

Dear Families,

I am so excited to welcome your child to Kindergarten at East Syracuse Elementary School. Your child will enjoy learning the foundational skills necessary for success in the subsequent years all while having fun with their peers in engaging, hands-on activities. I absolutely love teaching and I anticipate that your children will have a great year. If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, then please reach out to me so that I can help. Great communication is key to a successful year. Please always feel confident in reaching out to me as I am here to help. My email address is hbrown@esmschools.org and we will be using Parent Square for most of communication. Your child's safety and learning are my top priority; of course their happiness is as well.



Please send in the following items all labeled with your child's full name on each article:

- Full sized backpack (large enough for a 2 pocket folder to fit inside)
- Change of clothing (socks, 2 pairs of underwear, seasonally appropriate shirt and shorts/pants) placed in a gallon sized ziplock bag. Please label everything including the bag.
- Headphones for their Chromebook
- Beach towel or small blanket for quiet time
- Sneakers (Children need to wear sneakers for gym class and we prefer that they wear them on the playground as well for safety reasons.) Please no flip flops or any shoe without a back such as a sandal or croc without a back strap. We will be traveling up and down stairs daily and I want them to be safe. Sandals or crocs with the strap in the back are fine, but then please send in sneakers on gym (PE) days. I will be sending home our schedule once our school year begins. We have PE

every other day.

The following items are not mandatory, but if you'd like to donate them at some point in the school year I'd appreciate it. I will be donating to the classroom as well:

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Lysol or Clorox Wipes
- Baby Wipes

*Also if anyone would like to send in gallon sized ziplock type bags, then that would be great.

You may wonder how you can support us at school. Well, just by talking positively about entering kindergarten, helping them write their first name and read to them each day as a way of instilling the love of reading within them would be an incredible way to do that. You can always practice counting objects in the home or as you run errands around town. Helping them to see that learning is fun and all around us! This will help for a smooth transition.

Most Sincerely,
Ms. Heather Brown



Here's a little information about me:

I am the mother of an incredible 21 year old who is a senior at SUNY Morrisville. I am very proud of her.

I love teaching! This will be my 31st year teaching elementary school. Most of my years have been spent as the general education teacher in an inclusion classroom. I was the online Kindergarten during the pandemic and then I spent two years on special assignment as an instructional coach in our district. I've taught K, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6th. I also taught for two summers at Hutchings Psychiatric Center children ages 5-21. My favorite grade is Kindergarten as I love nurturing our youngest students, teaching them their foundational skills and getting them excited about becoming lifelong learners. I majored in Psychology and got a Concentration in Elementary Education from LeMoyne College in 1995. I received my first Master's degree in Special Education at LeMoyne in 2001. In August I will start my second Master's degree at LeMoyne in their Clinical Mental Health Therapy program and when I retire in three years I will begin my career as a therapist. Teaching and helping others is not just my profession; it is my passion, my purpose.