

Dear Kindergarten families;

Welcome to one of the most challenging start ups we have ever faced-every year is going to be a breeze after enduring this one! Please know that you can contact me at the school or by email at any time in the next few weeks with any questions or concerns you might have. These are definitely unusual times.

Below is our schedule for the gradual entry for our kindergarten students. This schedule is similar at all school in the district, with all kindergarten students attending full days on September 23.

Thursday, September 10	Family meetings only (Ms. Good will be calling you next week to set up your time. Each meeting is about 20 minutes to bring your child in for a 1-1 meet with Ms. Gahan)
Friday, September 11	8:50-11:00am *please pack a recess snack
Monday, September 12	12:30-2:45
Tuesday, September 15	12:30-2:45
Wednesday, September 16	12:30-2:45
Thursday, September 17	8:50-12:00 *recess snack
Friday, September 18	8:50-12:00 *recess snack
Monday, September 21	8:50-1:15 *recess snack & lunch
Tuesday, September 22	8:50-1:15 *recess snack & lunch
Wednesday, September 23	Full Day
Thursday, September 24	Full Day
Friday, September 25	Pro D day, no school for any students

Snapshot of a regular school day:

Please call the school if your child is going to be absent, follow the prompts and leave a message on our machine.

8:45 First bell rings, students line up at designated spots

8:50 Classes begin

10:30 Morning recess, we usually go out rain or shine-please send appropriate clothing and a change of clothes...this is when students have their morning snack.

10:45 End of recess, students line up to come back in

12:00 Lunch recess, everyone plays outside, 'in days' called if miserable out (rare)

12:30 End of lunch recess, kids line up to come in and eat their lunch

2:45 Dismissal time

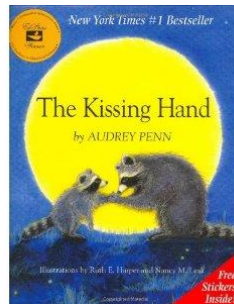
Below is my usual letter home to parents, I know this year is unique, so please just do whatever works best for your family to enjoy this transition time in the constraints we are under.



Tips for easing the transition to kindergarten:

During the Summer:

- Bring your child to the playground; walk around the grounds; if open, come in to the school...
- Encourage your child to know and say their full name, address and phone number.
- Practice using public restrooms, including locking/unlocking the latch, washing hands, etc. This can make using the restrooms at school more comfortable.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility and accomplish tasks independently. This can include able to put on a coat or sweater (using zippers, buttons, etc), able to tie shoes, being responsible for putting away own materials, using good health habits (covering nose and mouth to sneeze or cough in elbow, using tissues, etc.)
- Play school, and read books about starting kindergarten. A great one is "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn...
- Acknowledge and support feelings, especially mixed feelings. Stay positive, don't be afraid to share stories about minor missteps that ended well.



A Couple of Weeks Before:

- Develop a calendar to 'count down' to kindergarten.
- Have a 'lunch rehearsal'. Pack a lunch using the lunch kit and containers, to ensure your child can open and access everything.



A Week or Days Before:

- Establish a consistent school-time schedule, as best you can at this time.
- Try not to travel right before school starts.
- Review and, if possible, practice drop off and pick up locations at the school.
- Maintain a sympathetic, yet positive attitude.



The Night Before School:

- Plan your child's outfit and lay it out.
- Plan a good night's rest for your child—and you!
- Take out your camera, charged and ready to go!



First Days of School:

- Read through all the information you receive, and it will be a lot!
- On the first day of school and all the following days, be on time! One big change for many parents is from a casual preschool school start time to a specific school time. This does matter both to the teacher and to your child. Walking in late is like marching out of step in a parade.



The above suggestions and guideline are just that. You know your child's needs best. It is important to know yourself as well. Try to separate your feelings from those of your child. Whether sad, scared or excited, or all three, these are normal feelings for parents to experience! Good luck!

