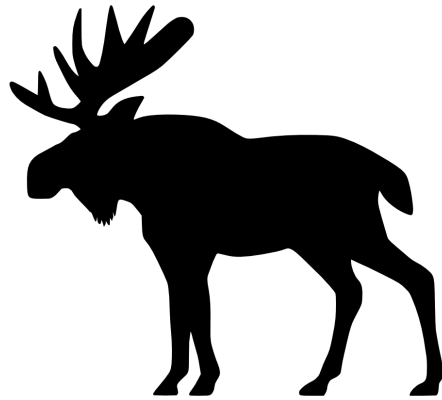


WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE
IN THE MOOSE ROOM!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR

TAYLOR WILBER

2021-2022

HILTON ELEMENTARY

September 1, 2021

Dear Families,

I welcome you and your first grader to Hilton and the “Moose” Room. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning together. Our days will be filled with numerous opportunities for exploring and learning both indoors and out.

I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Taylor Wilber. This is my fourth year of teaching! I have a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Mathematics and Science. I interned at Hilton in Kindergarten. Negaunee, Michigan is my hometown which is a small town in the Upper Peninsula. Some activities I enjoy are practicing yoga, biking and walking my dog, Kai.

Young children learn best by being actively involved in hands-on, ongoing, repeated activities. For this reason, first grade is based on the philosophy that children learn at their own rate, in their own way, and through a multiplicity of teaching methods. Our balanced literacy program consists of Reading and Writing Workshop, interactive writing, shared reading, guided reading, and word study. We will be learning about mathematics through the district adopted, Everyday Math program. Both our math and science programs involve hands-on exploration and experimentation with small manipulatives. This year we will be continuing our implementation of the new Michigan next generation science standards (NGSS). Our science program is called Phenomenal Science. Children need to learn about the world around them through inquiry and wonder. The social studies aspect focuses on learning about myself and others. We will also be incorporating aspects of design within our classroom through the use of developing our sense of wonder, investigation, discovery, and exploration.

Some of you may have questions about matters such as snack and schedules, etc. I hope the following information may be of some help. Here are some tips to make your kindergartner’s transition to school a little easier:

1.) Arrival and Dismissal- Our school hours are from 8:50-3:42. All students must be in classrooms by 8:50 a.m. Children who arrive later than 8:50 will be marked as tardy. At the end of the school day, students will be led to their designated pick up spots outside the building. If you need your child before dismissal time, just let the office know and they will call. If your child’s routine dismissal is to change at any time, please send a note with your child to let us know. If this is a consistent change you will need to fill out an alternative destination form.

2.) Specials/Essentials- We will begin “specials” (Music, Art, Physical Education (Gym) this week. You may also hear these referred to as our essential classes. Our special/essential times may vary depending on the day. We are on an ABC rotation schedule. Our essential class time is at 1:45-2:10. A day is Art, B day is Physical Education (Gym), and C day is Music. We will also have STEAM every week on Wednesday. This stands for science, technology, education, art, and mathematics.

3.) Snack- We have a short snack period each day that consists of a healthy snack. You will provide the snack for your child. **Please remember, if your child has any food allergies let me know right away. Also, teach your child to refuse those foods. (“No, I can’t have peanut butter. I am allergic to it.”)**

4.) Lunch- Students will have lunch in the cafeteria each day. The Moose Room has its own table to sit at. Lunch aids will assist children with any questions and/or needs such as opening drinks and food, getting utensils, disposing of trash, getting to the playground, etc. Students eat at the tables for the first half of lunch and go outside on the playground for the second half of their time. Lunchtime is 11:45 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Students have the choice of hot lunch or cold lunch (lunch from home). If you are sending cold lunch, please pack healthy foods in a lunch bag labeled with your child's name.

5.) Birthdays- **Due to many allergies Brighton Area Schools is doing non edible birthday treats.** Please plan on sending your child’s favorite book to share with the class. I will read the book to the class to celebrate. **I also ask that children not pass out any invitations to birthday parties at school unless every child is invited.** I cannot give out phone numbers and addresses of other students.

