



Turner Valley School - Kindergarten Program

Mrs. Kim Saunders

Welcome to Kindergarten at Turner Valley School! This booklet is intended to provide you with information to facilitate a smooth introduction to Kindergarten for you and your child.

Class Times:

Kindergarten runs from **8:25am-3:00pm** (Mondays, Wednesdays and select Fridays or Tuesdays, Thursdays and select Fridays).

Please visit the Turner Valley School website at <https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/turnervalley> to see the [2021-2023 Kindergarten Calendar](#). The 2022-2023 calendar will be posted before the end of June.

The calendar will inform you of which Fridays your child attends kindergarten, as well as Christmas and Easter Break and any other school holidays. If Turner Valley School closes for some reason, Kindergarten will also not operate on that day. The calendar for Foothills School Division can be found in the Foothills School Division Website at <https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/ci/search?q=calendar>

Changes to Pick Up

Kindergarten students are dismissed directly by their parent, guardian, or older sibling. Kindergarten children are not allowed to leave the school grounds unsupervised. If someone different is picking up your child from school you **MUST** send a note or call the office to inform us of the change. We are unable to release your child to someone we do not have listed on the **Kindergarten Student Information Sheet** (which is filled out at the beginning of the school year). If a change is necessary please notify me well before home time. This time of day is very busy and it takes time for the office to relay your message to the classroom.

Attendance

A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parents, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by consistent daily participation. If a student will be absent due to illness or other reasons, **parents are to contact the school**. Please send me an email saundersk@fsd38.ab.ca (before 8:00am) send a Dojo text, or phone the office at 403-938-7359 between 8:15 and 9:00am.

Supplies

All supplies can be viewed and ordered at www.schoolstart.ca. They will be posted for the upcoming year by the end of June.

The following additional items must be clearly labelled with your child's first and last name:

1. **One (Full-Sized) Backpack** (large enough to fit a binder)
2. **One Lunch Box** (Kindergarten students bring their own lunch and snack to school each day.)
3. **One Water Bottle** (to be taken home, washed and filled with fresh water daily)
4. **A pair of indoor running shoes** (that will stay at the school). Your child **MUST** be able to put on and take off all indoor and outdoor shoes by themselves. If you child can't tie yet, please do not send shoes with laces.
5. **A full change of clothes** (shirt, pants, underwear and socks) in a large ziplock freezer bag clearly labeled with your child's first and last name. These will stay at the school all year. Toileting accidents happen occasionally in kindergarten, and a change of clothes allows us to be prepared.

Clothing

Have your child wear comfortable, washable clothing to school. Your child must be able to handle their clothing **on their own**. This includes zippers, snaps, buttons and mittens or gloves. Please do not send your child to school wearing good dress clothes. Kindergarten is a messy place! The children have the opportunity to use paint & play-dough daily. We often have craft activities that use glitter, glue and other messy supplies. We try to keep clothing clean and protected, but it is not always possible.

I spend a significant portion of each day outside with the children. We will go out rain or shine. PLEASE dress your child appropriately for the weather every day. If it is less than -20C we will stay in (as per indoor recess guidelines), but other than that we will be out for a minimum of 2 hours each day.

Washroom

Please review with your child proper use of the washroom. Your child should be able to **independently** undo buttons and zippers, wipe, flush and wash up afterwards. Proper hygiene is a must so we all stay healthy!

Snack and Lunch

Kindergarten students bring their own lunch and snack to school. Please send one or two small nutritious snacks, in addition to their lunch each day. We have our snack mid-morning. The children have 15 minutes for snack and 25 minutes for lunch. Please send foods that are easy for your child to open

and eat **quickly & independently**. Please ensure your child can open all packages on their own. Children are welcome to help themselves to their water bottles throughout the day. Please do not send juice boxes to school. It is my experience that young children rarely finish these and they are messy to recycle.

