

# Mrs. MacDonald's Intermediate Classroom



## Welcome Back to School

I am looking forward to our new school year together. I know we are going to have a great year.

This is going to be a year of growth and adventure. You will be amazed at the new knowledge and skills your child will have at the end of the year. To ensure maximum growth for the children, we will be working together in a three-way partnership—

### **Child, Parent, and Teacher.**

My responsibility is to provide a positive learning environment and prepare the children academically.

Your child's responsibility is to come to school regularly, on time, and ready to learn.

Your responsibility is to help your child understand the importance of education and provide the time, space, and materials for your child to practice at home and to offer encouragement.

Your support in this three-way partnership is crucial to your child's success.

To help your child's success they will need to bring papers safely to and from school in a folder, in a school bag or backpack. At home, your child needs to have pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, writing paper, glue or tape. These supplies will be needed to complete assignments at home from time to time.

### **The Academy** **Minds in Motion**

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### **Important Dates**

- © I will be in the classroom August 27th from 10-1, feel free to stop in
- © Start of school August 28
- © No School September 3th, Labor Day

## Language Arts

The scope of language arts includes all aspects of English, writing, reading, spelling, grammar, usage, listening, speaking and different genres of literature. We will work on skill development in reading as it is needed, but more time will be spent on literature and non-fiction reading. We are transitioning from "learning to read" to "reading to learn".

- We will be focusing more on the aspects of spoken and written language that will allow the students to become more efficient and independent readers and writers.
- We will continue to build upon spelling and vocabulary skills and learn more about the conventions of grammar.
- We will work on research skills and follow the steps of the writing process to produce descriptive and creative written work. As writing becomes stronger, students will have more responsibility for organizing and revising their own work and proofreading for errors in spelling, usage, and mechanics.
- We will also be studying a variety of English sayings and phrases, learning both their literal and figurative meanings and also discussing how these sayings and phrases are used in everyday conversation.

Students will continue to learn how to convey effectively their own thoughts and idea using spoken and written words. By building a strong language arts foundation, students will be better able to read increasingly sophisticated literary and non-fiction works and write with clarity and fluency.

## Mathematics

In math we will be working daily in small groups mastering the concepts of the Singapore Math Series. We will work together on applying math skills to our units of study. (For example measuring the size of a Conestoga Wagon during our study of Westward Expansion.) This year we

will learn about ordinal numbers, positive and negative numbers, and perfect squares. A successful math foundation is dependent upon students' mastery of multiplication tables and other basic operations that have been taught in previous years. I will work to ensure the understanding of the concepts behind these operations and develop positive, repeated practice that gives students the knowledge, mastery and confidence to proceed with what they will learn this year which includes:

- Number sense (reading and writing numbers up to nine digits, comparing whole numbers, rounding, perfect square roots, Roman Numerals to 1,000, and interpreting graphs and data.)
- Computation (addition and subtraction with and without regrouping, master basic multiplication facts up to  $10 \times 10$  and mentally multiply by 10, 100, 1,000, write numbers in expanded form, solve two-step word problems, solve problems with more than one operation, read and write expressions that use parenthesis to indicate order of operations, identify common multiples, multiply three-digit numbers, identify factors of a given number)
- Fractions and Decimals (recognizing fractions to  $\frac{1}{10}$ , identifying numerators and denominators, writing mixed numbers, recognizing equivalent fractions, writing decimals equivalent to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{10}$ , comparing fractions with like denominators using  $<$   $>$  and  $=$ )
- Measurement ( know abbreviations : oz, g, kg, estimate and measure capacity, measure temperature, identify freezing point of water, read a clock face and tell time to the minute)
- Geometry (identify polygons, identify angles by letter names, compute area, recognize and draw congruent figures)



## Science and Social Studies

We will begin this year with a study of the WILD, WILD, WEST. We will learn about the regions of the United States and what makes these regions unique.

We will learn and apply geographic skills that have been introduced in previous years and move into more abstract concepts, such as, longitude and latitude and map projections. We will learn more about additional features of the landscape. We will learn more about history including the westward expansion of the United States. We will learn about important rivers, mountain ranges, time zones, and reading maps. We will take a closer look at our home state- and learn about Ohio's history and continue to keep an eye on current events.

In Science, we will broaden and build upon what we have already learned in previous grades. We will learn about rocks, fossils, and erosion. We will examine ways in which human actions impact the Earth and the organisms living there. We will explore bats and owls and understand the relationships between plants and animals. We will explore electrical currents and learn more about magnets. We will learn about our fascinating universe as we study galaxies and the solar system. Students will begin to understand phenomena such as eclipses, seasons, sunrises, and sunsets. We will learn more about scientific achievements and contributions of important scientists like Copernicus, and John Muir. We will learn more about the world around us and why it is the way it is.

