



2018-2019  
Kindergarten Handbook  
Mrs. Thompson's Class

Brumby Elementary School  
815 Terrell Mill Road  
Marietta, GA 30067

Office Phone Number  
(770) 916-7070

My email:

[Katelyn.deininger@cobbk12.org](mailto:Katelyn.deininger@cobbk12.org)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten! As your child's teacher, I hope to build a relationship with you and your child that will be long and fruitful. First, I would like to share a little about myself. I was born and raised in Roswell, GA. I attended college at Maryville College in East Tennessee where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. I received my Master's degree from Kennesaw State University in 2015. This is my sixth year at Brumby, and I am so proud and excited to be a part of this wonderful school.

I recently started back at graduate school to receive my Specialist Degree in Educational Psychology: Gifted and Creative Learning. I do not have children (yet), but I do have a one-year old niece who I adore! I devote a major part of my life to my class. I love learning and hope to always foster a love for learning in my students. Aside from teaching, some of my hobbies include watching college football in the fall (Go Dawgs!), reading, running, DDP Yoga, and spending time with my friends and family, (especially my 1 month old niece).

In our class, we have the assistance of an experienced paraprofessional. Ms. Turner has been at Brumby for several years, and she will be helping our students every day in learning and with our daily activities such as small groups, lunch, recess, and Core X.

Now that you know a little about me, I hope to learn more about you and your child as the year goes on. Parent-teacher relationships are very important to me, so please feel free to contact me any time by phone, e-mail or written note. I look forward to working with you and your child as s/he blossoms this year in Kindergarten!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Thompson

## **What to Expect in Kindergarten**

Kindergarten has changed a lot since you were last there. The standards and expectations are rigorous, but attainable. Students will not simply be “playing” all day, nor will they be doing just “worksheets.” Rather, every day is structured to involve interactive, collaborative, engaging learning activities that are built in accordance with the Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies national and state standards. We also focus on developing other important skills including: problem solving, fine motor skills (cutting, pasting, drawing neatly), social skills (sharing, using words, manners, conflict resolution, etc.), computer skills (using digital tools to learn and create). Kindergartners are expected to quickly take ownership of their learning and become independent learners. Every week, you will receive a newsletter that outlines what we will be working on that week in each subject area.

To see more of what kindergarten is all about, please visit our Brumby Kindergarten Website: [www.brumbykindergarten.weebly.com](http://www.brumbykindergarten.weebly.com)

To see more of what we are doing in my classroom, visit our class website: [www.kinderthompson.weebly.com](http://www.kinderthompson.weebly.com)

## **What to Bring to School**

### GREEN FOLDER

Your child should bring a backpack to school every day. S/he should always bring in his or her **green folder**. This folder comes home every day, and should be checked by you every evening. The green folder is a primary means of communication between parents and teachers. In this, I will send information, homework, and daily behavior reports. You can also send any information or letters you have for me back in the green folder.

### CHANGE OF CLOTHES

You may also want to send in a **change of clothes** in your child's backpack every day. Not only in the rare case of a bathroom accident, but also because spills in the lunchroom are likely to happen every once in a while, or even accidentally falling in mud. Such situations would be better remedied with a change of clothes!

### SNACK

You are encouraged to send a **small** snack in to school with your child. We have a late lunch, so students tend to get extremely hungry between breakfast and lunchtime. Hunger can impede on your child's learning, so please send in a snack every day! We recommend you send in healthy snacks, such as fruit or crackers. **Candy and sugar drinks (soda) are NOT** appropriate snacks. Children will not be permitted to eat snacks that are deemed inappropriate by the classroom teacher. Please send in "finger foods," nothing that requires a fork/spoon. We are not allowed to eat in the classroom, so we will be taking our snacks outside prior to recess. On rainy/cold days, we can make an exception, per Dr. Richie.

### TENNIS SHOES

Your child should wear tennis shoes every day for both P.E. as well as recess. Most children like to run at recess, and most are sent to the clinic due to falling because of inappropriate shoes. We will not tell a child s/he cannot play because of her/his shoes, so it is your responsibility to make sure your child's shoes are appropriate and safe for running and playing.

### OTHER

Your child is **NOT ALLOWED** to bring personal items (purses, toys, games, electronic devices). Bringing such items to school will result in confiscation. A parent/guardian will have to schedule a time with the classroom teacher to come pick these items up from school.

