

# Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium

August 2020

## Head Start Classroom: Elsie Rogers



### Welcome

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to begin the new school year and build many new memories. My name is Margaret Derbiszewski and together with Alma Ceron, we will be teaching the Head Start class at Elsie Rogers Elementary School. Our goal is to exceed your expectation when it comes to high quality care and early education for your child. Your child will be nurtured, loved, and encouraged to learn. This year we will start with virtual learning from September 2 – September 10. We will send you individual invitations through Zoom. Starting September 14, we should have in-person class.

This year, we will have one class four days a week (Monday – Thursday from 9-12:30, **no school on Friday**). Breakfast and lunch will be served.

### Drop-Off/Pick-Up Times and Procedure

When dropping off or picking up your child, parents need to sign-in/out a Head Start Form. No child will be accepted after 9:30.

Children will only be released to the adult whose name has been listed on the child's emergency form. To make changes or additions to this list, parents must make an appointment with the Family and Community Specialist to complete a COS form.

### Attendance

If for any reason your child is unable to attend school or will be coming late, please call us at 259-5231 ext. 43229 (leave a message).

### Emergency Clothes

Each child will need a set of emergency clothes due to spilling or other emergency situations. Please send an extra set of clothes, in a bag with your child's name on it.

### Head Start Curriculum

This year Head Start has continued with the program **High Scope**. This program is based on active learning where the children learn through experiences with people, materials, and events, rather than through direct teaching or sequenced exercises. The children are encouraged to make their own choices about materials and activities throughout the day. As they pursue their choices and plans, the children explore, solve problems, ask questions and interact with classmates and adults. We also conduct two Parent/Teacher conferences to set up individual goals and to share your child's individual strengths.

### Screening

Head Start is conducting source screening during the first few weeks of school: speech, hearing, vision, Denver, and DECA. This helps us set up individual goals for each student.

### Physical/Dental

Please return your child's physical, dental, or any lab work. This is a Head Start requirement.

### Food Allergy/Restrictions

We need doctor documentation if your child has any food allergies so we can substitute the food.

Head Start policy also states that no food can be brought to or taken out of school. We are not allowed to have any candy, gum, cake, etc. for birthdays or other celebrations. If you wish to send something to school for these occasions, you may substitute the food with pencils, stickers, etc. No food can be taken from the cafeteria, not even when you pick up your child during lunch or snack time.

### Outdoor Activities

We go outside daily if the weather permits. Please send your child with appropriate clothes. **Please do not send your child to school in flip-flops or sandals.** They won't be able to use the playground equipment due to safety reasons. Sneakers and closed-toe shoes are the best.

**No School**

When PHM is closed due to weather conditions then Head Start is closed too. When there is a two-hour delay, there is no class.

**Backpack**

During in-person classes, please don't let your child bring a backpack to class. We will send information and projects once a week in the folder.

**Child Abuse and Neglect**

All school officials are required to report any suspected child abuse or neglect.

**Important Phone Numbers**

Elsie Rogers: (574) 259-5231 ext. 43229

PHM Transportation: (574) 258-9565

FACS (Duronda Young): (574) 855-9304

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Derbiszewski  
& Mrs. Ceron

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