Dear Hello! My name is Mrs. Helfrich and I am going to be your kindergarten teacher. I am very excited to get to know you and your family. We have Kindergarten Orientation, so I can meet you before school starts! I have been teaching kindergarten for a long time and UMS is one of my most favorite places to be. I hope you like it as much as I do. I hope you are as excited about kindergarten as I am about you coming. It is a fun place to be. We will play many games, learn songs and poems, read books and learn new and interesting things. My biggest hope for you is that you will make many friends and that you will love coming to school. You might be really excited about coming to kindergarten but you might also be a bit nervous. It is ok to feel a little nervous. I just want you to know that I am very nice and I will work hard to make you feel safe, happy and welcome. Would you please draw a picture of your family and bring it with you to orientation in August. Also, can you ask your parents to print three pictures of you and your family? We will decorate a bulletin board in our room with these pictures!! Please let your family know that the only supply you need for school is a backpack. Each day, you will need to bring a lunch, two small snacks and your home/school folder (I will give you this) in your backpack. I hope you spend some time this summer visiting our playground and the Burnham Library. Have a great summer and I truly can't wait to meet you and start an amazing kindergarten year with YOU! See you soon!! Mrs. Helma

Dear Parents,

I am very excited for the upcoming school year! Kindergarten is a milestone in your child's life and I am honored to be a part of his/her educational journey. In order to make this year successful, I would like to invite you to become partners with me in your child's education.

This will be my twentieth year of teaching. I live in Colchester with my husband and two boys. I love to read, garden, swim, cook and generally be outside enjoying this beautiful town we live in. Teaching is a passion of mine and I am so lucky to be able to spend my days with your children!

We will be having a Kindergarten Orientation on August 30th from 9:30 -10:30 AM here at UMS. During Orientation you and your child will come to our room together, get acquainted with the room, meet the other students and families from our class and participate in a morning meeting. Your child will then go on a bus ride while you stay with me to hear very important information regarding everything kindergarten. We will talk about communication, lunch forms, homework etc... Next, you will go to the cafeteria and I will be with your child either on the playground or in our room.

Please email me at Tracy.Helfrich@colchestersd.org if you have questions or concerns. I won't check my email daily but I will check it (-:

Sincerely, Tracy Helfrich

Looking Ahead:

Our Emergent Reading Program will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 until 10:00. I NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR READING PROGRAM PLEASE!!! The only supplies your son /daughter needs for kindergarten is a backpack, lunch and two snacks. I will have information regarding our classroom for you at orientation, as well as our specials schedule.