

Welcome to Kindergarten! 2023-2024



Welcome to Crown Point Community School Corporation!

If this is your first child to enter Crown Point Community School Corporation, we extend our sincerest welcome and best wishes for your child and your family as you begin this exciting educational journey. If you already have children in the CPCSC, we are happy to welcome you once again. It is our hope to be of support to you, your child, and your family now and through the years to graduation.

This short guide will provide some important information as you prepare your child (and yourself) for school readiness and success. Please always reach out to your building principal or other key personnel or offices for questions, assistance, or support. Once again, welcome to our school community!

OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Douglas MacArthur Elementary

12900 Fairbanks Ave, Cedar Lake
(219) 662-3600

Marian Buchko, Principal

mlbuchko@cps.k12.in.us

Laura Florek, Assistant Principal
lflorek@cps.k12.in.us



Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary

1450 South Main Street
(219) 663-8800

Calli Dado, Principal

cdado@cps.k12.in.us

Alyssa Bell, Assistant Principal
abell@cps.k12.in.us



Jerry Ross Elementary

11319 Randolph Street
Phone: (219) 663-3010

Jennifer Linsley, Principal

jlinsley@cps.k12.in.us

Kate Reeder, Assistant Principal
kreeder@cps.k12.in.us



Lake Street Elementary

475 Lake Street
(219) 663-5683

Brett Munden, Principal

cwise@cps.k12.in.us

Kelly Wade, Assistant Principal
kwade@cps.k12.in.us



Solon Robinson Elementary

601 Pettibone Street
(219) 663-2525

Barbara Merrill, Principal

bmerrill@cps.k12.in.us

Melanie Pociask, Assistant Principal
mpociask@cps.k12.in.us



Timothy Ball Elementary

720 West Summit
(219) 663-0047

Nick Ciochina, Principal

nciochina@cps.k12.in.us

Ashley Bock, Assistant Principal
abock@cps.k12.in.us



Winfield Elementary

13128 Montgomery Street
(219) 663-2287

Jillian Alonzo, Principal

jalonzo@cps.k12.in.us

Patricia Hall, Assistant Principal
phall@cps.k12.in.us

PARENT/CAREGIVER INFORMATION

Our website: www.cps.k12.in.us

Parent/Guardian and School Communication

Positive Parent/Guardian-Teacher-School relationships contribute to the success of a child. To build an effective relationship, communication and collaboration are essential. We encourage you to:

- Contact your child's teacher by phone or email.
- Parent-teacher conferences occur in the fall; however, if you have a concern/question/need please, contact your child's teacher and/or school.
- Attend meetings of your school's parent-teacher organization (PTO).
- Listen to/Read your school's audio, print, and digital communications.
- Visit the CPCSC website at www.cps.k12.in.us to stay up-to-date on school and corporation activities and information.

Bus Transportation

Each year, our Transportation Department hosts a practice ride on the bus for kindergarteners and their parents/guardians. Please visit the [CPCSC transportation website](#) for more details on the date and timing of this special day for bus riders; please check out the 2023 flyer at the end of this packet. If you have any questions, please call the **Transportation Office at 219-663-1465**.

Food Services

Our Food Services team is ready to assist you with questions about our cafeteria offerings and services. Weekly menus are available on school and corporation websites for meal planning with your child. Healthy snack items are also available for purchase as well as special meals for students with food allergies or needs. Your school cafeteria manager can provide additional information. Parents can also set up meal accounts for their child(ren) at mymealtime.com and can review purchases and add money to the student's account. If you are in need of textbook or meal financial assistance, please fill out an application and send it to your child's school. Applications are available on our website as well as at each school. If you ever have a concern or question please call your school's cafeteria manager or the [Food Services Department](#).

Child Care

Crown Point Community School Corporation will offer the Latch Key Program for Child Care during the school year on all school days at each elementary school during the following times:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Before School | from 6:00 – 8:55 a.m. | \$7.00 |
| After School | until 6:30 p.m. | \$7.00 |

During the school year, applications and questions can be directed to the **Site Leaders** below:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Carol Lawson | Jerry Ross Winfield | 662-6790 663-2287 | clawson@cps.k12.in.us |
| Cathy Morrow | Solon Robinson Eisenhower | 663-0013 662-3604 | cmorrow@cps.k12.in.us |
| Cathy Kish | Timothy Ball Lake Street MacArthur | 663-0003 662-3605 662-3600 Ext 16209 | ckish@cps.k12.in.us |

- During the summer, registration forms can be completed at the CPCSC Administrative Service Center, 200 East North Street, Crown Point, Indiana.
- Additional information can be found on our website as well under the Parent Information tab, click on [Before & After School Child Care](#).

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION SPRING 2023

Dear Kindergarten Parents and Guardians,

The staff of Crown Point Community School Corporation and its elementary schools welcomes you and your child to Kindergarten. We are honored to play a part in the education of your child. We recognize our responsibility in the educational process and believe programs available in our schools will be beneficial to your child.

