

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Hello!

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am Samantha Shanks and I will be your child's kindergarten teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the upcoming year. I received my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Auburn University and am currently working on my Master's in Elementary Education at Troy University. I previously taught first grade but am so excited to be teaching kindergarten this year. The students will grow academically, socially, and physically. I am so excited to watch them grow and their personalities evolve over the next year. Learning should be fun and engaging. We will have lots of hands-on learning and movement in our room. Your child will learn so much just from their peers.

Our parent orientation will be **August 2nd beginning at 4:00 CST/5:00 EST in Room 408.** This will last about an hour and you will have time to drop off supplies and meet with me as well as ask any questions you may have about our kindergarten handbook that I have attached below. **Please read all the handbook before orientation so you can ask any questions you may have. Please bring all school supplies at this time so I will have time to organize it all before the first day.** During Orientation, you will have lots of paperwork to fill out and will have an opportunity to pay for lunch/breakfast and pay other fees. There is an enrichment cost of \$20.00, which is a one-time donation. This money will be used to cover any materials needed throughout the year for projects, extra money for field trips, and the end of the year bash that includes bounce houses, shaved ice, and so much more. We would love if you could contribute to this fund, it is greatly appreciated for any extra expenses that may come up. You will also be able to pay to be a PTO member at this time which will cost \$5.00 this year. Being a part of PTO allows you opportunities to volunteer and be active in decisions about the school.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me! My email address is: Shanks.Samantha@lee.k12.al.us. I look forward to meeting you and your new kindergartener soon!

Sincerely, Samantha Shanks

MEET THE TEACHER!



To my sweet new kindergartner, I am so excited to meet you in a few short weeks to have lots of fun and learn so much! You are going to make lots of friends too! So, I am going to tell you a little about me!

My Family: I have 2 beautiful dogs named Chloe and Molly. I also got married right before Christmas last year to Mr. Shanks. You will get to meet him I am sure!

My favorite movie: Beauty and The Beast (anything Disney is my favorite!)

My favorite colors: Blue and purple

My favorite food: Macaroni and Cheese

My favorite book: Chrysanthemum

My favorite hobby: Reading

My favorite team: Auburn Tigers

I cannot wait to learn all about you this year and watch you grow!

Love,

Mrs. Shanks

Mrs. Shanks' Supply List

Please do not write your child's name of the following items:

- 4 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons
- 1 large bottle of Germ-X-Girls Only
- 1 Pencil Box-(large enough to hold 24 crayons, pencils, glue, and scissors) No Pouches
- 12 sharpened pencils (no jumbo)
- 1 box of washable markers
- 4 plastic folders with brads (1 of each: red, green, blue, orange)
- 1 pair of Fiskars children's scissors
- 4 jumbo glue sticks
- 8 regular glue sticks
- 1 8 oz. bottle of Elmer's School Glue
- 1 container of watercolor paint
- 1 pack of page protectors
- 1 box of Kleenex-Boys Only
- 2 containers of wet wipes
- 1 box of gallon zipper bags-boys only
- 1 box of quart zipper bags-girls only
- 1 box 2 ½ gallon Ziploc bags (we use these as towel bags)

Please DO write your child's name on the following:

- Headphones (no ear buds)
- 1 towel for rest time (NO BLANKETS, COMFORTERS, MATS, OR SLEEPING BAGS)
- 1 LARGE book bag (NO WHEELS)
- Change of clothes (pants/shorts, shirt, socks, underwear-Please label each piece of clothing with your child's name and put in a Ziploc bag.)

Wish List Items

- Super sticky post-it notes
- Windex spray
- Mr. Sketch scented markers
- Extra glue sticks
- Extra baby wipes

Thank you so much for your support! I know it is a lot of stuff, but I promise your child will use every bit of it right down to the sticky notes, dry erase markers, and tons of glue sticks. 😊

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shanks

Mrs. Shanks Kindergarten Handbook 2019-2020



Kindergarten Information

I. Money:

- ALL MONEY sent to school MUST be sent in an envelope or a Ziploc bag and labeled with your child's name, my name, and the purpose of the money. **DO NOT SEND LOOSE MONEY TO SCHOOL.** You can send checks for payment as well. Please make checks payable to ESSES. All checks must have your phone number, correct address, & child's name on it.

