Dear Transitional Kindergarten Parents,

 I am so excited to work with your child this year as their Transitional Kindergarten teacher. Things may look differently as I strive to provide a safe and healthy TK environment, but my focus will still be on developing the skills necessary for your child’s successful transition into a full-day kindergarten program.

 Part of this preparation involves the students bringing their own water bottles and snacks to school each day. This will allow the children to learn how to independently navigate food packaging, eat in a timely manner, clean up appropriately, and be responsible for their own belongings. These are all skills that will be needed for next year’s snack and lunch experiences. In the event that your child forgets a snack, we will provide one for them. **Please be sure to label your child’s water bottle and snack/lunch bag.** It is very helpful if your child knows how to open and close their water bottles and snack/lunch bag before coming to school.

 The children will have approximately 15 minutes to navigate the snack process from start to finish. Many of the district’s kindergarten classes allow 7-10 minutes, so I feel confident that this is an appropriate amount of time to devote to this process. I will be available to offer assistance as needed, but mastery of these skills will make for a more successful kindergarten experience.

 It is important to note that Christ Clarion is a **nut-free school.** Sun butter (sunflower seed butter) and hummus are considered acceptable snacks, however. This year we ask that you please refrain from sending a snack that requires a spoon or a fork to eat, as we are extremely concerned about the transmission of germs. I am usually the only adult in the room, and instructional time is impacted if there is a large snack mess that requires a lot of clean-up. I can leave cracker crumbs to vacuum up after the children leave, but spills (yogurt, applesauce, etc.) require my immediate attention.

 Thank you so much for your cooperation in teaching the children these valuable skills. Snack time is one of my favorite parts of the morning. The children have such animated conversations and it is a valuable social time.

 Lisa Wrona