

Welcome
to
Kindergarten
in
Park Ridge



2022-2023 School Year

Welcome to Park Ridge Schools

Welcome to Kindergarten

We are excited about educating your child and we are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with exploration and learning! This brochure has been designed to welcome you and to answer some of your questions regarding the kindergarten experience in Park Ridge. During the school year, if you have any additional questions, feel free to contact the school in order to speak with your child's teacher or the building principal. Our goal is to make the transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible for the children and their parents.

School begins on Thursday, September 1, 2022

PARK RIDGE SCHOOLS

Dr. Robert Gamper, Superintendent of Schools

East Brook School

167 Sibbald Drive, Park Ridge, NJ 07656

201-573-6000 ext. 2000

Kevin Stokes, Principal

West Ridge School

18 South First Street, Park Ridge, NJ 07656

201-573-6000 ext. 3000

Chris Kirkby, Principal

Aim

The aim of the kindergarten program is to provide a strong foundation from which students can grow to become active participants in life-long learning.



Goals

The aim of the program can be achieved through meeting the following goals. By participating in the kindergarten program, children will:

- Enjoy learning in all subject areas
- Develop confidence in themselves and their ability to learn
- Achieve academically at their own developmental level
- Demonstrate curiosity and the ability to focus their attention
- Acquire a level of communicative competence that is personally satisfying
- Acquire social skills and abilities which enable them to relate to other children and to adults
- Remain true to their individual natures, being free to develop to their own potential

What is Kindergarten?



Kindergarten is EXPERIENCING

- A year of learning that lays the foundation for life
- A year of carefully planned experiences designed to help eliminate education deficits and establish readiness for academics
- Building with blocks, dramatizing stories, cutting, pasting, and painting
- Learning the letter names, talking about their sounds and loving books more and more

Are parents allowed to enter their child's classroom on the first day?

We kindly ask that parents utilize the Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, August 31st, as the opportunity to visit the classroom. At the time of your visit, you may drop off supplies (see below) that your child will need for the school year. Walking your child to the classroom on the first day of school is not in the best interest of your child or the school. With that being said, we ask that you smile, drop, and go.

What is included on the Kindergarten supply list?

Please bring all supplies (except for backpack and folder) to the Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

2022-2023 West Ridge Kindergarten Supply List

- 1 backpack (WITHOUT wheels) with child's name on it
- 1 folder with horizontal pockets with child's name on it
- 1 plastic pencil box with child's name on it
- 4 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons
- 8 large Elmer's glue sticks
- 3 containers of baby wipes
- 1 box of quart size "slider" plastic bags
- 1 dispenser of liquid hand sanitizer (8oz.)
- 1 box of tissues

Homework Supply List

Here is a list of supplies to be kept at home that the children will need to complete their homework. We suggest buying a pencil box for home to store the items.

- Pencils (golf pencils are great!)
- Erasers
- A pair of Fiskars child scissors
- Crayons

What is the best way to contact my child's teacher?

The best method to contact your child's teacher is by email. Teachers typically check their e-mails daily and can address any concern or question you may have. All teacher contact information is listed on the school website. The staff directory is located on the left side of the school's webpage. Please share your email with the main office during registration.

What are the responsibilities of the Safety Patrol?

Safety Patrols are upper grade students who assist with kindergarteners on a daily basis. They may help out at arrival, dismissal, or lunch/recess. Safety Patrol members are a friendly face in the hallway and they help facilitate your child's entrance into elementary school.

What are the expectations for homework in Kindergarten?

Homework is assigned to reinforce concepts in the classroom. It is not assigned without a purpose or as busy work. As per our *Student & Parent Handbook*, Kindergarten teachers will assign homework at their discretion. Each child should have pencils, erasers, crayons, and safe scissors at home in order to complete assignments.

How can I access the school website?

East Brook and West Ridge have separate web pages which are both accessible from Park Ridge Public School's main page. You can locate the main page at: <http://www.parkridgeschools.org>

What happens when my child has to go to the bathroom?

It is important that your child is comfortable using the bathroom independently. There are reminders throughout the day about using the bathroom. It is always available. There is a bathroom in each kindergarten classroom. It is a good idea to practice independence at home, so that your child gets used to it before September. Practice using buttons, reaching for toilet paper, flushing, etc. Handwashing is important. We continually teach the children to wash their hands. They regularly wash their hands before eating or use hand sanitizer to help eliminate the spread of germs.

How are birthdays celebrated in school?

Our policy is that all birthday treats must be healthy. A list of applicable treats is available on the school website. Please do not send in party invitations for your child to give out in the classroom, as it is not good practice in a school.



What if I have to pick my child up early from school?

If you are planning to pick your child up from school you need to notify the office and the teacher. We will call your child down from the classroom when you arrive at school and you will need to sign your child out in our notebook.

What if my child is ill during the day?

Your child will be sent to the nurse. The nurse will check his/her symptoms and call you if he/she is ill.