Labeled Envelope

Red Folder

School

2. Communications and Conferences:

Red Folder

Newsletter

Conferences

- **Red Folder:** Every day your child will bring home a red folder. Inside the folder you will find your child's behavior calendar, homework, sight words, and important notices. Please review the items in this folder every day. **SIGN OR INITIAL THE CALENDAR DAILY.** Return only those papers I have marked such as homework, permission slips, etc. Please put any notes and/or money in your child's folder. The folder needs to return to school every day.
 - Behavior Plan (reflected on the Behavior Calendar daily):

Smiley Faces	Daily Behavior
2	Great day!
1	Broke one rule, good rest of the day
0	Broke two or more rules, difficult day
- I also will be using Class Dojo for text communication; I will be sending out those invites to join once I have met everyone. This is a fantastic app that allows you to view your student's positive points earned, send me messages, get reminders, and see lots of pictures of our class learning and having fun!
- **Newsletter/Homework:** I send out a newsletter and a homework assignment sheet every Friday. I will email the newsletter and assignment sheet; however, if you do not have internet access please let me know so I can send home a paper copy. **IF you do not receive the newsletter on Friday please let me know asap.**
- **Conferences:** If you feel the need to schedule a conference, please send a note or call me at school after 3:05 CST to schedule a meeting. I will email, send a note home, or call if I feel the need to schedule a conference. Please do not drop in for a conference as I do not have extra time in the day. When

attending a conference please be sure to check in with the office first. You must have a pass to be in the school.

3. **Parent Involvement:** I feel that it is very important for a child to know that his/her parents support their education. Some volunteering opportunities may include helping with parties, chaperoning field trips, and helping at your home by preparing materials for upcoming projects or events. We also love for you to come to lunch with us. Please do not bring fast food in its original wrapper. Also, kindergarteners cannot buy ice cream in the lunchroom. Please do not buy your child an ice cream when you visit. If you plan to visit please send a note so that I can let the lunchroom know that we are expecting visitors.
4. **Reading Program/Homework:** Our reading program is amazing! You will be shocked at how quickly your child will begin reading. Homework is crucial in building a strong reading foundation.
5. **Times:**
 - The school will open each morning at 7:00 CST for car riders. The bus riders will come in at 6:50 CST. The first bell will ring at 7:25 and the tardy bell will ring at 7:30 CST. Breakfast will begin at 7:00 CST for car riders and 6:50 CST for bus riders.
 - **If you do not want your child to eat breakfast please notify me. Kindergarten students LOVE to eat breakfast in the lunchroom! ☺**
6. **Transportation:**
 - **Bus Riders: Your child must ride the bus from home before he or she can ride from school in the afternoon.**

**IF YOUR CHILD'S BUS NUMBER CHANGES FOR ANY REASON
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY.**

- **Daycare Vans:** Your child will be taken to their station at the same time bus riders are taken out.
- **Car Riders:** Please have the window tag in place for quicker pick up.
- The car rider line is very slow and hot for the first couple of weeks. Have something cold to drink for your child and please be patient! Car riders should be picked up no later than 3:00 CST once the routine is established. I will walk the children around the entire car line. If I have walked the car line and you are running a little behind your child will wait at the front of the school, under the awning, for you to pick them up.
 - Please do not honk or shout at us if we turn before we get to you. Your child will wait at the front of the school under the awning. Please be patient. ☺

- Extended Day: There will be a table set up on registration night to sign your child up.
- Other Rides: I must have a note from you or from the office if your child's ride will be different. If you call the office (334-664-4061) please call by 1:30 CST so they will have time to relay the message to me.
- If a parent is not allowed to pick up a child please let me and the office know. You must have court documentation for this as well.

