

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

2021 - 2022



**A Guide for
Kindergarten Parents**

**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Michael Cummings
Superintendent of Schools

p. 203.255.8309
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January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend Kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Monday, August 30, 2021. 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 James Zavodjancik, Executive Director of Instruction, Curriculum & Assessment at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

Michael Cummings
Superintendent of Schools

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2021 – 2022 KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

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.

SCHOOLS	PARENT ORIENTATION <small>(will be held at the school)</small>	STUDENT VISITATION <small>(will be held at the school)</small>
Burr	May 26, 2021 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. May 27, 2021 (M – Z) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	May 26, 2021 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. May 27, 2021 (M – Z) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Dwight	May 7, 2021 (A – L) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. May 7, 2021 (M – Z) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	May 7, 2021 (A – L) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. May 7, 2021 (M – Z) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Holland Hill	May 13, 2021 (A – L) 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. May 13, 2021 (M – Z) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	May 13, 2021 (A – L) 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. May 13, 2021 (M – Z) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Jennings	May 19, 2021 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 20, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 19, 2021 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 20, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
McKinley	June 8, 2021 (A – Z) 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	June 8, 2021 (A – Z) 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mill Hill	May 7, 2021 (A – M) 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. May 14, 2021 (N – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 7, 2021 (A – M) 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. May 14, 2021 (N – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
North Stratfield	May 7, 2021 (A – Z) 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	May 7, 2021 (A – Z) 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Osborn Hill	April 21, 2021 (A – L) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. April 22, 2021 (M – Z) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	April 21, 2021 (A – L) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. April 22, 2021 (M – Z) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Riverfield	April 20, 2021 (A – L) 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. April 20, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	April 20, 2021 (A – L) 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. April 20, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sherman	May 5, 2021 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 13, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 5, 2021 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 13, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Stratfield	May 19, 2021 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. May 19, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	May 19, 2021 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. May 19, 2021 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

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, Monday, August 30, 2021. 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 (e-mail, 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.
- 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 story with a beginning, middle and end.
- Illustrates/writes in a variety of genres.
- Dramatizes a story through role-playing, finger plays and puppetry.
- Participates in reading familiar text.
- Understands how books and print work.
- Identify all upper and lower case letters.
- Recognizes that letters represent sounds in words.
- Recognizes and uses sound/symbol correspondence.

LIBRARY LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

- Utilize the Library Learning Commons to select reading material based on personal interests and abilities, navigating both the library's physical and digital environments.
- Begin learning foundational inquiry skills and participate in collaborative and creative problem solving experiences.
- 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.
- Navigate our district's network and virtual Library Learning Commons with assistance, demonstrating responsible and acceptance use of digital technology.
- 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 first and last name correctly.
- Writes correctly from memory numerals 0-9.
- Forms letters correctly from a model.
- Prints letters of the alphabet.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- PE occurs twice over a six-day cycle.
- Move purposefully to develop a love of being active. We know and want them to understand how movement leads to naturally feeling “good” and supports everything they do with their brains and bodies throughout the day.
- Explore spatial awareness through body management activities discovering balance, strength, flexibility, agility, control and power.
- Learn locomotor skills like running and hopping that will expand to add non-locomotor directionality like slow, fast, low level, backwards, including pathways (curved, zigzag) and a variety of animal walks (move like a duck, crab...).
- Experience working independently as well as being members of small group and large group activities. Some examples of what we incorporate in our various units of activity are: hula hoops, balloons and beach balls over/under a net as well as using a large parachute to play cooperative games and activities.

SCIENCE

- Identify patterns in weather and how those patterns help predict weather.
- Describe and record how speed and direction of an object changes with pushes and pulls.
- Develop an understanding about how plants and animals change their environment to meet their needs and why plants and animals live where they live.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Define “community” and understand why it is important to learn to work with others.
- Understand the importance of rules in their families, at school, and in other communities they belong to.
- Define history, and begin to understand how the past is different from today.
- Begin to understand how we use maps and globes to learn about the world.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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

MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chairman, Christine Vitale * Vice-Chairman, Nicholas Aysseh * Secretary, Jessica Gerber

Bonnie Rotelli * Jennifer Jacobsen * Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly

Carol Guernsey * Jeff Peterson * Trisha Pytko

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Cummings	Superintendent of Schools	255-8371
Zakia Parrish	Executive Director of Operations & Processes	255-8372
James Zavodjancik	Executive Director of Instruction, Curriculum & Assessment	255-8372
Colleen Deasy	Executive Director of Personnel and Legal Services	255-8462
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director of Special Education and Special Programs	255-8379
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	255-8373
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