Welcome to Kindergarten!

2019 - 2020

A Guide for Kindergarten Parents

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Thursday, August 29, 2019. Our staff is looking forward to welcoming your child as a kindergarten student and also welcoming you as part of our school community.

This handbook contains information that will help you and your child prepare for kindergarten. Please refer to page 1 for the specific dates for parent orientation and student visitation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the principal of your elementary school or Frank Arnone, Executive Director of Innovation, Curriculum & Programs PK-12 at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

Toni Jones
Parents are invited to attend a school orientation where you will learn more about your child’s school and the kindergarten program. See below for dates and times.

Your child is invited to visit a kindergarten classroom to become acquainted with the staff and the school environment. During this visit, the staff will have the opportunity to observe every child as they participate in story time, free play and an art activity. See below for dates and times.

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<tr>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
<th>PARENT ORIENTATION</th>
<th>STUDENT VISITATION</th>
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KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Fairfield Public Schools offers full day kindergarten for all students. If your child needs a transition to a full day program, please speak with the school principal to make these arrangements. The full day kindergarten schedule consists of five full days of school (8:55 AM - 3:30 PM except Holland Hill, 8:10 AM - 2:45 PM) Monday – Friday starting on the first day of school, Thursday, August 29, 2019. Enrollment in the full day class is projected to range from 17 to 23 students. A full-time teacher is assigned to each class as well as paraprofessional support. A formal kindergarten report card of student progress and achievement is issued three times a year, in December, March and June. This report card is a comprehensive evaluation of how well your child progressed through the skills and concepts at this level.

SCHOOL - HOME COMMUNICATION

Infinite Campus is a web-based student information system that gives parents and guardians access to important school and student information and enhances communication between faculty, parents and students. It is extremely important for parents/guardians to log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and check the appropriate boxes (email, text, voice) under the “emergency” column. Checking the appropriate boxes is the only way to ensure receipt of all the notifications. If you have problems entering your activation code, received at your Registration meeting, email: reghelp@fairfieldschools.org. Information regarding bus route and assigned teacher will be communicated from Infinite Campus approximately one week prior to the start of school.

Meaningful, timely communication between the parents/guardians of kindergarten students and their child's kindergarten teacher is a very important part of Fairfield's kindergarten philosophy. This communication may take one of several forms including informative notices and newsletters, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and student report cards. Parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and early spring. Teachers are also available for conferences by mutual arrangement as necessary.

Please read and respond to the notices you receive from school. Often these communications ask for your involvement in some aspect of the kindergarten program. Your willingness to be involved sends a powerful positive message to your child. Your participation in your child's education is very important. Kindergarten in Fairfield is designed for student success, and we want you to be an informed partner in your child's achievement.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Children who live a distance of three-fourths of a mile or more from school will be eligible for bus transportation. If you are uncertain if your address qualifies for transportation, you may call the Transportation Office at 203-255-8385. NOTE – Kindergarten students are not discharged from the bus unless an adult is present or with a sibling at the bus stop to meet the child. Students will be returned to school if an adult is not present.

HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN!

😊 Teach your child his/her full name, address (including town and state) and telephone number.
😊 Help your child to assume responsibility for dressing himself/herself as best as possible. Label all outerwear.
😊 Teach your child the proper use of bathroom facilities.
😊 Encourage clear and proper speech.
😊 Help your child to be a good listener and to respond at appropriate times.
😊 Listen to your child and show genuine interest in what your child has to say.
😊 Ask questions to prompt your child to think such as “Why do you think so?” or “What do you think that means?”
😊 Teach your child to develop an appreciation and respect for the rights and property of others.
😊 Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children to learn sharing and taking turns.
😊 Read to your child. Choose material appropriate to your child's level of development, interest and maturity.
😊 Limit the amount and monitor the quality of television your child watches.
KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

The kindergarten curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and safety, music, art, physical education and library media. Instruction by specialists takes place once a week in art and twice a week in music and physical education. A lunch period, recess and quiet time are provided daily.

The kindergarten program emphasizes physical, social, emotional and academic development. Each child will progress based on his/her individual developmental needs.

ART

- Learns to handle art tools such as scissors, markers and paint brushes.
- Explores the 7 Elements of Art: colors, lines, shapes, values, texture, space and three-dimensional form.
- Uses a variety of media including clay, paint, cut and torn paper, crayons, markers and crafts.
- Begins to express individuality in art and appreciates the art of others.

