

# Welcome to Kindergarten! - Meet the Kindergarten Team



Miss Miller

Hello Kindergartners! I can't wait to meet you all! This will be my second year at Knapp and I am so excited to be joining the Kindergarten team this fall! I graduated from Ferris State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with minors in Language Arts and Integrated Science. In my free time, I love to spend time with my family and friends. I have three nephews and one niece that I adore! I love making crafts and I am always trying new ideas! I also love going shopping, going to concerts, and going camping! I hope that you have a fabulous summer! See you in the fall!



Ms. Gibson

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are going to have an AMAZING year of learning together. I can't wait to dive into learning with you! I graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Recently, I received my Master's degree in Educational Leadership at Grand Valley State University. This fall will be my 12th year here at Knapp. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my beautiful daughter, Kayleigh, who will be celebrating her 10th birthday this September. As a family, we love to read, sing, dance and explore new things. I also enjoy painting, watching movies, crafting and creating new things to explore and teach my students. Enjoy your summer! I can't wait to see you in the fall!



Mrs. Rubio

I attended Central Michigan University where I received my Bachelor's Degree as well as my Master's Degree in Early Childhood. I have taught 15 years at Knapp and I look forward to teaching a new group of Kindergarten students. I love how the staff and administration is very supportive of each other and puts forth 100% towards educating all their students. I have been happily married for 26 years and we have a 21 year old son and 18 year old daughter. Our Labradoodle named Rudy also makes life very interesting. During my "spare" time I love to shop, spend time in the sun, and go out to eat. I am excited to meet all the new Kindergarten students in the fall!





# Kindergarten "Highlights"

In kindergarten we learn about a lot of topics! Some highlights are animals, magnets, plants, community helpers, the five senses, and economics! We will also learn all about letters, letter sounds and how to read.

## Exciting Opportunities

With school of choice, parents have an opportunity to choose a school for their child. With that in mind, parents have to look at many different aspects of a school and decide which would be the best fit for their child and allow their child to develop academically.

Knapp Academy has the best of both of these: a perfect fit for any child and exceptional academics. Knapp teachers greet students at their doors with a warm welcome and handshake making students feel appreciated and cared for as soon as they enter the classroom. With that mindset, students feel more comfortable to express themselves and try their best in class. Students also participate in activities where they get to know each other, respect differences, and learn from each other's strengths.

## A Standard of Excellence

The kindergarten team is very focused on making sure your child meets all of their educational objectives. We take pride in giving every student the best educational experience and we do this by teaching the students at their own individual level.

We work closely with one another to make sure that we are sharing our strengths and weaknesses as a team. We meet weekly to plan strategies and resources that will best meet the state objectives as well as the needs of our students.

## Supply List:

Regular sized backpack -large enough for a folder, labeled with first and last name (to be brought daily).

The small ones that are used for younger children are very difficult to fit items in.

1 Daily Plastic Folder -please label with first and last name on the front of the folder (top, right corner).

4 boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons

2-3 packs of fine point Expo Dry Erase Markers

3 containers of Clorox wipes

2 boxes of tissue

2 rolls of paper towel

2 Purell hand sanitizer with pump (8-12oz)

1 ream of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper

1 set of headphones – please label with your student's name, no ear buds please

1 pack of 12 Ticonderoga pencils

2 single subject wide ruled notebooks

1 pair of tennis shoes for PE classes

Optional Supplies: Ziplock sandwich bags, plastic spoons and forks, yellow highlighters, Crayola markers, Expo dry erase chisel tip markers

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1759 Leffingwell Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-364-1100 [KnappCharterAcademy.org](http://KnappCharterAcademy.org)



# Welcome to 1st Grade! Meet the 1st Grade Team



**Mrs. Dabkowski**

I am a graduate of Aquinas College with a Social Studies Major and Early Childhood Endorsement. This year will be my 18th year of teaching at Knapp following 20 years as a preschool teacher.

I love teaching first grade here at Knapp Charter Academy! I am married and have four fabulous children: Sara and her husband Teddy; Kevin and his wife Stephanie; Michael, and Jake. I also have four grandchildren Kylee, Dylan, Archie, and Sadie.

My favorite thing about teaching first grade is to witness how much each child grows and becomes a confident reader by the end of the school year! I hope to see a lot of parental support as we work together to help your child achieve and have academic success.



**Mrs. Kavaluskis**

I am a graduate of Aquinas College and hold a Bachelor's Degree of Science and Education. I have been working on getting a Master's Degree in the Art of Teaching Reading from Grand Valley State University. I have been teaching for 22 years in lower elementary. I have taught 1st grade, here at Knapp Academy, for the last 19 years. I am married and have 2 boys, ages 12 and 16. We love exploring the great outdoors and participating in sports related activities.

I love teaching at Knapp Academy! We have amazing staff, families and students. My favorite thing about teaching first grade is helping children learn to read and write. It warms my heart to see the children's pride in their reading and writing accomplishments. I also love to challenge them and help them learn independence! I look forward to working together with you to make it a successful year for your child!



