



# Welcome to Kindergarten

• Then

- What do you remember?

• Now

- The New "First Grade"

# Highly Effective Teaching

- Highly Effective Teaching (HET) is a comprehensive school improvement model designed to increase student performance and teacher satisfaction. The primary purpose of the model is to grow responsible citizens.
- LIFESKILLS
  - <http://www.richland2.org/schools/RTE/RTESubPage.aspx?id=18717>



# Is Your Child Ready?

## Personal Needs:

- Can blow nose & cover sneeze
- Independent in toileting, washing hands, dressing
- Recognizes own possessions (lunchbox, coat)
- Can eat unassisted



# Is Your Child Ready?

## Social:

- Will listen to an adult and do as told easily and agreeably
- Can play cooperatively with others (waiting turns, sharing)
- Can regulate feelings & impulses (without hitting, biting, crying, screaming or throwing things)
- Can sit for short periods (15 minutes)



# Is Your Child Ready?

## Social Continued

- Can follow classroom routines and procedures
- Understands and follows oral directions with two or three steps
- Can adjust to new situations without parents being there
- Tries new activities willingly



# Is Your Child Ready?

## Intellectual

- Can match & name at least five colors
- Can identify body parts ( toe, elbow, wrist)
- Shows an interest in books & reading
- Knows some songs & rhymes
- Identifies some letters (especially those in own name)
- Identifies some labels and signs (like McDonald's)
- Pretends to read & write
- Draws simple recognizable pictures



# Is Your Child Ready?

- Knows first & last name
- Knows names of family members
- Knows how old he or she is
- Knows the names of common objects
- Speaks clearly and understandably
- Can speak in complete sentences
- Can tell a simple story back to you after listening to it



# Is Your Child Ready?

- Can communicate personal needs
- Has had a variety of experiences such as going to the library, the zoo, etc.
- Can use crayons, pencil, scissors
- Can copy & draw a line, circle, X and +
- Can write name
- Expresses ideas with drawings
- Can count at least ten objects
- Is willing to try to complete a task



# Is Your Child Ready?

## Health:

- Has had a health check-up (immunizations)
- Receives medical care when sick
- Receives dental check-ups
- Gets plenty of sleep each night
- Can run, hop and jump as well as physical limitations allow
- Spends time with family (with TV and electronics off)



# Parent Feedback

- What do you wish you had known before your child started Kindergarten?

"Kindergarten is much more intense than I anticipated. Kindergarten is not play school."

"LIFESKILLS"

"Kindergarten wears her out in a good way."

"That my child was going to be reading."



# Frequently Asked Questions

- How many adults will be in each Kindergarten classroom?  
One teacher and one teaching assistant.

- How does the car rider line work?  
In the afternoon, stay in your car. Place a paper plate with your child's name and grade on it in the front window. Your child's name will be called and he/she will be waiting for you as you pull up as far as you can in front of the school.



- **What are the school hours?**

8:10-2:50

- **Is there homework in kindergarten?**

Yes. Tuesday and Thursday are homework nights.

- **What is the best way to contact my child's teacher?**

A note, phone call or email would all be fine unless it is a transportation change. In that case, a note is necessary.

- **Is Round Top a uniform school?**

Uniforms are not required.



- **What is an Awesome Aviator and what all does it entail?**

Each child at RTE is recognized once each year as an Awesome Aviator. PTO volunteers take the student pictures and they are placed on a Bulletin Board that all students pass on the way to the Propeller Place Café each day. The Board is changed monthly.

- **What is a LIFESKILL breakfast?**

Students are recognized for the use of our 19 LIFESKILLS and 5 Lifelong Guidelines.

Nominations can be made by any RTE Faculty member; parents have also suggested nominations in the past when they see students using their LIFESKILLS. Students and their parents are invited to a recognition breakfast during the quarter they are recognized.



- What is an ITI school and how will it improve my child's education?
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ITI (Integrated Thematic Instruction) has been changed to HET - Highly Effective Teaching. The program is a brain compatible curriculum model grounded in the biology of effective instructional strategies and the development of conceptual curriculum. The HET model begins with an understanding of learning principles derived from body-brain research. The primary purpose of the model is to grow responsible citizens through the use of LIFESKILLS and Lifelong Guidelines.

There are currently 7 HET schools in RSDII with 2 more in the beginning stages. These 9 RSDII schools will host the national HET conference in April 2011.



- What is expected of a Kindergarten parent?

RTE has a Commitment Covenant that we ask all stakeholders (parents, teachers, Admin & students) to sign as our school year begins. A copy can be found on our school website under the SIC tab, and a framed Covenant hangs in our front hallway. This outlines the expectations for each member of the education partnership that is essential for students' success. We encourage parents to accompany us on "being there" experiences and invite them to volunteer in the classroom as often as you can.



- What events at Round Top are reoccurring yearly for the family in the evening and how can parents find out dates and times?