7. Attendance: Please make every effort to send your child to school every day except when sick. Please send an excuse for any days your child misses. We can only accept five parent excuses per semester, the rest must come from a doctor. The first semester begins on August 7 and ends on December 20. The second semester begins on January 6 and ends on May 21. **Please note that we do have a 24 hour fever/throw-up/diarrhea FREE rule at ESSES.** After three unexcused absences your child's name is turned in for truancy.

8. Lice: I check heads once a month, after holidays, and when a child is feeling itchy. If your child has lice you have three days to treat it and have your child back at school. The nurse must check and clear your child before they can come back. Please do not send them on the bus until the nurse has cleared your child.

9. Medicine: Please do not send medicine to school with your child. It must be checked in through the nurse.



10. Report Cards: Report cards are sent home every nine weeks. Please be prompt in signing and returning your child's report card. Kindergarten doesn't send home progress reports.

11. PE: Your child must wear tennis shoes to participate in PE. Please send your child to school in their "PE shoes". After PE your child can switch shoes if he or she wants. I will not remind your child to switch their shoes. Also, please work with your child on learning to tie.

12. Dress Code: Please dress your child appropriately for kindergarten. We play hard, paint, and get messy. If your child wears a dress please put shorts under it. Please do not allow your child to wear jewelry to school. Also, it is your child's responsibility to keep up with hair bows should they be worn to school.

13. Change of Address or Telephone Number: Please notify me or the office of any telephone or address changes as they occur. This also applies to telephone numbers at work.
14. Toys: Your child DOES NOT need to bring toys such as cars, purses, stuffed animals, or action figures to school. We have a lot of fun things to play with in our classroom. 😊
15. Snack Information: Please send a snack and a juice box/small water with your child daily. Please do not send soda, Gatorade, or anything that can spill (and be sticky).
16. Changes in Behavior: Please notify me of any changes in your child's work or behavior, especially if there are problems or changes at home. Changes such as family member being sick or hospitalized, a death in the family, or a separation/divorce of parents can affect a child in many different ways. Also, please let me know if you give your child medication as it may affect your child's behavior.
 - Make it a priority each day to spend time talking to your child about their day at school. You will be amazed at the many activities your child is involved in during just one day of Kindergarten!
 - Below is a screen shot of the calendar for the upcoming school year. This information can also be found on the Lee County Schools webpage at www.lee.k12.al.us.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Together we can help your child have a great first year of school at East Smiths Station Elementary School!

Thank you,

Samantha Shanks (Shanks.Samantha@lee.k12.al.us)

2019-2020 School Calendar

Lee County Schools
2410 Society Hill Road
334-705-6000
Opelika, AL 36804-4830

July 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Aug 1-2	Teacher Planning Days
Aug 5	District Professional Planning Day
Aug 6	1/2 PD & 1/2 Employee Planning Day
Aug 7	First Day of School
Sep 2	Labor Day
Oct 14	Professional Development Day
Nov 5	Professional Development Day
Nov 11	Veterans' Day
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	Employees & Students return
Jan 20	Dr. Martin Luther King Day
Feb 17	Professional Development Day
Mar 30- Apr 3	Spring Break
Apr 10	Professional Development Day
May 21	Last day of school
May 22	Employee Planning Day
May 25	Memorial Day

High School Graduations	
May 21	Beauregard High
May 21	Beulah High
May 22	Loachapoka High
TBA	Smiths Station High

Inclement Weather Days	
Oct 14	
Nov 5	
Feb 17	
Apr 10	

	Students	Employees
First Semester	89	95
Second Semester	91	94
Total Days	180	189

January 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Progress Report Dates (day 22)	End of Quarter	Report Card Dates
September 6, 2019	October 9, 2019	October 16, 2019
November 12, 2019	December 20, 2019	January 10, 2020
February 6, 2020	March 11, 2020	March 18, 2020
April 20, 2020	May 21, 2020	Available May 22, 2020