

Hello Kindergarten Parents,

My name is Emily Ralls and I am so excited to be teaching Kindergarten! This is my 19th year of teaching and tenth year teaching at Arches Academy. I love teaching our young students and Arches Academy's dedication to educational excellence!

A little bit about me: I grew up in British Columbia, Canada and feel like I have seawater in my veins. I love the beach and Disneyland equally! I have a fabulous husband, and two adult children – one boy, one girl. I also love spinach, sushi, raspberries, and chocolate. My teaching philosophy in a nutshell, is that if a child feels safe and loved, they can learn just about anything.

I also know that children learn best when the learning is fun and interactive. Our Arches Kindergarten math program is a series of hands-on, interactive lessons and games that are designed to give students a deep understanding of mathematical fundamentals: Numbers, Geometry, Sorting and Classifying, Patterns, Measurement, and Data Collection. Our Language Arts program features hands-on engaging lessons, dramatic play opportunities that lay a solid foundation for a child's learning career at Arches Academy and challenges each student where they are mentally, socially, and emotionally.

Our Kindergarten Social Studies and Science units of study are The Five Senses, Native Americans, Columbus and Pilgrims, Holidays Around the World, Kings and Queens, Seasons and Weather, Plants and Farms, Colonial Towns and Townspeople, American Presidents and Symbols, and Taking Care of the Earth. Arches Academy's motto is *Interactive Learning Empowering Kids*, and this is what Kindergarten is all about! I am so excited for all that our students will get to do this year! We will turn our classroom into a castle and a colonial town (separately); participate in the school play; host seasonal parades and events; host a cooking show with foods we've learned about, and have a five senses interactive museum...just to name a few of our activities. We will also go on numerous field trips (approximately one each month) including local performances, the zoo, a recycling plant and local dump, ice skating and many more!

I believe that when parents and teachers work together, every child can succeed. I look forward to teaming up with you for your child's unforgettable Kindergarten year.

Some important information about our class:

Monday through Friday, class begins at 8:30. You may drop your child off 15 minutes early without registering for our before school program. Please note that if your child is

earlier than the stated drop off time, or later than 15 minutes beyond your child's scheduled pick up times, a fee will be added to your child's account.

Each child needs to bring a school bag/backpack every day.

Please **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK**. Please refer to our official school policy for direction. Sick students will be sent home and need to be picked up **within 30 minutes**.

We have numerous field trips throughout the year and we will need booster seats for these events. Plenty of notice will be given for these excellent, hands-on learning activities. We do need parent volunteers to drive and chaperone and I cannot express enough thanks for your support in this important endeavor!

In addition to field trip support, we will also be occasionally inviting parents into our classroom for special events. I will be sending out a tentative schedule of these events for you to look over. Please consider signing up to help or facilitate these events; your children look forward to seeing their parents in our classroom.

I am available via text, email, phone call (just typically not during our class time).

Thank you for trusting us with the care and education of your child! We are going to have a fantastic year and I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ralls

(801) 885-9948