Please do not send chips, candy, cupcakes or other "junk food" to school. ☺

The following are some healthy examples of "finger food" that students can bring for morning snack time (or lunch):

cut up vegetables and dip
cut up fruit
crackers and cheese
meat and cheese cubes
yogurt
pretzels
dry, whole grain cereal
granola bars
sandwiches
leftover pasta in a thermos

(Please note that students do not have access to a microwave. A Thermos is a great option for warm food)

Allergies

If your child has any allergies please make sure we are aware of them. We especially need to know about food & animal allergies as well as insect bite reactions.

Gym and Outdoor Recess

Kindergarten students will participate in both morning and lunch recess. Learning about recess (safety, routines, & problem solving) will be a big focus during the first few days (and weeks) of kindergarten. I believe that getting outside, being active and enjoying the fresh air is a very important part of the school day. We will go out for recess in rain or shine (or snow), so please dress your child appropriately for the weather every day.

Kindergarten students will also enjoy daily gym as well as many movement breaks in the classroom. It is important that your child has a comfortable pair of running shoes at all times (his/her indoor shoes) for all of these activities.

Library

The children will have Library time weekly with Mrs. Webb, our Learning Commons Facilitator. Kindergarten students are able to sign out one book each week. Please help your child to be prepared with their book on their library day (books can be brought back sooner as well). If the children do not have their book returned, they will not be allowed to sign out another

book. This can be upsetting for your child. Please plan ahead to help make Library a meaningful experience every week.

Kindergarten Homework = Reading With Your Child!

Please read to your child, and let your child see you reading, often. **Reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do to help them develop literacy skills.** Research shows that reading aloud to children promotes their development of language, vocabulary, even motor skills (as they learn to turn pages). Kids who are read to consistently from an early age not only learn to read more easily, but they also show better language scores long after kindergarten is a distant memory - years later in upper elementary school. Set a goal to read to your child for 15-20 minutes each and every day. This is your "Kindergarten Homework." ☺

Money

At times your child will need to bring money to school. Please always send money in a sealed envelope, in their Mail Messenger, with their name, grade, amount enclosed, and what the money's for, written on the envelope.

Parent - Teacher Communication

For your child to reach his/her full potential and experience success a good parent-teacher relationship is vital. Throughout the year I will be communicating with both the class as a whole, and individually with parents regarding their child. I will be using the following methods of communication this year:

Group Communication

1) ClassDojo

I use ClassDojo as my primary means of communication with parents. I will use it to share (private) messages, class reminders, updates and photos. ClassDojo is an "opt-in" program. Sign up information will be sent home in the first few days of school.

2) Classroom newsletters and calendars will be emailed home monthly.

Newsletters will be used to inform you of kindergarten curriculum, themes and units we are exploring in class, materials you may need to send in, and important dates and activities for the month. Calendars will also highlight important days as well as the schedule for "Star Students."

3) Mail Messengers are communication folders designed to help manage the home - school flow of paper. These will come home in the first few days of school. Some days there will be a flurry of paper and other days there will be nothing! If you have notes for me, please tuck them into your child's Mail Messenger and I will be sure to get them. It is very important that Mail Messengers are returned to school with your child daily. ☺

Individual Communication

- 1) I believe that **Face-to-Face Conversations** are always the most effective. The best time for parents to have a quick chat with me is at drop-off or pick-up time (by chance) or after school (by appointment).
- 2) I will **phone or email** you as needed. Please feel free to do the same. I check both phone and email messages daily.

Email: saundersk@fsd38.ab.ca

School Phone: 403-938-7359

3) **Student Led Conferences & Parent Teacher Interviews** are a chance for your child to show you what they are learning at school. These typically take place in November and March. The format for these conferences this year has not yet been determined.

6) **Learner Profiles** are sent home 3x a year (December, March, & June).

I hope this has answered some of your questions! A child's first year of school is an exciting and sometimes apprehensive time for both parent and student. It is my commitment to make your child's first school year a fun-filled learning experience. I am looking forward to a wonderful year guiding your child through Kindergarten.

With warm regards,

Mrs. Kim Saunders
saundersk@fsd38.ab.ca