



**WELCOME TO
KINDERGARTEN
2023-2024**

**A Guide For
Kindergarten Parents**

**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Michael Testani
Superintendent of Schools

p. 203.255.8309
f. 203.255.8273

January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend Kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. 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, Chief Academic Officer at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Testani'.

Michael Testani
Superintendent of Schools

**FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023 – 2024 KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES**

SCHOOLS	PARENT ORIENTATION	STUDENT VISITATION
Burr	Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)	Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)
Dwight	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (A-L) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (A-L) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (M-Z)
Holland Hill	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Jennings	Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
McKinley	Monday, June 5, 2023 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (A-Z)	Monday, June 5, 2023 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (A-Z)
Mill Hill	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
North Stratfield	Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-Z)	Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-Z)
Osborn Hill	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z)
Riverfield	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Sherman	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Stratfield	Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)

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, Tuesday, August 29, 2023. 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 of screen time 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 every six day rotation in art and twice every six day rotation 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.
- Identifies 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 tempo, 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 (And Wellness)

- Learn to move with purpose and develop a love of being active- understanding that movement helps one feel good, helps one's brain to develop, and benefits one's general health and wellness
- Develop a variety of motor skills and motor patterns including locomotor skills (running, hopping, leaping) with non-locomotor movements (body movements without travel like bending, swaying, swinging), with directionality (forward, backward, low level), and pathways (curved, zig zagged)
- Explore spatial awareness through body management activities discovering balance, strength, flexibility, agility, control, and power
- Engage in activities independently, with a partner, in small and large groups through cooperative and competitive games and activities with and without equipment (balls, balloons, bean bags, hula hoops, parachutes)

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 of which they belong.
- 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

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL	PHONE
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	Mary Rose Dymond	255-8328
Sherman	250 Fern Street	Dr. Ian Banner	255-8330
Stratfield	1407 Melville Avenue	Elizabeth McGoey	255-8332

MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Jacobson	Chair
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Crissy Kelly	
Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly	
Bonnie Rotelli	
Jeff Peterson	
Jessica Gerber	

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Testani	Superintendent of Schools	255-8371
Dr. Zakia Parrish	Deputy Superintendent	255-8372
Dr. James Zavodjancik	Chief Academic Officer	255-8372
Kanicka Ingram	Executive Director of Human Resources	255-8462
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director, Special Education and Special Programs	255-8379
Courtney LeBorious	Chief Financial Officer	255-8383
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	255-8373

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
Fairfield, CT 06825



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