## Snack and Lunch

We will have a snack mid-morning. Please be sure to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat. Fruits and vegetables are recommended, however, oranges can be too messy. Try to avoid high sugar snacks. Please make it something simple to help break up the time before lunch.

Students will need to bring their lunches from home.

Lunches will be provided if your child forgets, but we will not be able to warm up, or refrigerate student lunches. Each Wednesday will be Pizza Lunch Day for the Pre-Paid price of \$12.00 for 6 weeks, or \$24 for the first trimester. If your child is absent on Pizza Day, we will be unable to make refunds.



## Transportation and Drop-Off Time Pick-up Time

Safety in the parking lot is of the utmost concern. Be careful dropping your child off in the lot. We will review at the beginning of the school year safe parking lot procedures.

For safety reasons, do not attach additional items to your child's backpack.

Academy students can be dropped off at **8:45** and will be allowed into the classroom at this time to prepare themselves for the day. Promptness is important. Late arrivals cause a disruption for the whole class.

If your child is going to ride home in a different manner than usual, you must send me a written note. Please, do not rely on your child to tell me this information because children often become confused and relay messages incorrectly.

Pick-up from school will be at **3:15**. Students will be packed up and ready at this time. We will dismiss students on the front walk. Parents are to pull around to the front and we will load the students in your cars. If for some reason you need to park in the lot, we ask that you park in the center section of the lot. Students should then be walked across the lot for safety reasons.

The future belongs  
to those who  
believe in the  
beauty of their  
dreams.

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Money

On occasion it will be necessary for your child to bring in money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope (or Ziploc bag) with the following information written on it:

1. Your child's first and last name
2. The amount of money
3. The purpose for the money (book order, lunch money, field trip)
4. My name

This will help out tremendously and reduce the likelihood of errors. Also, if the envelope gets dropped in the hallway, this information will help the money to be returned to my classroom.

## Book Orders

Your child will be bringing home a form to order books about once a month. If you wish to order, simply fill out the form and send the correct amount of money or a check made out to the book company in an envelope.

These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their children at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on books, the class earns bonus points which are used to purchase books for classroom use.

This is a win-win situation because you get quality literature at a low price and you are helping provide quality literature for the classroom. Of course, you are never under any obligation to order.



## Classroom Rules

Four simple rules to follow:

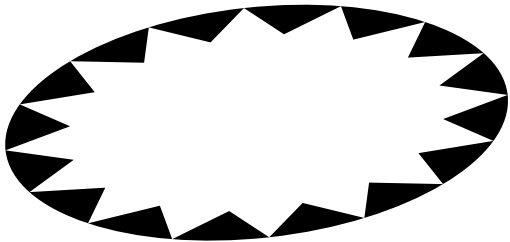
- Raise your hand to speak...preventing interruptions of others!
- Follow directions the first time.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

## The Academy Minds in Motion

Lauren MacDonald  
2142 Carrington Lane  
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Phone: 937-384-7394  
Email: lmacdonald@woh.rr.com

Visit my website at:  
[www.mrsmacdonald.net](http://www.mrsmacdonald.net)



## Legacy Project



This year, the intermediate class will be participating in the "Legacy Project". More information will come home once the school year begins, but for now I would like you

and your child to be thinking about someone they want to interview and learn more about. It can be a grandparent, great aunt or uncle, neighbor or friend. I would like for them to learn more about this person and the differences of the chosen person's childhood and their own. There will be interview questions, and other tasks associated with this "Legacy Project". This person should be at least 50 years old or older. We will be working on this project in conjunction with history and writing skills and interviewing skills. It is meant to be a year-long learning project that may bring your child closer to this person. We will plan a day in March to invite this special person to school. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

## Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for all children. We would like to celebrate birthdays in a simple way. Due to a variety of allergies, I would like to request that your child celebrate their birthday with the class by bringing a wrapped book or card game for the class instead of a sugary treat. The book would get a sticker that says "This book was donated to the class on \_\_\_\_\_'s birthday." Games would get a similar sticker. I do not want anyone to go to a big expense, but I am just suggesting this as a possible way to celebrate birthdays. Go Fish, Old Maid and Uno card games are a lot of fun. This could help out during winter months when recess may be indoors. The birthday child would be able to unwrap the gift for the class. Summer and Christmas Break Birthdays may choose another day to celebrate.

Students will bring home a birthday bag that they will share with the class about how they celebrated their special day.

## Postcard Project

This year as we explore the regions of our country and our world, I am asking for your help in collecting postcards. If you, or anyone you know, is traveling, please send a postcard back to our class with information about the place being visited. We would like to try and receive postcards from all 50 states. International postcards are welcome as well.

Our school address is:  
The Academy at Minds in Motion  
11 Sycamore Creek Drive  
Springboro, Ohio 45066

We will be charting these postcards on a large map and making observations about the postmarks, stamps and pictures included on the card. More information about this "Postcard Project" is available on my website at:

[www.mrsmacdonald.net](http://www.mrsmacdonald.net)