## **Parent/Teacher Relationship**

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the school year I will communicate with you through the **green folder**, telephone calls, weekly newsletters (on the class website), a daily behavior sheet, progress reports, nine- week report cards, and parent-teacher conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You may call me at school 770. 916.7070, or e-mail me at: [katelyn.deininger@cobbk12.org](mailto:katelyn.deininger@cobbk12.org). If you receive a phone call from a "private number," this may be from my personal cell phone. We have a policy that we cannot share our personal cell phone numbers with parents due to abuse of this in the past.

I invite you to join me in communication through **TWO** smartphone apps this year (**Remind** and **Seesaw**), so be on the lookout for more information! If you have any issues with these, please let me know.

\*\*Please do not contact me by email for dismissal changes. These should be made with a hand-written note to school, or a phone call to the office.

## **Lunch**

Lunch Prices	Breakfast Price
Student \$2.35	\$1.50
Adult \$ 3.75	\$2.00

You are welcome to join your child for lunch on occasion, but please hold off until September so your child can get accustomed to their new school class routine! When you come to lunch at Brumby, please remember these guidelines:

- Only lunches brought from home or lunches purchased in the cafeteria are allowed. (No McDonald's, Burger King, etc.) **Parents may not bring any outside food.**
- All visitors must sign in and out at the office.
- Come early so you give yourself time to park, check-in, and walk all the way to the cafeteria (this is where you will meet us).

## **School Start Time and Attendance**

School begins PROMPTLY AT 7:45 AM and ends at 2:15 PM. Every child is expected to be inside the classroom at or before 7:45 AM. Students may not enter the classroom until 7:30. Car riders may not enter the building until 7:15.

Breakfast is served from 7:00 AM to 7:30 AM. Students must be at school no later than 7:15 am to eat breakfast.

If you need to pick your child up during the school day, you must sign him/her out in the office. The secretary will call for your child for you. Do not come back to the classroom to pick your child up.

**Your child should be at school every day unless he/she is sick or observing a religious holiday.** If your child is sick or misses school for any reason, please send a note so that we can keep it on file so it can be determined if it is an excused or unexcused absence. In accordance with Cobb County School System attendance policy, at 5 absences you will receive a letter reminding you of the attendance policy. If your child accumulates 10 absences, you receive another letter. You will continue to receive a letter or phone call as the absences continue to accumulate. Please try and refrain from taking your child out of school to go on family trips as this is not an excused absence. For more details on the attendance policy refer to your Student Handbook. For specific questions call the school and ask to speak to the secretary.

### ILLNESS

If your child is not feeling well, has had a fever during the last 24 hours, or is in any way contagious, PLEASE allow him/her to stay home from school as we want your child and the rest of the class and teachers to stay healthy. If you take your child to the doctor, please ask the doctor for a school excuse note.

## **Homework**

Homework is optional in kindergarten (and DISCOURAGED). If you insist on having homework for your child, there will be examples of learning activities for home available on our class website. I prefer to offer individualized practice based on student needs, so if you would like me to do this, please message me on Remind. Oftentimes, I can send digital practice tools through this app.

**The most important homework: Less screen time, more outside play!** (Or blocks/board games for rainy days!)

Also, I expect you to read to/with your child every night (or 5-6 nights per week at least). This should be a regular routine, whether you do it at bedtime or any other time of day. This is not homework! It is a critical part of your child's development as an emerging reader, and it will promote a love for reading!

## Grading Policy

Cobb County Report Card & Progress Reports	
3	Meets Standard
2	Progressing toward Standard
1	Limited progress, or does not meet standard

A lot of classwork is done in small group activities that are hands on. Our school is working hard to go paperless for two reasons: saving on paper and reducing student worksheet assignments. We believe that students are most engaged when they work with peers doing performance tasks and interactive learning activities. However, when assignments are on paper, I will occasionally send them home for you to discuss with your child. Occasionally your child will receive a grade based on the Cobb County scale, which is **3**, **2**, or **1**. I also send home work whenever possible to encourage you and your child to have conversations about what s/he is learning.

Note: Reading levels are based on a letter scale. Your child will move along the following scale. The goal for the year is below.

	<b>Entering Kindergarten</b>	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
Reading Level Goal	NR (non-reader)	A	B	C	D
Sight Words		15	30	50	75+



# Discipline – Daily Behavior Plan

Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for academic growth. A good learning atmosphere is one in which a child is free to learn without distraction and a high level of noise. To help reach this goal, a discipline plan has been developed.

## CLASSROOM RULES

1. Listen and follow directions the first time.
2. Use all materials correctly.
3. Keep hands, feet, objects, and unkind words to yourself.

\*\*\*These are general rules that cover all areas. They will be discussed at length with your child during school. Each classroom may add a few more rules that pertain to that classroom.