Dependent on school & PTO choices, events can change from year to year. For the last several years we have held the following events annually: Parent Orientation; Bingo Night; Winter & Spring Chorus Performances; Aviator Idol, CiCi's Family Night; Passports to New Worlds (new evening event in 2010), Daddy/Daughter Dance; Mother/Son Dance, and our Spring Carnival. Once events are scheduled, they are listed on the school calendar on our web site.



- What will be my child's typical daily schedule?

The morning block is academic time; lunch is typically 10:45ish, recess is generally around noon; there is an afternoon academic block before we end our day with the Related Arts class. For the first quarter of the school year a quiet time will be offered for K students. Quiet time is phased out based on student need and completely by mid-October. Specific schedules can be provided by individual teachers.

- Which related arts classes are available and how often will my child go to them?

Related Arts classes for 2010-11 will be: Art, Music, Physical Education, Dance, Media and Computer. Forty minutes of related arts are provided daily.



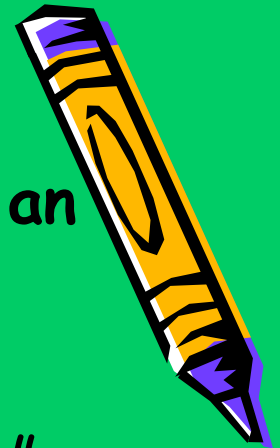
- What is Blackboard and what is the importance of this for parents? How do you use Blackboard?

Blackboard is essentially an on-line communication tool that is **CRITICAL** for parents!! A plethora of school information is stored on BB, both from your child's teacher and other school-wide programs such as Exemplary Writing. To access BB you must use your student's school assigned number which will remain the same from K through 12th grade as long as they remain in Richland Two. School personnel will be happy to assist parents in accessing BB. Be on the lookout for a training session this fall.



- How many field trips do the Kindergarten classes take and how will we be notified of an upcoming trip?

Typically all grade levels take one "being-there" experience per quarter for a total of four per year. We often bring community resources into our building for a "being-there" experience without leaving school. Parents are notified through teacher newsletters posted to BB weekly. Permission slips will be sent home in the child's communication folder that our school provides.



- How can you become a Homeroom Parent?  
What all will a Homeroom Parent do?

To be a homeroom parent simply **VOLUNTEER!!!!**  
We are always in need of homeroom parents -  
moms or dads! A homeroom parent will assist the  
teacher with numerous things - depending on the  
amount of time they can offer and teacher need.  
This can include: planning two class celebrations  
each year (winter & end of the year); hall displays;  
taking pictures of class events for our yearbook;  
contacting parents to volunteer for various class  
activities; collating of books; stuffing folders,  
etc., etc.



- Does Round Top collect box tops and pop tops for the school? YES!!! How do we deliver them to the school?

Each Friday we have our caring Aviators who have brought in Box Tops or Pop Tops to appear on our morning news show, WING TV. You can send these in at any time. Please encourage your neighbors and relatives to save these items also!

- If I visit my child for lunch, can I bring in outside food?

Yes. However, we do ask that you limit the amount of carbonated or high sugar content foods. Carbonated drinks are not allowed in student lunch boxes. Please remember when you come for lunch to sign our Guest Book and consider writing a letter to your child and dropping it in our Air Mail box in the Propeller Place Café.



- What is the earliest I can check my child out of school and still be counted present for the day?

11:30. Please know that RSDII has a district-wide procedure that students cannot be checked out after 2:15 and plan all appointments accordingly to limit disruptions to our instruction.

- If my child runs out of lunch money, will he still be able to eat that day?

Yes. RTE will never deny a child a lunch. There is a RSDII policy for an alternative lunch to be served when a child's lunch bill exceeds \$10.50. We strongly encourage parents to pay for lunch with the on-line Nutri-kid web site. Please contact us for details.



- How do I get information about my child riding the school bus to and /or from school?

Please call 699-2892 for information. More information is on the district website under the parent section. Look under the link for transportation. Once you click Round Top you can search for a stop near your home.

- Is there a link for the bus information from the transportation website?

Yes - located on the RSDII website. It is important to know that kindergarten students must have a guardian meet them at the bus stop or have a form on file listing other adults who can pick up the child. It is also necessary for your child to have a note if there is any change in their transportation. Phone calls to the school to change transportation should only be made in the event of an emergency.



# Upcoming Dates

- Meet Your Teacher/Drop-In
  - August 17, 2010; 4:30 to 6:00
- First Day of School
  - August 19, 2010
- Open House
  - September 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-8pm



# Additional Information

- Round Top Elementary Web Page
  - <http://www.richland2.org/schools/rte/>
  - School Supplies
  - Summer Reading List
    - Located on RTE web page under "Information"
- SC State Standards
  - <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Academic-Standards/old/cso/>