Research indicates parents have been and will continue to be the single most important teacher a child will ever have. Your child's value system and attitudes have been largely formed by the time he/she comes to school. Your encouragement and expectations for your child's educational achievement have major effects; after all, "[it is] the beliefs and expectations of the adult(s) in the home that contribute most to achievement."—John Hattie

By working in partnership, we will set appropriate goals for your child and will work together to see your child succeed socially and academically.

Our kindergarten class seeks to develop a child's skills in many areas; please keep in mind that children develop skills at different rates. Students **entering** kindergarten who demonstrate the following kindergarten readiness skills have the most successful transition into our kindergarten classrooms. Below you will find statements from the Indiana Department of Education that outline important readiness skills needed prior to kindergarten.

If after reading the readiness statements from the Indiana Department of Education, you have questions or need more specific suggestions to support your child, please don't hesitate to reach out. The following pages provide information about activities you can do at home to support your child.

Thank you, and welcome!

Elementary Administrative Team,
Marian Buchko & Laura Florek, Douglas MacArthur Elementary
Calli Dado & Alyssa Bell, Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary
Jennifer Linsley & Kate Reeder, Jerry Ross
Brett Munden & Kelly Wade, Lake Street Elementary
Barbara Merrill & Melanie Pociask, Solon Robinson Elementary
Nicholas Ciochina & Ashley Bock, Timothy Ball Elementary
Jillian Alonzo & Patricia Hall, Winfield Elementary



Kindergarten Readiness

Quality early childhood experiences, whether provided by family or a formal program, increase a child's ability to succeed in kindergarten. School readiness efforts support the development of skills, knowledge, and health. The goal is for every child to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Does your child have these social skills?

- Respects self, others, and property
- Expresses feeling and emotions with words
- Understands and demonstrates taking turns
- Attends to a task for a short period of time
- Accepts/follow guidance
- Manages transitions and adapts to
- Shows confidence and independence in choices
- Engages in play experiences with peers

Does your child have these self-help skills?

- Takes care of all toileting needs, including hand washing
- Feeds self independently using utensils
- Zips and buttons clothes and jackets
- Ties or fastens shoes
- Blows nose independently
- Shows basic safety knowledge
- Moves with respect to self and/or peers' personal space

Does your child have these fine and gross motor skills?

- Holds/Uses writing tools
- Creates some letters, shapes, symbols, and possibly words with support
- Opens packages and containers (in lunchbox)
- Runs, stops, hops, gallops, skips, and changes direction
- Coordinates movement to perform activities

How can you help your child at home?

- Encourage conversations with adults and peers
- Demonstrate and practice understanding of nutritious foods
- Practice healthy sleep routines
- Create experiences (parks, playgrounds, libraries, community events like parades and festivals)
- Engage with your child (car games, grocery lists, pretend play, age appropriate digital apps, songs)
- Praise your child for effort and curiosity about learning and trying new things.

What is Early Literacy?

- Uses complex sentences when speaking
- Responds to given name
- Notices letters in his/her name, some additional letters or sounds, and symbols (stores, restaurants, etc.)
- Understands how to open a book and turn pages
- Understands and follows oral directions
- Retells familiar stories



Kindergarten Literacy Readiness What should families know?

Print Awareness

Print awareness is the earliest understanding that written language carries meaning. This is the foundation of all other literacy practices.

- Tracks words in books from left to right and top to bottom with adult support
- Responds to and labels pictures and symbols (stop signs, store names, food labels)
- Distinguishes print from pictures

Letter Knowledge

Letter knowledge is the ability to recognize and name the letters in the alphabet.

- Uses a variety of activities to recognize both uppercase and lowercase letters
- Recognizes that letters have sounds and that letter sounds can be put together to make words
- Recognize own name in print

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds, recognize that speech is composed of sounds, and that some words rhyme.

- Responds to and produces a variety of sounds
- Produces and blends sounds into recognizable words
- Compares and distinguishes sounds within words and different words
- Attempts or is able to imitate rhyming
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondence

Emergent Writing

Writing and reading are closely linked together. All attempts at writing (scribbles, symbols, letters, pictures) are a part of the literacy learning process of communicating an idea.

- Uses a variety of writing tools
- Forms some letters, shapes, and symbols with adult support
- Writes name
- Express ideas and stories through symbols, letters, and/or pictures

Comprehension

Comprehension is when a child reacts to a story or event, identifies details from a story or picture, talks about the characters and settings, retells familiar stories, and responds to stories. When children participate in retelling details of an event or story, they develop the ability to comprehend and answer questions about the story or event.

Practices at Home

- Read to your child every day.
- Let your child see you read every day. Children need to see adults obtaining and using information from many different sources: recipes, newspapers, manuals, websites, books, and many others.
- Have your child “read” to you. Young children may begin “reading” by pointing to the pictures and talking about them or telling what the story is about. Use stuffed animals or sock puppets to retell stories.
- Help your child become aware of sounds in letters. Play games: “What sound does ‘m’ make?”
- Help your child blend sounds to make words. “What word am I making? /c/-/a/-/t/?”
- Find books with simple stories and help your child start to think about what he or she sees and hears. Talk with your child about what happens first, next, and last in the story. Ask your child to draw their favorite part.
- Provide opportunities for your child to use various materials to scribble, draw, and create.