6.) Clothing- We try to go out for fresh air and exercise (recess) every day, weather and specials permitting. It is easy to get dirty on the playground, or even in the classroom. Please remember that this is your child’s workplace and your child deserves to be dressed in washable clothes that can withstand a reasonable amount of work and play. When sending your child to school keep in mind that we will do a variety of activities throughout the day such as painting, planting, cooking, using clay, etc. A child that has to worry about getting dirty cannot participate joyfully in our day. Proper shoes are a very important part of being comfortable. Please make sure your child can hop, skip, jump, and run in their footwear. Sandals, slip on clogs, crocs, chunky heels, and boots often restrict their movement. We can always dress up on special days. **In addition, it is a good idea to label any clothing that your child might remove or misplace.** It is also a good idea to have a spare pair of socks, underwear, and pants readily available.

Bathroom accidents do happen and it is much easier to change into clothing from home than to borrow from school. **Please pack a Ziploc bag with your child's name and include a pair of socks, underwear, and pants for emergencies.** This will be left in their locker. If you misplace anything, check the school lost and found located by the recess doors.

7.) Problem Solving- One of our social studies learnings is that children need to handle their own problems as they arise. Therefore, our first response to a child with a worry is to ask that child what he/she might do to correct the situation. We will ask that you suggest the same problem solving at home. However, should your child be unable to rectify an injustice, or should your child hesitate to tell me things, particularly at the beginning of the school year, please let me know.

8.) Name tags- Most importantly your child needs to remember to wear their name tag. Please take good care of them and remind them to wear them on their shirt everyday THROUGH SEPTEMBER!!! We all rely on the name tags for identification as well as transportation and bus information.

9.) Parent Participation and Volunteers- TBD.

10.) Germs- Please help us to stop the spread of germs. Teach your child to use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze. Let's all do our part to remember to wash our hands, wipe our hands, or use environment friendly alcohol free or plant based hand sanitizer to stay healthy especially during cold and flu season. We would love some Kleenex, baby wipes, and environment friendly disinfecting or multi-purpose wipes for our classroom if you are able to donate them. Great brands to consider are Seventh Generation, Baby Ganics, Honest Company, or Birdie. As always, donations are optional. They are appreciated, but not required.

11.) Friday Folders - On Fridays, your child will be bringing home their Friday Folder. This folder contains newsletters, calendars, family homework, and children's work. Please take the time to look over the contents each weekend. This is your way of staying connected when you can't be here physically. Please help your child to remember to return their folder to school on Monday. These folders need to come back empty so they can be filled for the following week. Please allow your child to be involved in the packing and organizing of their backpack. Please make sure that your child has a bag pack large enough to accommodate a 10" x 13" folder. Your child will have a lot of things that will come home. Please check your child's backpack daily for important information. Also, please clearly label your child's backpack with their name (inside or outside). Your child should be able to open and close the

backpack independently. Please do not pull out handles or wheels on backpacks.

12.) Phones- If you need to reach me please call. I am here to help your child and here to help you. There are no silly questions and chances are if you have a question others probably do too. **If there is an emergency or a change of plans (child is being picked up instead of riding the bus) please call the office and they will let me know.** If you have a general question please call and leave a message on my voicemail. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours. The best way to reach me is through E-mail or Seesaw Families. For more information please check out our class website and blog.

Phone: 810.299.3950 ext. 64026

[Moose Room Website](#)

E-Mail: wilbert@brightonk12.com

Seesaw Families: Sign up through this link <https://app.seesaw.me/s/764-428-762>.

Once again, welcome! I am looking forward to working with you to provide your child with a nurturing, successful, and enjoyable first grade experience. Please consider me a friend and an ally-- working together is very important. Parent involvement is crucial in a child's education and only the best is good enough for children. I believe that a positive relationship and consistent communication between the parent and teacher is necessary for a successful school experience. Throughout the year I will communicate with you on a regular basis. I will communicate with you through notes, newsletters, monthly calendars, conferences, and telephone calls. Please call me with any concerns at school between 8:20 and 8:40 or between 3:45 and 4:20. If you need to contact me in the evening, e-mail or Seesaw is the best way to get a hold of me.

With kindness,

Taylor Wilber