## POSITIVE REWARDS FOR FOLLOWING THE RULES

1. Verbal Praise
2. Rewards – various daily and weekly rewards such as stickers, stamps, treats (skittles), stars (when students earn 10 stars, they can go to treasure box!)
3. Lunch Bunch- Eat lunch with the teacher in the classroom.
4. Class-wide rewards such as extra playtime, snacks, popcorn party, movie, etc.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE RULES

1. Warning
2. Move clip down one color. (If students refuse, I will move it down **2 colors**).
3. If behavior continues, removal from activity.
4. Move clip down again.
5. Lose some of all of centers time, note sent home to parents that must be signed and returned to school. They move down another level on behavior board (Purple) which will be indicated on behavior sheet.
5. Move clip down to pink. Teacher referral & phone call to parents.
6. Referred to administrator-phone call to parents.

### \*\*\*SEVERE CLAUSE\*\*\*

In case of severe misbehavior, such as hitting, pushing, willful destruction of property, profanity, willful disobedience or dangerous behavior, STEPS 1-5 will be forgone and there will be a referral to an administrator. The child may be suspended.

## **Behavior Chart:**

In our classroom, we have a color chart. Each child has a designated "Clip" with his/her assigned class number. Every day the students will start their day on green. They can try to move up to yellow, orange, or red with excellent behaviors, but they could possibly have to move down to blue, purple, or pink depending on their behavior. If your child's behavior improves as the day goes on, I may choose to move his/her color back to green. However, if it is a physical altercation or the behavior does not improve, your child will not be able to move his card back to green. Your child's behavior will be noted on their behavior sheet located in their green folder. Please sign your child's behavior sheet every night and have your child return it to school the next day.

\*Please note that Green is not considered "bad," and Blue is not considered "bad" unless it becomes a regular occurrence. Every child is likely to have a "blue day" every once in a while. Blue primarily means that you may need to simply review the rules and expectations at home with your child. It is more appropriate to have consequences at home, if your child is on "Purple" OR "Pink."

**Red** – OUTSTANDING! Your child went above and beyond with classroom routines and procedures. S/he was very respectful, worked independently, and worked cooperatively with others.

**Orange** – Great Day! Your child stood out a couple of times doing the right thing, whether by following directions, working independently or cooperatively, or good classroom and hallway behavior.

**Yellow** – Good Day! Your child may have been redirected once, but for the rest of the day was very good!

**Green** – Ready to Learn. Your child was ready to learn, but likely had to be warned or redirected a couple of times.

**Blue** – Think About It. Your child may have been redirected more than once for the same behavior. See behavior calendar for note.

**Purple** – Teacher's Choice. Your child was likely not cooperating in an activity (or 2) and had to sit out from it. The "teacher's choice" refers to the punishment/consequence that is decided in regard to the offense.

**Pink** – Parent Contact. Your child did not respond to redirection, did not work cooperatively, was insubordinate, or some other offense. I will contact you by phone in this situation.

## **REMEMBER:**

1. Check your child's green folder daily.
2. Send all \$\$\$ for your child in an envelope. Write the following on the envelope:
  - Child's name
  - Amount of \$\$\$
  - Purpose of the \$\$\$ (e.g. field trip, lunch money, clubs, etc.)
  - Teacher: Ms. Deininger
3. Send all notes and transportation information inside your child's green folder or agenda.

## **Birthdays**

Parents **MAY NOT** have a birthday party at school for their child due to the limits set on classroom parties by the Cobb County School District. We do recognize your child's special day and realize many parents would like to provide a treat for our class that day. We cannot eat in the classroom, so if you decide to send in a treat, it will have to be on a sunny and moderately temperate day (not in the freezing cold) because we will eat outside. Here are my suggestions:

- Mini-cupcakes or cookies for dessert on your child's birthday. **(NO CAKES OR ICE CREAM)**. We can only allow about 5-10 minutes for this, so treats must be small.
- Individual treats to be sent home with each child such as stickers, bookmarks, goody bags, etc.
- Send our class a gift: help your child purchase and wrap a book for our classroom library. Be sure to have your child sign the book, and include a picture if possible.

These ideas will allow our class to have plenty of time to finish our daily curriculum. If you have any questions please let us know.

## **Finally**

Encourage your child to discuss school activities with you. Talk positively about school. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will directly affect how she/he feels about them. I am delighted to have your child in my class, and I look forward to working with you to make sure your child starts school on a positive note. I GREATLY appreciate your support and anticipate a fun and successful school year!