Kindergarten is ORIENTATION

- A bridge between home and school
- Learning to leave home and family during the day
- Becoming a member of a group and function as part of the group
- Learning to get along with classmates, to take turns, and to respect the rights of others
- Developing positive self-esteem

Kindergarten is time for acquiring tools for READING

- To build vocabulary, to know words and to use words
- To be introduced to books, learn to use them and love them
- Time for listening to stories read aloud and answering questions about the stories
- Time for being exposed to written words
- Time for experiencing stories and charts; to learn what can be said and written and what can be written and read
- Learning to write using sound spelling



Kindergarten is WRITING

- Developing large muscles and fine muscles
- Learning to coordinate hand and eye muscles
- Manipulating, letters, numbers, toys, and puzzles
- Finger-painting, clay, drawing, coloring, cutting and pasting
- Learning to write letters, numbers and one's name correctly
- Learning to write words from their own language
- Using "popcorn" words in their writing
- Patterning their writing after authors they learn about

Kindergarten is MATHEMATICS

- Building number concepts; comparing sizes, recognizing shapes, colors, likenesses and differences, how many, few, etc.
- Getting a feel of numbers, counting, understanding place value by using unifix cubes, blocks, sticks and other manipulatives.
- Creating and extending patterns; estimating and collecting data, building graphs

What will my child be learning in kindergarten?

Welcome to the age of discovery! Your kindergartener is about to enter a whole new world of learning. While you may worry about how your child will perform in school, he/she will be busy exploring the surrounding world and learning through play. As children test their wings and form new friendships, they'll strive to balance the desire for independence with their need for security, closeness, and love. This year, expect your child to develop the skills needed for reading, such as mastering the alphabet and letter sounds, rhyming, predicting "what happens next" in stories, reading poetry, learning "popcorn words", writing words, sentences, and even stories. Share in the delight as your child reads along to a favorite fairy tale or school story. Through drawing, pretending, experimenting, and flights of imagination, your little one's mind will be opened to new ideas and they will develop confidence, courage, and learn self expression.

What can I do at home to prepare my child for kindergarten?

The best preparation for kindergarten is a positive outlook. Spend time with your child talking about how exciting kindergarten will be and how much they will learn. Let your child know that they will be learning a great deal and making many new friends. In terms of academic preparation, the more you read to your child and talk about what you read, the better prepared your child will be to learn to read. Reading to children builds reading readiness, vocabulary and an understanding of the rhythm and meaning of language.

What special subjects will my child be exposed to?

Students will have instruction in art, music, library, world language, physical education, and technology.



How long is the school day?

School begins at 8:35 AM and dismissal is at 3:10 PM. You will pick up your child at the gate that is to the left of the kindergarten door. Kindergarten teachers will wait there with your child until you arrive. There is supervision for your child, if needed, in the Multi Purpose Room starting at 8:15 AM.

How are kindergarten classes created?

Kindergarten teachers love young children and work hard to meet all of their developmental needs. Classes are created and balanced by the kindergarten teachers and the principal based on information from kindergarten screening, birthdays, and boy/girl ratio.



What if my child cries the first few days?

Each year there are a few students who are anxious and shed a few tears. This is to be expected. Usually, once the child becomes engaged in the activities of the day the tears stop, and all is well. Most often, parents have a tougher time than their children. That too, is to be expected. The school psychologists, nurse and social worker in the elementary schools are open to help parents and students cope with the first few days of kindergarten. You can best facilitate your child's adjustment by speaking positively about school and preparing him or her for a wonderful and exciting experience. Let your child know that you will look forward to hearing all about their day later that evening. Please contact your child's teacher if you have further concerns.

When does my child eat lunch?

Students bring their lunch to school. The kindergarten children eat in their classrooms at 11:30 AM. Each kindergarten class has their own lunch/recess aide. Recess is immediately following lunch at 12:00 noon. The children often go outside for recess, so please have them bring jackets and other appropriate clothing for outdoor recess.



Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Kindle excitement about kindergarten. Talk enthusiastically about school and all of the great things your child will do.

Invite new school friends home to play and help your child build strong friendships.

Never forget safety. Teach your child safety rules.

Discuss what your child will be learning in school - colors, numbers, shapes, letters, and books.

Explore your neighborhood together. Talk about the world you live in.

Review the good behavior expected of your child such as following rules and taking turns.

Get involved at your child's school. Join the PTO, and attend parent teacher conferences.

AnsWER your child's questions about school. Reassure your child that school is fun!

Read to your child daily. Visit the library together. Have great conversations about books.

Turn every day into a learning experience. Let your child help with everyday chores.

Encourage your child to eat well, get enough sleep, bathe daily, wash their hands often and brush their teeth 2x's a day.

Notice the new things your child is learning to do. Reinforce your child's progress with praise. Let your child know that you are confident in his/her ability to learn new things.