z

**A**

**Attendance** – Regular attendance is important for school success. Our day begins promptly at 9:15 am. Please have your child to school on time every day. If your child is going to be out, please call the office or email me to let me know. **A hand written note must be sent in with your child in order for their absence to be excused.**

**B**

**Book Orders** – I will be sending home Scholastic Book Orders throughout the year. Scholastic does a great job with high-interest, age appropriate books at a good value (Class activation code N8ZZF). We will only accept online orders!
**Birthdays-** At Alston Ridge, we celebrate our students’ birthdays by announcing them on our a.m. announcements school-wide. We encourage parents to buy a book to read to the class on your child’s birthday, and then donate it to the library. Parents/Guardians must be a registered volunteer in order to read to the class. It is our K-5 policy that treats are no longer permitted for birthday celebrations.

**C**

**Clothing** – Please dress your child in comfortable clothes for school. Alston Ridge does not allow flip flops since they are a tripping hazard when kids run. Please do not allow your child to wear tops with skinny straps. Straps must be two fingers wide. During cold weather, please have your child bring in gloves, hats and a warm winter jacket since we usually go outside for recess.

**Conferences** – We will have a fall and spring parent-teacher conference. I am also available for additional conferences by appointment before and after school. Feel free to contact me anytime you would like an additional conference.

**D**

**Dismissal** – Dismissal begins at 3:45pm. Please make sure to notify the school if your child will be going home a different way than he/she usually does. We must have a written note or phone call with specific instructions. For safety reasons, if we are not notified of a change, your child will go home the way he/she normally does.

**E**

**E-mail** – At Alston Ridge we are committed to going green. Our class newsletter and other correspondence will be distributed electronically. My email address is ddodson@wcpss.net

**The ABC’s of
Ms. Dodson’s Kindergarten**



**2015-2016**

**F**

**Family Tree-** Our classroom will feature a scrapbook containing pictures of our families. I am asking each child to bring in a photograph of their family to be added to our family scrapbook. This is a great way for the students’ to get to know their new classroom family a little better and also help them feel more comfortable in their new environment. ☺

**Folders** – Your child will bring home a plastic green Alston Ridge Folder every day. This will be filled with your child’s work from the day and other important information from me, the school, and PTA. Please read, complete, and return appropriate papers in this folder and return to school every day!

**G**

**Green School** – We are a green school which means our building was built in an environmentally conscious way. It also means that we will be incorporating ways to take care of earth throughout the year.

**H**
**Homework** – Students will be assigned a monthly homework schedule that will be due at the end of each month. It can be found on the classroom blackboard page along with a reading log. Homework is optional, but strongly encouraged to reinforce skills taught in the classroom.

**I**
**Illness** – When your child is out due to illness or a medical appointment, we need a hand written note within 3 days of their absence in order for it to be marked excused. E-mails and phone calls will not be accepted as documentation of an excuse.

**Interims** – Interim reports will be sent home halfway through the quarter. This acts as a progress report, but will only be sent home with your child if there is a specific concern with academics, behavior, or work habits skills.

**J**

**Journals** – We will use several journals as a part of our Reading, Math, and Science/Social Studies. Journals serve as an important assessment tool, as well as a means to show growth in all academic subjects.

**K**

**Kindness** – Students in my classroom are encouraged and expected to treat others with kindness and respect. We often remind each other to “treat others how you would like to be treated” room.

**L**
**Lunch** – The children will eat lunch in the school dining room each day from 12:10 – 12:40. A full lunch costs $2.00. If your child would like to buy milk, it costs 50¢. If you would like to join your child for lunch, just sign in at the front office before heading to the dining

**M**

**Media-** We will visit the school library, aka the media center, each week. Please make sure your child takes good care of our new library books.

**Medications** –If your child will be taking medication during school hours you will need to fill out some paperwork in the front office with the school nurse.

**N**

**Notes** – Notes are required for the following reasons: absences/illness, early dismissal, change in transportation, or if a new adult will be picking your child up from school. Please use the parent-teacher communication folder for these notes.

**O**

**Outside Time (Recess)** – We have 30 minutes each day for outside recess (weather permitting). Please dress your child appropriately. In case of extreme heat or cold we will have indoor recess in the classroom. It is highly encouraged for students to bring water bottles with them each day for outside time.

**P**

**Positive Reinforcement** – As part of my classroom behavior management, I will be trying to "catch" students making positive choices throughout the day (raising their hand, saying kind words, working quietly, etc).

**Q**

**Questions** – Please feel free contact me anytime you have a question or concerns. Open communication is important to your child’s success.

**U**

**Units** – Many of the skills and concepts we will study this year are grouped by units.

**V**

**Volunteers** – Volunteers are very important to the classroom and school. If you can donate some of your time we would love to have you! There are many tasks for volunteers and we will try to find one that best fits your needs. All volunteers are required to have a WCPSS background check in order to come into the classroom or attend school field trips. This can be completed in the Media Center with your Driver’s License. Background checks are good for one year! I strongly encourage all parents to complete this background check!

**W
Website** – Our classroom Blackboard website contains information such as homework, current classroom events, our classroom wish list, useful website, and announcements. Please check our website regularly as we are a Green school and limit the number of copies we make and send home! Here is the link to our class website: http://msdodsonare.weebly.com

**X**

**Excitement** –It doesn’t actually begin with an x, but there is plenty of excitement in our class.☺

**Y**

**Year** – Your child’s kindergarten year should be one he/she will always remember fondly and one that makes him/her love to learn. Please remember that you can always contact me if you have any concerns and would like to meet.

**Z**

**ZZZZZ’s** – Please make sure your child gets enough sleep and is well-rested for all the learning we will do this year.

**R**

**Reading** –Reading is strongly tied to academic success. My goal is for all children to enjoy reading for pleasure by the end of the year. Your child is expected to read 20 minutes each night. This can be a combination of you reading to your child and your child reading to you.

**Report Cards** – Your child will receive a report card for all four quarters of Kindergarten. Report cards are sent home on September 25, December 18, March 24, and June 30.

**Room Parents-** Please let me know July 24th if you would be interested in being our Room Parent this upcoming school year to help organize chaperones for field trips, Gallant Gator readers, and volunteers for special class activities!

**S**

**Shoes** –Because we do many physical activities during the day, we ask that children wear shoes with backs, Crocks are fine. No flip-flops please.

**Snack** –We will have ten minute snack time during our read aloud each afternoon. Please send in a small, healthy treat for your child. Please be aware of the students with allergies in our class.

**Specials** –Our specials this year are Music, PE, Technology, Media, Guidance, Art, etc. Specials are on a Monday through Friday set schedule each week. Our special time is from 10:15-10:55.

**Student/Parent Handbook** – Please read through this green handbook for school procedures and policies.

**Supplies** – If you would like to donate something to our classroom we could always use extra stickers, magic erasers, Cardstock, and Crayons, glue sticks. My wish list is posted on my Website and changes as our need for supplies changes throughout the school year! Thank you in advance for your generosity! ☺

**T**

**Toys** –Toys are not allowed at school.

**Transportation** – If you find you will need to change your child’s method of travel to reach home, please send a hand written note to school with your child. You may use our daily communication folder to write these notes. Please refrain from using e-mail to change your child’s method of transportation.

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