

Hello and welcome to Kindergarten!

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying summer and thinking about the upcoming school year. The Early Childhood Center staff and I have been working to prepare for the first day. Important information is included in the elementary student handbook; I have listed some of the highlights for you here:

Back to School Visits

Instead of the traditional Open House, this year parents are invited to visit EC with their children during regular school hours on August 11-12 to find the classrooms, drop off supplies, tour the building and grounds, and stop by the office to check records and verify bus information. Kindergarten parent meetings will be held on August 25th and August 27th, depending upon the individual classes. More information will be provided after school begins.

Before - After School Care

Tiger STRIPES (Students and Teachers Reaching Incredible Potential Every Session) will offer before- and after-school childcare services for students grades K-6 from 6:30-7:30am and from 3:00-6:30pm. The monthly fees are: full-time morning program \$35, 1-3 days enrollment \$30, full-time afternoon program \$130, 1-3 days enrollment is \$100. A non-refundable \$25 registration fee is required. Full-day child care is available for \$15 per day on those days when school is not in session or is cancelled due to bad weather. Arrangements may be made by calling Tiger STRIPES (735-3778).

Daily Schedule

School begins promptly at 8:00am. Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:40am and no later than 8:00am. School dismisses at 3:25pm. For the safety of the children, students will not be called from the classroom after 2:45 pm. Any student remaining at school after dismissal will be sent to Tiger STRIPES and an automatic \$10 drop-in fee will be charged.

Late-start Mondays

We will begin school at 8:30am every Monday morning, beginning August 24th. This time allows teachers to collaborate regarding students' academic needs and improvement of instruction. Such a highly effective, professional development practice has been proven to result in improved student achievement. The school busses will still have the same routes on Mondays, but will run approximately 30 minutes later than normal. Please note that school will still dismiss at the regular time on Mondays, with no changes to how or when busses run in the afternoon.



Lunch Debt Management

Parents are encouraged to pay for students' meals at least a week in advance. If a student accumulates charges totaling \$20, elementary students will be served a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk until the debt is reduced. Additionally, kindergarten students will no longer be able to charge afternoon juice. Questions about Food Services should be directed to Ruth Melvin at 732-3650 x 5114.

Republic Parent ListServ and TigerText

The Republic R-III School District sends periodic information out to parents via an e-mail listserv. To sign up, go to <http://lists.more.net/mailman/listinfo/republicparentnews>. Additionally, an emergency information service is now available for parents. Sign up for TigerText and get important information about the Republic School District sent as text messages to your cell phone, wireless PDA or pager! TigerText is a free service provided to the Republic School District by Countryside Bank in Republic. Please check your cell phone plan for any text message fees your provider may charge. This is a SPAM-free application. Your personal contact information will remain private. Go to <http://www.republic.k12.mo.us> to sign up for TigerText.

School Bus Pick-Up and Delivery

We will be picking up and delivering students at only ONE (1) destination this year. You may have one residence for pick-up and one destination for student delivery after school. Please complete the enclosed pink form and return it to the EC Office, if you have not already done so.

School Contact Information

Republic Early Childhood Center (417) 732-3670

720 North Main Street

Dr. Carol Lohkamp, Principal

Esther Brown, Counselor

Shannon Dunn, Office Manager

Republic Elementary I	732-3610
Republic Elementary II	732-3620
Republic Elementary III	732-3630
Republic Middle School	732-3640
Republic High School	732-3650
Transportation Department	732-3680
District Central Office	732-3605



Additional information is available on the Early Childhood Center website. Again, welcome to the kindergarten school year. I look forward to getting to know you and your family - together, I am sure we can work to make your child's kindergarten experience enjoyable and effective! I hope to see you soon (and often).

Dr. Carol Lohkamp