

# Greenwich Public Schools Kindergarten Handbook 2019



*Making Learning  
Personal for all  
Students*

290 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich CT

## A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to our fabulous Greenwich Public Schools Kindergarten!

We pride ourselves in joy-filled classrooms which are led by some of the best teachers and administrators in the United States. Staff will work tirelessly to support all of your child's strengths, abilities, and interests to make their start in Kindergarten a delightful experience.

Children in the Greenwich Public Schools bring wonderful diversity—in family background, race, ethnicity, gender, history, and talents. As professionals, we are dedicated to working with every child to create excitement about learning and nurture curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world. The evidence is strong: our students enjoy success academically, socially, artistically and athletically.

Essential to your child's success will be the role you play at home and at school to support the work of our educators with your child. The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is a superb partner for Greenwich Public Schools and all of our families. We encourage you to get involved at your school and take advantage of the broad opportunities and supports available for your child to grow and flourish. Our commitment is to work as closely with you as we can as a partner in the education of your child. Great students are developed by the shared efforts of school and family.

Welcome to Kindergarten! Kind regards,

Dr. Toni Jones  
Superintendent  
Greenwich Public Schools

## Ensuring a Safe School



The Greenwich Public Schools are committed to providing an educational experience that develops students' social, emotional, creative and physical skills and talents. This experience is designed to develop and reinforce students' knowledge and skills as they become creative, capable, compassionate and responsible members of society, including student outcomes as described in the Vision of the Graduate.

## Safe School Climate Norms

**Be Here**

**Be Safe**

**Be Honest**

**Care for Self and  
Others**

**Let Go and Move**



## Helpful Reminders

### Safety

**Walking to school:** teach your child about safety regulations, intersection crossing and traffic signals.

**Taking the bus:** discuss appropriate behavior on the bus; for example -- sitting quietly, remaining in the seat and talking softly.

Please make sure there a contingency plan (backup) for unexpected situations or a change in dismissal routines.

**Home address/telephone numbers/e-mail address:** be sure your **Student Profile Sheet** is in the office and up to date with appropriate information at all times. Designated contacts should be local and willing to care for your child if you are unavailable.

**Arrival at school:** please send your child to school on time for optimal learning.

**Absences/late arrivals:** communicate with the office if your child will be absent or late. You may leave a message during off-school hours. Please review the district's policy on attendance.

### Clothing

Dress your child in practical, washable clothing and sneakers so that he or she can participate in all activities.

Label clothing and belongings with your child's name.

Work with your child on zipping and buttoning clothing and tying shoelaces.

### School Health

All kindergarten students *must have* a current CT State HAR3 physical and CT State required immunizations on file prior to school entry. Health forms and information are contained in the kindergarten packet or they can be obtained from the school nurse.

Parents of new students should schedule a meeting with the school nurse to familiarize the nurse with your child's individual health history and needs.

Please inform the nurse of any medication or medical care that your child needs during the school day.

Please adhere to school guidelines regarding illnesses and/or keep them home if your child is not feeling well enough to participate in the learning activities provided in school.

## Philosophy

Greenwich Public Schools Kindergarten program is an integral part of today's total educational program. It is the foundation upon which all future education is built. A kindergarten filled with a variety of learning activities in a nurturing, personalized environment will help your child grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. It is the most influential year in your child's formal education.





# Getting your Child Ready for Kindergarten

Parents will always be the most important teachers their children can have. At home, you can support the kindergarten program in many ways including the following:

***Help your child learn these academic, personal and social skills:***

## **Reading, Writing, Language**

- ✓ Help your child to recognize and write his or her first name – First letter capitalized followed by lower case
- ✓ Raise your child's awareness of words and letters of the alphabet
- ✓ Read with your child every day and discuss the reading using open-ended questions
- ✓ Encourage your child to use pencils, crayons and markers to write and draw with their dominant hand and to use an appropriate pencil grip
- ✓ Have meaningful conversations with your child and introduce/explain new vocabulary words to them
- ✓ Encourage your child to explain his or her thinking and ask questions
- ✓ Give your child multiple step directions and have them repeat them
- ✓ Sing nursery rhymes and play rhyming games
- ✓ Label things in your home with simple signs to encourage letter and word recognition



Visit  
**Greenwichschools.org**  
for more information  
regarding all  
academic areas



Click on each content  
area for detailed  
information

## **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)**

- ✓ Help your child recognize numbers and count with them
- ✓ Count objects with them and encourage 1:1 correspondence
- ✓ Relate numbers and their impact to everyday life
- ✓ Work with your child to recognize shapes, patterns and primary colors
- ✓ Help your child sort items into different categories and identify patterns
- ✓ Expose your child to different types of music and rhythms

## **Personal/Independent Learning**

- ✓ Encourage your child to dress independently
- ✓ Have your child practice packing and unpacking their backpack
- ✓ Be sure your child can use the bathroom facilities without help
- ✓ Provide opportunities for your child to develop independence by assigning them responsibilities at home
- ✓ All clothing and educational materials your child brings to school should be clearly labeled.
- ✓ Kindergartners should keep an extra set of clothes in school

## **Social Emotional Learning**

- ✓ Provide opportunities for your child to play with children his or her age
- ✓ Allow your child to work out differences with other children independently
- ✓ Teach your child to respect others and the belongings of others
- ✓ Encourage your child to stay involved in an activity until it is completed



**Student progress is reported on a standards-based report card three times per year (December, March and June. Individual conferences will and can be scheduled with your child's teacher.**

# Development of Young Children

It is known that the young child's thought processes are different from older children and adults. Young children think globally in large "chunks" and as they grow, they tend to think in segments or compartments. Given that young children understand what can be seen and touched, activities in kindergarten utilize real, hands-on materials, manipulatives and digital tools for one-to-one correspondence.

