

Ideally, our acorns will come to us  
with the following skills:

#### Language Arts

- Recognize alphabet letters. This means recognizing isolated letters, not just memorizing them in sequence
- Recognize and produce the most common sounds of each letter
- Know his/her first and last name and recognize it in print

#### Math

- Count to at least 20
- Recognize numbers and patterns. (This includes being able to distinguish between letters and numbers)
- Identify shapes and colors

#### Life Skills

- Share, wait for a turn, and communicate with words - not actions - when upset
- Open snacks and water bottles.
- Sit long enough to enjoy a story and be able to understand and follow two-step and three-step directions.
- Zip, snap, tie, button, and fasten clothing items and take care of bathroom needs independently

\*Remember: We are here to meet your child where he/she is on learning goals. If your child has not mastered these skills, do not stress him/her out and spend the entire summer working on them! Play is developmentally appropriate and is extremely important for your child to learn. Invite your almost kindergartener to spend a great deal of time playing outside, drawing and coloring/painting pictures, building with blocks and Legos, creating with playdough, cutting with scissors, and pretending to be anything and everything. *Above all else, foster independence, but let them be little!*

WELCOME

TOK

AT POA!



With Much Excitement,  
The POA Kindergarten  
Teaching Team

*Dearest Families of Almost Kindergarteners,*

*We are elated that your acorn is going to grow into an oak tree here at Patriot Oaks Academy! This is certainly an exciting time, but we know this can also be a time that brings a bit of anxiety and a lot of questions. Hence, we have put together this little brochure to help you get your kiddo prepared for the upcoming year. You will receive most of this information (and more!) when the school year begins, but in the meantime, here are the main things we would like for you to know:*

### **STAGGERED START**

Before school begins, you will receive a postcard in the mail informing you of your child's teacher AND his/her assigned staggered start date. While older grades begin school on August 10th, kindergarteners come to us in waves. **\*You will need to make arrangements for your child during the staggered start dates that he/she is not scheduled to come to school.** For more information on how staggered start will work, please visit our school website.

### **SUPPLIES**

You may purchase them yourself, or you may purchase them through our PTO. (Please see the PTO website for more info on that!) Either way, we ask that you please send in the supplies with your child on Meet and Greet day.

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

Our regular school hours are 8:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. - 1:50 p.m. on Wednesdays. Your child may enter the building between 8:00 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. If your child arrives after 8:30 a.m., he/she will have to go through the office and get a tardy slip.



### **ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL**

We encourage you to walk your child into the school building and to his/her classroom on his/her assigned staggered start date AND on the first day we spend together as a full kindergarten class. After that, your child will need to follow standard procedure for entering the school building.

It is imperative that you clearly communicate with us how your child will be coming home from school. We will be placing a permanent tag on your child's backpack, indicating his/her name, teacher, and dismissal assignment. Please plan on discussing daily with your child how he/she will be coming home. IF a change is necessary, you must send in a written note with your child that day.

### **LUNCH and SNACK**

Your child may bring lunch or order lunch from our cafeteria. There is a menu online for you to access, and we also have a cool site that allows you to deposit money into an account for your child to use when purchasing lunch. (For more info on that, please visit our school site.) Because our lunch is rather early in the day, we also provide a time for the children to have a snack in the afternoons. While lunch is open to anything you deem appropriate, snacks must be NUT FREE.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Your child will receive a daily communication folder. We ask that this folder accompany your child to school every day, and we will send it home with your child every afternoon. Any notes or forms that need to be brought to our attention should be sent via this folder. We also encourage you to use email as a reliable form of communication with your child's teacher.