



Hello, new UPK students and families,

The **warmest of welcomes to you** from your UPK class team! Our class team consists of me, **Ms. Hatch Eschweiler**, your teacher, and our teaching assistant **Sami Just**! We are so excited you're going to be a part of our universal pre-k class! We are going to learn a lot and have so much fun together this year in UPK!

My name is Amy Beth Hatch Eschweiler which is especially long, so please call me **Ms. E** — or **Amy Beth** for the adults. This is my thirtieth year teaching as a member of the Chittenango School District faculty and my thirty-second year as a teacher. I love our district and community! It is a great place to live and to teach! My own three children also attend Chittenango Schools in three different buildings. We are involved in sports, music, and theater in our community and I enjoy gardening, writing, and traveling. What are some things you and your family enjoy doing together? We can't wait to hear about this from you!

Sami Just is a Chittenango graduate and has a degree in art which is perfect for pre-k! This is Ms. Just's second year with our UPK program and she's such an asset to our team! Ms. Just enjoys hiking, gardening, and has a dog named Addison. Ms. Just is excited to see progress our students will make this year!

Ms. Just and I are so excited to get to know **you** and we can't wait to find out what makes **you** the special person **you** are!

You will need these things for your first day of UPK:

- An extra **full set of clothes in a bag**, labeled with your name to stay at school
 - A **DAILY healthy snack and water/school-appropriate drink**. No twist top capped disposable plastic water bottles, please, because at this age, these spill easily.
 - A **lunch** if you do not choose to purchase a school lunch. It's helpful to "start" tears to open bags like chips, etc. It's great to have your child "practice" bringing lunch and eating it at home before they start school, so you can coach them in how to access the inside of packages, set up, and eat their food. For buyers, your child will have an account in the cafeteria. Reduced and free lunch applications will be sent home soon.
- *A **backpack** that fits your child comfortably and can carry projects, etc back home

Here's a list of SUPPLIES you'll need for our class for Day 1:

- A plastic pencil case/box that will hold your crayons and pencils (much easier to find certain crayons in a case/box than in a zippered pouch), labeled with your child's name
- A pair of child-size scissors (Fiskars work well)
- 10 glue sticks to start (We'll store the extra sticks at school until needed)
- 5 to 10 pencils (regular #2 type pencils with erasers and/or wider pencils if you prefer)
- Three boxes of 8—12 crayons/box (We'll store the extra boxes at school until needed)
- 3 cans of Play-doh
- 2 watercolor boxes with paint brushes (A brush is usually included in the watercolor box)
- a box of facial tissues
- Three rolls of paper towels
- A box or two of sealable food storage, sandwich, or another size of plastic bags
- * A box of sidewalk chalk

If you're interested, we also have a WISH LIST on Amazon for our classroom that can be accessed throughout the year, under **UPK Classroom Wish List (AB Hatch Eschweiler)** 😊

I am thrilled that you will be an important part of our new class team! I am very excited to meet you in person for your first official school experience!

Families, my email address is aeschweiler@chittenangoschools.org if you have any questions/would like to contact me. We are looking so very forward to teaming with you to foster the growth of our youngest **BEAR cubs** in our Chittenango School District community!

Again, warmest welcome to you, our new UPK student, and your family!

Warmest regards,
Ms. E and Ms. Just

