

April 16, 2023

Dear Incoming Kindergarten families,

I want to reach out to officially welcome you to our Franklin community. Our team looks forward to getting to know you and your family.

One thing our school team will do soon is begin to create classroom rosters. It is our hope to develop balanced classrooms that can support the development of all our Kindergarten students at Franklin. As part of this process, our team appreciates your family's input. We will review your input as we finalize class placement decisions. Please note, specific teacher placements will not be accepted. The form to share your family's input can be found [here](#). This form should be completed by May 12th.

Our Kindergarten team will have an informational meeting on May 15th in the Franklin Library for caregivers. The meeting will run from 5-6pm. You can choose to attend this meeting in-person at Franklin, or by logging in by Zoom ([link here](#)). If you are able to attend the in-person meeting at Franklin, we will have childcare available during the presentation. Again, this event is geared towards adult learning about the upcoming school year and an opportunity to meet Franklin staff.

We will also have several opportunities for you and your incoming Kindergarten student to adjust to Franklin. There will be Kindergarten playdates in August when your incoming Falcon can make friends with other new Falcons. These playdates are great opportunities for adults to connect with one another too! Some of these dates will include a brief school tour. Your child will also get a chance to see the school more formally during our *Falcon Fly In* at the end of summer. These dates will be shared in the near future with you all, as well as on our Franklin Elementary Facebook pages, as well as schoolwide family newsletters.

You can expect to receive more communication from me in the summer about Kindergarten and the beginning of the school year. Until then, I have included some general information below about Kindergarten and some ideas for how your family and community can support your students' transition this summer.

Transition to Kindergarten - Family Tips

What is "Kindergarten Transition"?



Transition refers to the process of change. When we talk about the Kindergarten transition we are referring to one of the most significant changes a child may experience in their life. This time can sometimes be stressful for a young child

(and their family!). They are leaving either the home environment, child care environment, or the familiar environment of their 4K classroom to enter a new place.

Your student will learn a new set of routines, adjust to full day programming, meet a new peer group, interact with a new teacher, perhaps ride a bus for the first time, eat breakfast and lunch at school, and the list goes on and on!

Having a student entering Kindergarten can be a time of excitement and anxiety for families. Planning ahead will make this time less stressful and more enjoyable.

To support your student in preparing for Kindergarten you could:

Enthusiasm for Kindergarten	Practice Independent Skills
☐ Talk enthusiastically with your student about starting Kindergarten. ☐ Reassure your student's feelings of anxiety or fear. ☐ Attend our summer playdates on the playground. Dates with * will include a school tour. - Tues., August 15, 5:30-7:00p* - Sat., August 19, 10:00-11:00a - Weds., August 23, 10:30a-12:00p* - Sun., August 27, 3:00-4:00p ☐ Tell your student about all the new exciting learning that they will be doing in literacy, math, social studies and science. And, they will have art, music, physical education and get to visit the library!	☐ Tying shoes, getting dressed ☐ Using the bathroom and washing hands ☐ Asking for help ☐ Listening to and following directions
Academics	
☐ <u>Very important:</u> Read together every day with enthusiasm, talk about what you liked, learned, didn't like, etc. Read a variety of texts: fiction, nonfiction, magazines, etc. ☐ Practice writing your student's first name ☐ Practice finding your student's first name	

- ❑ Count up to 20 (or beyond) by pointing to / using physical objects (rocks, toys, etc.).
- ❑ Create fun story problems. (If you have 2 blocks and give you 3 more, how many will you have?).
- ❑ Use numbers together with objects or pictures.



Once again, welcome to our Franklin family. We are excited to welcome and partner with you in your student's educational experience!

Emily Powers
Principal

Are you interested in learning more about the Franklin-Randall PTO? Check out these upcoming events to learn more!

PTO Mixer @ Garth's Brew Bar

April 19th, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

1726 Monroe St.

Stop by anytime! Current board members will be there to talk about PTO and answer any questions.

Spring Garden Clean-up @ Randall School

April 22nd, 9:00 - 11:00am

Come to work or just stop by to talk with current board members.

If you're interested in joining the PTO Board, you can contact them at

franklinrandallpto@gmail.com. Nominations are due by April 23rd, and election will be held at the final PTO meeting of the year on May 9th.

Connections to other Franklin information:

- Visit the Franklin-Randall PTO website (www.franklinrandallpto.org)
- Sign up for the PTO listserv (go to www.franklinrandallpto.org and enter your email under the PTO email list)

Follow us on any or all of the platforms below!

- [Franklin School Facebook Page](#)
- [Franklin/Randall PTO Facebook Page](#)