In order to best meet the needs of the kindergarten students, teachers will administer short screenings and universal assessments to help provide information on your child's development.

If you have questions regarding these assessments, you may contact your home school.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

----- Nelson Mandela

## 12 Principles of Child Development and Learning

- 1 All areas of development and learning are important.
- 2 Learning and development follow sequences.
- 3 Development and learning proceed at varying rates.
- 4 Development and learning result from an interaction of maturation and experience.
- 5 Early experiences have profound effects on development and learning.
- 6 Development proceeds toward greater complexity, self-regulation, and symbolic or representational capacities.
- 7 Children develop best when they have secure relationships.
- 8 Development and learning occur in and are influenced by multiple social and cultural contexts.
- 9 Children learn in a variety of ways.
- 10 Play is an important vehicle for developing self-regulation and promoting language, cognition, and social competence.
- 11 Development and learning advance when children are challenged.
- 12 Children's experiences shape their motivation and approaches to learning.

Resource credit: <http://www.naeyc.org/dap/12-principles-of-child-development>

### Student Support Services

The elementary school psychologists are available to facilitate learning and to promote the cognitive, social, and personal development of all students, as well as, counseling and consultations for students experiencing academic, social or emotional difficulties in each school.

The elementary speech and language pathologists provide early intervention strategies and supports to students who exhibit difficulties in the areas of language and speech, through the Student Assistance Teams or direct therapy to students with disabilities as stipulated in the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

### English Language Learners

We provide a comprehensive English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction in reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking with content area instruction that is academically challenging and integrated with the GPS content curriculum and tailored to each student's linguistic proficiency, educational background and academic needs; and professional learning for all staff members to help them facilitate the academic growth of linguistically and culturally diverse students.

# Links to Learning

**Greenwich Public Schools:** [www.greenwickschools.org](http://www.greenwickschools.org),

Teaching and Learning - **Academics**

Teaching and Learning - **Special Education and Pupil Personnel**

Teaching and Learning - **Student Support Services**



**Parent Websites:**

***Early Childhood Education (Connecticut State Department of Education):*** <http://www.ct.gov/oec/site/default.asp>



***National Association for the Education of Young Children:***  
***<http://families.naeyc.org>***

***Kindergarten Toolkit for Preparing Parents:***

<http://www.getreadytoread.org/transition-kindergarten-toolkit/preparing-parents>



***Getting Ready to Read Activities and Language Development Activities:***

English: <http://www.getreadytoread.org>

Spanish: <http://www.getreadytoread.org/spanish>



***Math and Counting Standards***

English: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/K/CC/>

Math: <https://www.khanacademy.org>



**Student Online learning activities:**

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

<https://www.khanacademy.org> (create a student and parent account)

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) and ST Math (GPS students will be provided with a user name and password)

## **Making Learning Personal with Digital Learning in Greenwich Public School**

Greenwich Public Schools is in year six of a project to provide all students with a device creating a digital learning environment. The DLE is designed to help students accelerate their achievement by providing teachers with the resources necessary to both differentiate instruction according to the needs of each student and for students to personalize their own learning, making choices about how they learn and present their new knowledge. The critical elements of Personalized Learning are supported by the Digital Learning Environment:



All kindergarten students will be provided with an iPad Air to use during classroom instruction and to access the district approved [digital toolbox](#). Additional information can be found by clicking [here](#).



# Important Contacts: Administrative Offices



## Our Elementary Schools

Cos Cob 203-869-4670  
 Glenville 203-531-9287  
 Hamilton Avenue 203-869-1685  
 Julian Curtiss 203-869-1896  
 New Lebanon 203-531-9139  
 North Mianus 203-637-9730

North Street 203-869-6756  
 Old Greenwich 203-637-0150  
 The International School at Dundee  
 203-637-3800  
 Parkway 203-869-7466  
 Riverside 203-637-1440

Contact	Role/Support services	Email and Phone
Irene Parisi	Chief Academic Officer	Irene_Parisi@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-7463
<b>Program Coordinators/ Facilitators</b>		
Jeremy Boland	K-12 Physical Education, Wellness, FACS	Jeremy_boland@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-1374
Sheila Civale	K-12 STEM (Math, Science Technology Education)	Shiela_civale@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-7483
Adriane Hirsch-Klein	Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Language</li> <li>ESL</li> <li>Translations</li> </ul>	Adriane_hirsch-klein@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-4454
Lori Elliott	K-12 Humanities (ELA/English, Social Studies)	Lori_elliott@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-7484
Laura White	K-12 Arts (Fine, Visual and Theater Arts)	Laura_white@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-7435
Robert Hibson	K-12 Library Media services	robert_hibson@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-1386
Bonnie O'Regan	Advanced Learning Program (ALP)	bonnie_o'regan@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-742
Judith Nedell	Guidance AVID	Judith_Nedell@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-8097

Visit  
**Greenwichschools.org**  
 for more information  
 regarding all  
 academic areas.



Click on each  
 content area for  
 detailed information

Academic Office

Email: irene\_parisi@greenwich.k12.ct.us

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## Notes, Questions and Wonderings

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