

February 2015

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Your child is ready for school. The Faculty and Staff at Sidway look forward to beginning this journey with you.

The Grand Island Central School District will be conducting Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) and Kindergarten Registration at the District Office, 1100 Ransom Road, starting in February **by**

appointment only. Universal Pre K students are selected by lottery which will take place May 27. Please call 773-8800 to schedule an appointment between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Please print out the necessary forms that need to be completed at home and brought with you to registration. They include: New Student Enrollment Form, Home Language Questionnaire, Confidential Health History, Immunization Requirement Letter, Physical Exam Form, Photo Permission Letter, and PTA Orientation Guide. You will also need to bring the following documents:

1. **Original birth certificate.** The original will be photocopied by our staff and returned to you immediately. [We cannot accept a Baptismal Certificate or Hospital Certificate.]
2. **Proof of immunization.** [The necessary list is enclosed in this packet. We can accept doctor's verification only.]
3. **Proof of residency.** Tax bill with star, residential mortgage commitment letter or notarized rental/lease agreement, with one of the following: post office change of address form, current utility bill, bank or credit card statement, a Federal or New York State tax document, certificate of occupancy or a policy binder of homeowners or rental insurance.
A driver's license is not acceptable proof of residency, but will be copied for identification purposes.
4. In the case of divorce and separation, custody papers **MUST** be on file with the school district.
5. If you have been awarded guardianship of a child, we **require these legal papers** for registration.

Once you are registered, there are several events you won't want to miss!

*A Getting Ready for Kindergarten informational session will be held on April 15 at Sidway. Kindergarten teachers will explain how to get your child "ready" for Kindergarten at 6:30 -7:30pm.

* Kindergarten orientation is for you and your child on May 19. You will have an opportunity to meet some of the teachers, hear about programs and take a short bus ride. We will distribute further information regarding orientation when you formally register with your child.

*Kindergarten screening will take place beginning August 3-14. We will begin working on kindergarten class lists for the 2015-2016 school year immediately following. Many factors are taken into consideration including:

- * Gender balance
- * maintaining heterogeneous classes with children of a variety of ability levels
- * scheduling of services such as speech, remedial reading or Resource Room
- * Separation of children who are related or do not interact well

If you have information that you think is important to the placement process such as special strengths of your child, academic or social concerns for your child, or the kind of learning environment you think your child would thrive in, you are invited to send that information to us in the form of a letter. **We will accept letters through April 30, 2015 only. Please note that we are not accepting specific requests for next year's teacher.** A team of professionals will consider all aspects of your child's development and recommend placement. It is important to note that final placement decisions are the responsibility of the Principal.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years to provide a positive educational beginning for you and your child.

Sincerely,

