

Dear Bigfork Elementary Families,
Welcome to Bigfork Elementary School! Kindergarten is a special year and we are thrilled to have your child join our School Family. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

For the first time, your child may:

- Use the school library.
- Play in the school gym.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Ride the school bus.

As a parent, it is important to:

- Understand that every child develops at a different rate.
- Avoid comparing him or her to others.
- Have your child to school on time. Attendance is key.
- Don't try to pressure your child to learn new skills before he or she is ready.
- Be patient. Many children going into kindergarten don't have all of the skills required upon enrollment. However, most develop them during the summer before school begins and during the first few weeks or months of kindergarten.

Help your child start each school day right.

- Children in kindergarten usually need 10-12 hours of sleep each night.
- **Bus Transportation:** If your child will be riding the school bus, they will need to be registered online at www.bigforkschool.org
- If your child must take medication at school, discuss it with the school nurse. A "Consent For Over The Counter Medication Administration" form must be filled out for all medications that are used at school.
- **In case of illness, please keep your child at home. It is important that you call the school to let us know your child is home for the day. You can contact us at:**

837-7412, press #3 for the attendance line

- Always provide a variety of healthy foods for meals and snacks.
- Limit sweets. Avoid junk food.
- Listen to the weather report each day and choose the appropriate outdoor clothing. Dress your child in layers if there's a possibility that the weather will change. **Please label all outdoor clothing!**
- If you send money to school with your child for breakfast or lunch, put it in an envelope. Write your child's name and what the money is for on the envelope.
- Show your interest. Make a point to ask your child about favorite school activities. Review his or her papers and projects. Listen to what your child says about school.
- Be active in school life. Join Bigfork School's PTA. Please make plans to attend open house and other programs offered at Bigfork School. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact the school office or your child's teacher directly. 406-837-7412 and press #2.

Sincerely,
Brenda Clarke,
Elementary School Principal

