

Kindergarten  
Parent  
Handbook



for

Farrell

Elementary School

**WELCOME!**



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Farrell Elementary School! Your child will be provided a variety of experiences in the emotional, physical, social and intellectual phases of development this year. We are looking forward to giving your child a wonderful start to school this year in kindergarten! With love, patience, understanding and cooperation, we know it will be an enjoyable year for everyone.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Cover  
Mrs. Pedraz  
Ms. Poland  
Mrs. Powell

Please read this booklet to familiarize yourself with policies at Farrell and for information on growth and development. Always remember the number one rule – never compare children! Children develop at different rates, to compare would be unfair and harmful.

1. School starts promptly at 8:30AM. Children line up at their class numbers in the back of schoolyard. **NO CHILD IS TO BE LEFT UNATTENDED WHILE WAITING FOR HIS/HER TEACHER TO ARRIVE. Your child's teacher arrives at 8:30 and will not be responsible for the children before that time.** In the event of inclement weather, please bring your child to the kindergarten entrance doors between 8:20-8:30. School staff will take them to meet their teacher. No parents need to enter the building with their child.

2. **Dismissal is at 3:00.** Your child's teacher will inform you about the pick-up location. It is important that you are in the yard waiting at 3:00. We want the little ones to be in safe hands before the rest of the students dismiss. If there is a change in your child's escort, please write a note or call the office. Your child will NOT be dismissed to someone who is not listed on the paperwork unless there is a note or a phone call and the person has a matching photo ID. Please follow these procedures for the safety of your child. In the case of severe weather, please be prepared for an early dismissal. Please be sure that the person you leave as an emergency contact understands English. It is upsetting to a child when everyone is picked up and he/she is left waiting.

3. Your child will be eating lunch in the school cafeteria. You may send in a lunch that does not need to be heated or your child may receive lunch for free from the cafeteria. The lunch includes milk. Please do not send in soda or glass bottles. Containers and snack bags should be easy enough to open that your child can do it by himself/herself. Of course an adult will help when needed, but there will only be one teacher and many children.

**4. When sending money to school, ALWAYS:**

- **send it in an envelope or sealed bag**
- **write your child's name and room number on it**
- **write what the money is for and the amount**

**We will not take money unless it is sealed in an envelope or bag.** This practice simply avoids any confusion and gives us more time to devote to teaching.

Pretzels are ordered on Wednesday and delivered on Thursday. Pretzels cost \$0.50 each. Please send in exact change in an envelope or Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name, pretzel money and the amount.

5. An absence note is required when your child misses a day. If an absence is not documented with a note within three days of the child's return to school, it is considered unexcused and goes on your child's record. Absences of three (3) or more days require a doctor's note. When a student has been absent due to illness and excused with a parent note more than 9 times (cumulative), a doctor's note must be provided to the school to excuse any illness after this. If you know your child is sick, please do not send him/her to school. Teachers are **not** permitted to give children medication. Lateness Policy: Any student coming to school after 10:00 am and/or leaving school before 1:00 pm without an excuse note will be coded as half a day unexcused.

6. Your child will need many things to enhance learning about current topics. We do various things throughout the year. The cost is a one-time activity fee of \$10.00 for the year. Please bring this fee to your child's interview.

7. Please join our Home & School Association. Your child benefits from their hard work. They are a small, but mighty team in need of more members and volunteers.

8. While each child's birthday is special, we are not able to hold birthday celebrations in school.

9. Uniforms are to be worn every day. The gym shirt (\$10.00), gray shorts/pants and sneakers must be worn on gym days. Children will not be permitted to take gym without sneakers. Girls may not wear loops or hanging earrings on gym day.

10. If you have questions or concerns about your child, please write a note and your child's teacher will get back to you as soon as possible. Please remember that we cannot talk while class is in session. Also, be sure to notify your child's teacher as soon as a phone number or address change occurs.

11. Please label all of your child's belongings – sweaters, bookbags, folders, umbrellas ....

12. Book orders will be sent home occasionally. This is your chance to find enrichment materials for your child and help his/her class at the same time. We can only accept checks and money orders made out to "Scholastic".

13. Please feel free to watch your child as he/she enters the school building, but after this please allow us to proceed with a normal school day. Rest assured that your children are in good hands. In the past, anxious parents peeking in windows and parents following children into the school building have distracted children and made it difficult for them to begin the school day. We understand and appreciate your care and concern.

**Thank you for all of your support and cooperation!**

## Tools for Success

First, come dressed for success.

Farrell School Uniform

- Forest green golf shirt with the Farrell logo
- Khaki colored pants, jumper, skirt or skort.
- Farrell gym shirt with gray or black sweatpants (worn on your child's gym day)

## School Supplies

- Large schoolbag/backpack (big enough for a folder)
- **2 Laminated Folders with pockets, labeled with your child's name**
- **8 black dry erase markers and 1 eraser or clean sock (to erase marker boards) placed in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name.**
- **Activity Fee - \$10.00 brought to Kindergarten Meeting**
- **24 pack crayola crayons**
- **1 package of 8-10 CRAYOLA washable broad line markers**
- **cloth/canvas pencil case**
- **safety (blunt tip) scissors (Fiskars, preferably)**

**You do not need to label these items.**

They will be put together and used as class supplies.

**Please do label the bags they are brought to school in** so that we can keep track of who brought in their supplies.

Thanks!

- **8 large glue sticks (Elmers, preferably)**
- **1 box of tissues**
- **2 rolls of paper towels**
- **1 container of cleaning wipes (for tables)**
- **One package of Hefty One Zip Lock storage bags (gallon size)**
- **One package of 9 inch white paper plates**
- **1 Hand sanitizer with pump**
- **2 reams of copy paper**

If anyone has old magazines – Good Housekeeping, Family Circle, Redbook, National Geographic...- that they would like to donate for use with our projects, they would be greatly appreciated. (Ask family members too.)

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES IN BOLD PRINT WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE INITIAL PARENT CONFERENCE BEFORE YOUR CHILD BEGINS KINDERGARTEN. BE SURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS ON THE BAGS.**

**\*An additional supply list will be sent home in February.**

# Help at Home

**Homework** will be given Monday-Thursday. It will be placed in your child's homework folder. It should be done in PENCIL – not ink. Children should do their own work, but parents must check to see that it is done. Your child should know that we all expect him/her to do his/her best work. Once homework is checked and sent home it should be removed from the folder.

**Sight Word Books** will also be sent home. These books will contain the sight words your child is learning. We ask that the words be reviewed each night. Your child will be tested every Monday and new words will continue to be added weekly.

## **Reading Log**

Please write the titles of books read together with your child. In the beginning of the year, you may be doing the reading, but soon your child will be reading to you. Our goal is to have every child read at least 100 books!

**Consider this part of your child's homework every night.  
The Reading Log should be kept in your child's folder.**

**Little Books** are beginning books that the children have read in class. They should be read at home to parents or siblings at least three times. These books will be on your child's independent reading level. It should be enjoyable for them, not frustrating. In the beginning, the pictures will be clues for the words. As your child's vocabulary increases, the books will get harder. Books must be returned in the plastic bag **every day**.

**PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF LOST OR DAMAGED BOOKS.**

**Please have the following supplies available for your child to use at home: crayons, pencils, glue sticks, old magazines and scissors.**

**FARRELL WEBSITE – [www.philasd.org/schools/farrell](http://www.philasd.org/schools/farrell)**