Dearest Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to Chase Elementary School. My name is Mrs. Toler and I will have the pleasure to be your child's Kindergarten teacher this school year. This will be my fifth year at Chase, but I have been with Chicago Public Schools for over 8 years. It is my belief that a child's success is built upon a good relationship with parents. I look forward to working with you and your child this school year.

I hope you and your child enjoyed the summer and that you are ready to embark on an important milestone in your child's life. Kindergarten is a year of growing socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Your involvement, interest, and enthusiasm will help make this a wonderful year of growth for you and your child.

Take a moment to imagine the kindergarten world: letters, numbers, words, sentences, stories, sharing, reading. Imagination and creativity are everywhere. As you talk with your child about their day and celebrate their best effort on the work they do. In addition, at this early stage of learning, it is important to set routines in your child's life. Try to set aside time each day to discuss what your child did in school as well as establishing a bedtime routine. Children are best transitioned to bedtime when being read to.

Please note the following: *Parents may bring in their child during the first week of school only.* It is best for a child to become independent early on. All lunch forms and emergency forms are due Wednesday September 9, 2015.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Toler

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**Some information on this upcoming school year...**

- Kindergarten Supplies - there is a $45 fee for the school supplies used during the year - you may purchase additional supplies for the home for homework assignments such as glue sticks, scissors, pencils, crayons, and markers
  - students need a change of clothes in a Ziploc bag labeled with their name
  - a regular size book bag is required, NO WHEELS
  - headphones (not earbuds) are required in a Ziploc bag
- Homework - 30 mins. a day, does not including reading to your child
Your child’s homework folder will contain the following:

- left side is for returning items to school on a daily basis
  - behavior log on the left side
  - homework worksheets behind the behavior log
  - weekly homework sheets in first sheet protector
    - please initial the box if your child has completed it, I will be checking for your initials on a daily basis (home/school parent/teacher connection/communication)
- reading log - this earns your child a prize, but is optional, yet **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**
- study guides (in pocket protectors to last the entire school year)
  - sight words
  - 100 chart
  - shapes
  - letters scrambled
- the right side pocket is for papers that are to remain at home
  - empty the folder daily

- Uniform - navy blue or white shirt with navy blue pants (these should be free of any design)
  - Gym Shoes - to be worn on gym days (Tuesdays and Fridays). It is recommended that students wear gym shoes on a daily basis because they have recess twice daily.
  - No flip flops or other sandals are allowed. Students go out for recess twice a day and need to remain safe.

- Arrival and Dismissal
  - Kindergarten students will enter at 8:10am, late arrival will result in the loss of classroom instruction, morning work, socialization, participation, and ample breakfast time. **Parents are not allowed in the classroom during instructional time (8:10am-3:10pm).**
  - Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:10pm, please pick up your child on time. Any child not picked up by 3:15pm will be taken to the office.

- Lunch - no junk food is allowed in the school
  - Chase is a healthy school, if your child brings a lunch/snack keep the following in mind - no chips, no sugary juices, nut free
  - a healthy lunch may include a sandwich/salad with milk/100% juice, yogurt, fruit and veggies
  - we are a NUT FREE school

- Snacks - students will have snack time in the afternoon
  - a snack sign-up sheet will be provided after the first day for you to sign up to bring something monthly for the whole class
  - Some samples include, but are not limited to these: individually packed healthy items, goldfish, animal crackers, graham crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, pretzels, yogurt, gogurt, 100% juice boxes, raisins, fruit cups, cheese sticks, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, etc.

- Discipline - CHAMPS (C-conversation, H-help, A-activity, M-movement, P-participation, and S-success)
  - these are rules/expectations students must follow when in school
  - they are posted and changed for each activity as to what each child is expected to do
if a child is not following expectations, they will get their pin pulled on the behavior chart with consequences (i.e. cool down/time out, loss of privilege, working elsewhere, no recess etc.)

- Severe infractions will be referred to administration
- Please see behavior letter regarding weekly behavior log with color and meaning (found in homework folder) for daily information
- Please pay particular attention to your child’s color because it is conducive to learning
- Any time spent redirecting misbehavior is time taken away from the ENTIRE class for learning
- Consequences are given to students for misbehavior such as missed time from recess, missing special events, etc.

- Curriculum - Everyday Math, Daily 5, Second Step, CHAMPS, IEW (our writing program), Wordly Wise, guided reading, and Heggerty (see handbook for more information)

- Teacher Availability - I am available through email at stoler@cps.edu and mornings before class by appointment. My hours are 8:15 am - 3:15 pm daily. I arrive early most days should you need to speak with me please contact the office. Call the school in advance to confirm or send me an email and I will reply at my earliest convenience. I am not available to speak with parents while students are in my care. It is of utmost importance the safety and security of all children as well as instructional time.

- Birthdays
  - We are an accredited healthy school
  - Students in our class have various severe allergies
  - If you are interested in celebrating your child’s birthday in class please consider the following suggestions students love:
    - Goodie bags with pencils, stickers, stamps, erasers, etc.
    - Individually packed healthy items (goldfish, animal crackers, graham crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, pretzels, yogurt, gogurt, 100% juice boxes, raisins, fruit cups, cheese sticks, etc.)