**Mrs. Vankley**

Welcome to first grade! We are going to have a GREAT year together! This will be my tenth year at Knapp Charter Academy, and my seventh year teaching first grade. I am a graduate of Calvin College and I am working toward my Master's Degree in Literacy Studies (Reading Specialist) from Calvin College.

When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy reading, playing golf, making crafts, and exploring nature at our cabin up north. My husband Ryan and I will be celebrating our seventh anniversary this summer and our son will be 3 years old in August.

I hope you are enjoying your summer and spending lots of time outside in the sunshine! Don't forget to read and work on your math facts throughout the summer! I am so excited to start a new adventure with you in first grade. I know we are going to learn so much together. I can't wait to meet you! See you soon!



# 1st Grade "Highlights"

In first grade we go on field trips to the apple orchard in the fall and to the Zoo and to Frederick Meijer Garden in the spring. First grade Dads enjoy carving pumpkins with their child at Dad's Night in October. In May we have muffins with Mom. First grade Moms join us in the morning for muffins and a craft. Fun projects we look forward to in 1st Grade are a parent interview about their job in January and an animal research project in May. Students can look forward to many more fun activities throughout the year as well!

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## A Standard of Excellence

The First Grade team is very focused on making sure your child meets all of their educational objectives. We take pride in giving every student the best educational experience and we do this by teaching the students at their own individual level. We work closely with one another to plan strategies and resources that will best meet the state objectives as well as the needs of our students.

## Supply List:

1 Pencil box	Headphones or earbuds for computer time
10 glue sticks	2 boxes of Kleenex
Backpack	1 roll of paper towel
15 Sharpened Pencils	1 pair of Scissors (Fiskars brand work well)
Clorox Wipes	1 box of 24 count crayons (please tape the bottom)
Spanish Supplies: Grades 1-8 need a two-pocket folder	1 ream of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper
	Tennis shoes for Gym – you may keep a pair at school

\*Please label scissors with a **name**.

\*\*The teacher will provide a **Friday folder**.

\*\*\*Please do not send in markers, rulers, staplers, or tape.

\*\*\*\*Please discourage your child from choosing items that may be distracting to them and others in the classroom...such as toy erasers, giant pencils, etc.

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# Welcome to 2nd Grade! Meet the 2nd Grade Team



**Miss Quisenberry**

I graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Language Arts. Currently, I am back at Grand Valley working on a Master's in Special Education with an emphasis in Learning Disabilities. I have been teaching at Knapp since 2008, first as a Writing Workshop Paraprofessional, then as a 2nd grade teacher. I grew up in Lansing, Michigan and travel back often to spend time with my family. I enjoy reading, baking, camping, going to MSU sports events (GO GREEN), and I love to travel. I am looking forward to another year at Knapp and cannot wait to hear all about your summer!



**Mrs. VanDyke**

I graduated from Cornerstone University with my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Soon after, I earned my Master's in Reading from Western Michigan University. This coming school year will be my eighteenth year teaching at Knapp. I enjoy working with my second grade teammates. We have fun planning activities and lessons for our students. I also enjoy the students because they make me smile every day. I love to watch them learn and grow. I will be celebrating my 16th anniversary with my husband Tim this summer. Our son, Isaac, will also be celebrating his 12th birthday in June! Our daughter, Charlotte, will be turning five in November. I enjoy reading, being outside, jogging, photography, spending time with my family, and watching sports. (GO GREEN!)



**Mrs. VanStensel**

I graduated from Calvin College with a degree in education and minors in math and language arts. I had the wonderful opportunity to start off at Knapp as a long term sub in the spring of 2009. From there, I taught sixth grade language arts and math for five years and this will be my sixth year teaching second grade. I love it and can't wait for another great year!

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for over ten years and we have been blessed with four children. Henry is 8 years old and will be entering 3rd grade. Harrison will turn 6 in August and is ready for Kindergarten in the fall. Our twins turned 2 this past April and their names are Winston and Finley. So much of our time as a family is spent outside camping, playing on the beach and wandering through the woods. I hope you each get a chance to enjoy every ounce of summer. I look forward to getting to know and teach your child next year!





# 2nd Grade "Highlights"

In 2nd grade, you will enjoy learning about landforms, pioneers, the scientific method, plants, and so much more. You will enjoy a Polar Express day, dressing up for the 100th day of school and field trips such as the apple orchard and Camp Roger.

## Exciting Opportunities

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## A Standard of Excellence

Our Second Grade team is very focused on making sure your child meets all of their educational objectives. We take pride in giving every student the best educational experience and we do this by teaching the students at their individual level.

We work closely with one another to make sure that we are sharing our strengths and weaknesses as a team. We meet weekly to plan strategies and resources that will best meet the state objectives as well as the needs of our students.

## Supply List:

Pencils  
Cap Erasers  
Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Scissors  
2 single subject notebooks (wide-ruled)  
Pencil box  
2 two pocket folders (This is not for homework or Friday folder items. Those will be provided by the teacher)  
2 boxes of Kleenex  
1 ream of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper  
For Spanish Class – 1 two pocket folder  
Tennis shoes for Gym – you may keep a pair at school  
  
Optional Supplies: plastic spoons or forks, sturdy paper plates, paper towel, antibacterial wipes, ziplock sandwich bags, hand sanitizer

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