snack donations. Please know we will do our best to celebrate your child's special day without these extras!

22. What are the classroom rules?

We try to keep the rules simple due to the age of the children:

1. Helping Hands
2. Listening Ears
3. Quiet Voices
4. Walking Feet
5. Eyes Looking

***I hope that this information answers any questions you may have regarding our class. As always, if you have any other questions or concerns please feel free to contact me either via phone or email. Remember, we are all learning together this year - all suggestions are welcome! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you!

-Mrs. Gina Klatt

BUILDING Math Skills At HOME

Here are some simple things that you can do at home to help your child with math.

- Play board games as a family! Many of them encourage math development. Yahtzee (basic addition), Connect Four (problem solving), Card Games (basic addition and subtraction and ordering numbers), Candy Land (make your own game cards and use math facts instead of colors), Monopoly (money), and Battleship (coordinate graphs) are just a few to mention.
- Talk about the calendar with your child. Look forward to and countdown to special events such as vacations, birthdays, and holidays. Count the weeks and days to an event, and determine which day it will fall on.
- Help your child learn to count money by playing store with them. Use real coins and dollar bills.
- Use an empty egg carton as a counting tool to practice addition and subtraction skills up to 10. Simply place objects in the slots, and use the empty slots to count up to/from 10.
- Be on the lookout for shapes. Discuss the shapes you see. For a challenge, ask your child how many sides the shape has. (Example: A triangle has three sides. Two triangles would have six sides.)
- Help your child develop time skills by incorporating the clock into their schedule. At home, create a bedtime schedule (Example: Brush Teeth at 8:00; Bedtime story at 8:10; Bed at 8:30). Create a poster with the schedule, and hang it in your child's bedroom. Begin with easy times (7:00), and gradually progress to more difficult times (7:30 and 7:45).
- Involve your child in activities at home that use measurement such as picture framing and home improvement projects.
- Bake with your child. Have them read recipes and measure ingredients.
- Develop an understanding of fractions when eating or making a pizza by discussing how many slices there are, and what fraction of the pizza they are eating.

Building a Reader At HOME

Explore Books!

Give your child an opportunity to explore books. **Visiting a library or bookstore** gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

Read, Read, Read!

Make sure to read for at least **30 minutes per day!** Children can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

Ask Questions!

- Predictions
- Characters
- Main Idea
- Problem
- Solution
- Retell Story
- Genre
- Moral

Make it Fun!

Reading shouldn't be a chore.

Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.

Be an Example!

Children learn by example, so **let your child see you read** whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Pick Good Fit Books!

A book that is a good match for your child should meet the following requirements:

- Purpose for reading
 - Interest
- Can they understand what they are reading?
Can they retell the story?
- Do they know most of the words?

For Beginning Readers:

- Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.
 - Memorize sight words
- Visualize the story in your head
- Ask questions before, during, and after
Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child. Instead, ask them to:
 - Sound out the word
 - Break the word into parts
- Try a different vowel sound (long/short)
 - Use illustrations for clues
- Skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?

For Advanced Readers:

- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
 - Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of contents, etc.) along with other genres as well
 - Compare and contrast books
- Discuss connections to literature
 - Think of new titles for books
- Explore multiple books from the same author