Kindergarten Mathematics Readiness What Should Families Know?

Number Sense

Learning the meaning of numbers involves the ability to think and work with numbers to understand their relationships and different uses for them.

- Knows numbers represent quantities
- Uses quantities to compare more or less (1-10)
- Counts numbers (1-20)
- Counts backwards (10-0)
- Recognizes numbers (1-10)
- Write numbers (1-10)

Sorting and Classifying Objects

Learning to model, explain, and use addition and subtraction concepts in problem solving begins with the opportunity for young children to count, sort, compare objects, and describe their thinking and observations in everyday situations.

- Explores attributes like shape, size, and color
- Matches attributes and their opposites
- Sorts and creates patterns in multiple ways
- Begin to create and extend a simple pattern

Geometry, Measurement, and Time

By exploring objects through touching/comparing them, children begin to understand the difference in attributes and application. To construct the meaning of time, children learn by applying concepts of time to real life situations.

- Identifies and differentiates between two and three-dimensional shapes
- Uses the attributes of shapes to distinguish between shapes
- Anticipates routines by using vocabulary to identify and sequence events in that routine
- Distinguishes between big and little, sizes, and weights

Computation

Adults help children compare quantities and understand math words such as more, less, smaller than, bigger than, and different than. These words help children describe the size and shape of objects and the relationships of objects to one another.

- Manipulates objects to match or create sets
- Makes a set of objects smaller or larger
- Follows models of addition or subtraction with objects

Practices at Home

- Estimation: "How many crackers do you think I gave you?" "15." "Okay, let's count and see how close you were." As you count together, point to each cracker.
- Give your child 3 of any object/snack and yourself 2, then ask, "How many more do you have than me?" then practice with a different number.
- Notice and point out patterns spotted in everyday activities.
- After measuring your child, have them guess how tall you are. Compare the heights by asking, "Who is taller? Who is smaller?" Track measurements over time, ask your child what they notice.
- Count items in or on a car. "How many tires do you see?" "Four." "How many other things are there four of on a car?"
- Sort cereal by shape, size, or color. Make simple patterns with cereal or other items.
- Create an obstacle course using chairs, tables, pillows and anything else you have. Use words such as "over," "under," "through," and "around" to explain the route.
- Use bath time as time to explore volume by filling and emptying cups with water.

Join your school's incoming kindergarten parent group on ParentSquare! You will schedule your child's kindergarten screening and receive important communications through this platform.



[Eisenhower](http://bit.ly/3XS5Hld) <http://bit.ly/3XS5Hld>



[Solon](http://bit.ly/3jpTIfI) <http://bit.ly/3jpTIfI>



[Jerry Ross](http://bit.ly/3wKgeD6) <http://bit.ly/3wKgeD6>



[Timothy Ball](http://bit.ly/3kY39U2) <http://bit.ly/3kY39U2>



[Lake](http://bit.ly/3jgZlgi) <http://bit.ly/3jgZlgi>



[Winfield](http://bit.ly/3X6ePSp) <http://bit.ly/3X6ePSp>



[MacArthur](http://bit.ly/3JsL8Yg) <http://bit.ly/3JsL8Yg>



Take a Practice Ride!

August 15, 2023



Going to a new school can feel uncertain for some students. Riding a school bus for the first time can add to those feelings. Let us help you and your kindergartener feel more confident and prepared for the first day of school!

On August 15, 2023, our drivers will pre-run their morning elementary route before the new school year starts. Several years ago we started picking up kindergarten students on this trial run. Buses leave the terminal at 10 a.m. and make their first stop around 10:05 for students in the center of Crown Point. For Winfield and Cedar Lake students, it is closer to 10:15 a.m. One parent must ride the bus with their child this day.

During this pre-run, the drivers are learning their new stops and the route is slower than a regular day. They will only stop at their morning stops and then proceed to their elementary school. Unfortunately, we cannot give an exact time for a pickup on August 15. We recommend all students be at their assigned morning stop at 10 a.m. and wait for the bus. The wait could be up to 45 minutes.

Please call the transportation office at 663-1465 if you have any questions. Information for 2023-2024 bus stops will be available a few days before our test drive on the district website. Visit www.cps.k12.in.us/transportation.



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION
Department of Transportation

CP Birth to School proudly presents

Kindergarten Readiness

for CPCSC students attending Kindergarten in August 2023

FREE bi-monthly classes for
parents/caregivers & children
to attend and participate in together!

Classes are
held at the
Learning Center*

Morning, afternoon, and
evening classes available.

Upcoming classes

Prior registration is required for each class

February 21 & 22

March 9

March 22 & 23

April 4

April 18 & 19

May 9

May evening classes TBD

*May evening classes will be held at each
elementary school location.

FREE books &
educational
materials for
every child
in attendance
at each class
to take home!

ENROLL NOW!

www.tinyurl.com/krenroll



Visit our website & Facebook page for further details and
more information about additional FREE learning opportunities!

www.cps.k12.in.us/bts



CPCSC Birth to School

Questions?

Please email jkalk@cps.k12.in.us

Jamie Kalk, Birth to School Program Coordinator