HEALTH

- Understands the importance of good personal practices (hygiene, rest, exercise, nutrition).
- Learns simple self-awareness skills.
- Identifies and observes safety rules at home, school, play and in the community.
- Learns about germs and how to stay healthy.
- Learns how being a healthy person affects your body and its growth.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Develops a joy for literacy and talking about reading and writing.
- Participates in reading familiar text.
- Recognizes that letters represent sounds in words.
- Recognizes and uses sound/symbol correspondence.
- Demonstrates comprehension of texts read aloud.
- With prompting and support, reads, listens to and comprehends a variety of texts/genres.
- Retells a story including the main characters, setting, main ideas and sequence of events using pictures and words.
- Illustrates/writes a stories with a beginning, middle and end.
- Illustrates/writes in a variety of genres.
- Dramatizes a story through role-playing, finger plays and puppetry.
- Understands how books and print work.
- Identifies many upper and lower case letters.
LIBRARY LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY
- Students will utilize the Library Learning Commons to select reading material based on personal interests and abilities, navigating both the library’s physical and digital environments.
- Students will begin learning foundational inquiry skills and participate in collaborative and creative problem solving experiences.
- Students will generate original ideas and products based on new learning, communicate information in a variety of ways and create products using different media in order to express ideas effectively and creatively.
- Students will navigate our district’s network and virtual Library Learning Commons with assistance, demonstrating responsible and acceptance use of digital technology.
- Students will use online applications to produce information and use interactive learning applications to obtain and deepen knowledge.

MATHEMATICS
- Constructs shapes and solids using a variety of materials.
- Adds and subtracts within 5.
- Develops vocabulary associated with time-hour, parts of the day, seasons and calendar.
- Writes and matches numerals to set of objects, 0-30.
- Sorts, names and trades objects.
- Estimates, counts, compares and orders sets and pictures of objects.
- Estimates and counts to 30 with and without objects.

MUSIC
- Experiences their singing voice to match pitches and performs a variety of songs.
- Experiences the pulse/beat through moving and body percussion.
- Differentiates between higher and lower sounds, fast and slow tempi, upward and downward contour and soft and loud sounds through moving, speaking, singing and instruments.
- Creates dramatizations, sound accompaniments and movement improvisations for stories, rhyme, and poetry.

PENMANSHIP
- Holds a pencil correctly when printing.
- Prints own full name in proper form.
- Writes correctly from memory numerals 0-9.
- Copies letters correctly from a model.
- Prints letters of the alphabet.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Students will demonstrate a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Students will apply knowledge of concepts, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance as they participate in physical activities.
- Students will exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
- Students will use physical activity as a positive opportunity for social and group interaction.
- Students will be challenged through physical activity.

SCIENCE

- Describes the properties of the natural and man-made materials used to build shelters.
- Describes and records daily weather data and graphs this data monthly.
- Use the senses and simple measuring tools for measuring and making observations.
- Observes and describes characteristics that distinguish living from nonliving things.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Students will define “family”, understand family relationships and understand the characteristics of their own family.
- Students will recognize the similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- Students will explain the importance of school.
- Students will state the importance of rules in their families, with their friends and at school.
- Students will respect different forms of celebration of various holidays.

Check Out Our Summer Camp Opportunities For Students Entering Kindergarten In September!

Session I – July 1 – July 12
Session II – July 15 – July 26

K - 2 Summer Adventures Camp
At McKinley Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Safety Town
At Riverfield Elementary School, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
July 8 - 12, July 15 - 19, July 22 - 26

Registration starts February 1, 2019

More information and registration forms can be found online at www.fairfieldschools.org
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1960 Burr Street</td>
<td>Jason Bluestein</td>
<td>255-7385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>1600 Redding Road</td>
<td>Mimi Maniscalco</td>
<td>255-8312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland Hill</td>
<td>105 Meadowcroft Road</td>
<td>Molly Farrell</td>
<td>255-8314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennings</td>
<td>31 Palm Drive</td>
<td>Anthony Vuolo</td>
<td>255-8316</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>60 Thompson Street</td>
<td>Teresa Gingrave</td>
<td>255-8318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mill Hill</td>
<td>635 Mill Hill Terrace</td>
<td>Kevin Chase</td>
<td>255-8320</td>
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<td>North Stratfield</td>
<td>190 Putting Green Road</td>
<td>Deborah Jackson</td>
<td>255-8322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osborn Hill</td>
<td>760 Stillson Road</td>
<td>David Hudspeth</td>
<td>255-8340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverfield</td>
<td>1625 Mill Plain Road</td>
<td>Brenda Anziano</td>
<td>255-8328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherman</td>
<td>250 Fern Street</td>
<td>Ian Banner</td>
<td>255-8330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stratfield</td>
<td>1407 Melville Avenue</td>
<td>Elizabeth McGoey</td>
<td>255-8332</td>
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MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chairman, Christine Vitale * Vice-Chairman, Nicholas Aysseh * Secretary, Jessica Gerber
Philip Dwyer * Jennifer Jacobsen * Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly
Jennifer Leeper * Jeff Peterson * Trisha Pytko

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Toni Jones  
Superintendent of Schools  
255-8371
Michael Cummings  
Chief Academic Officer  
255-8372
Colleen Deasy  
Executive Director of Personnel and Legal Services  
255-8462
Thomas Cullen  
Executive Director of Operations  
255-8373
Frank Arnone  
Executive Director of Innovation: Curriculum and Programs PK-12  
255-8372
Robert Mancusi  
Executive Director of Special Education and Special Programs  
255-8379
Doreen Munsell  
Executive Director of Finance and Business Services  
255-8383

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
Fairfield, CT 06825

Additional information is available at: fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources