

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Hello and welcome! I hope you are as excited to start the year as I am! This will be an exciting time for you and your child as they begin their journey in becoming a life-long learner.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Teresa Summerville and I am delighted to be your child's teacher for Kindergarten. This will be my 12<sup>th</sup> year teaching Kindergarten in Antioch 34. For the past 11 years I have been teaching Kindergarten at Hillcrest and this will be my 1<sup>st</sup> year teaching Kindergarten at Oakland. I am very excited to be part of the Oakland team!

I have been married to Wally for 27 years and we have two marvelous children: Roslyn, 26, and Erik, 25. This is a very busy time for us as a family as our daughter is getting married this September and our son is newly engaged!!! Wally and I also have a very silly cat named Willow who we like to say is our very spoiled little girl!

I hope you have had a fun summer. Mine was action packed! When I have spare time I love to read, go for walks, play games with my family, play with Willow, and swim in our pool. Because I love to read so much, and purchase so many amazing books for the classroom, one of my favorite places to go is Barnes & Noble. There are many weekends when you will find me there searching amongst the stacks!

Home is where learning starts. As a role model, you are a very important part of your child's education. Please encourage your child to talk about their school experiences every day. Also, help them create an organized routine at home with their school belongings and homework. This will really help them become independent and responsible!

Let me give you a few ideas about things you can be practicing at home before school starts. Have your child practice zipping and unzipping their backpack. Every day they will come in and need to take their folder out and hand any papers and then hang up their backpack. They will be responsible for unzipping their backpack and getting out their folders and their snacks. Kindergarten is a year where your child will become independent in many exciting ways! Also, have them practice tying their shoes. If your child cannot yet tie their shoes please send them to school with Velcro or slip on gym shoes. You can to have them practice tying shoes at home. They can also practice proper handwashing and bathroom procedures (which includes being able to button or snap their own pants). Another great thing would be to have them practice writing their first name correctly – with uppercase at the beginning and lowercase for the other letters.

It will be an absolutely amazing year of academic, social, and emotional growth for your child. I am looking forward to learning and growing right beside your child! This year I will spend time encouraging positive social interactions among the students, helping my students become more independent and self-confident, and nurturing a classroom of respectful and caring children. I enjoy having fun in the classroom, but also know the importance of creating a structured and organized learning environment.

I love teaching and can't wait to make this year a great experience for your child. Please contact me at any time with any questions you might have. I consider us to be a team working together to help your child learn and grow! Thank you for your support! Looking forward to a great year!

Teresa Summerville

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