



Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Ben Franklin School. This year, your child will embark on one of the most exciting adventures: coming to school and loving it! This is going to be a great school year for your child! Kindergarten is an important time to build a basic foundation for learning and social interaction. We are looking forward to working with you and your child in reaching their full learning potential.

Our program is a full day, structured program. Your child will be exposed to the Kindergarten curriculum in the following subject areas: Phonics, Literacy, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students will also participate in special classes: Physical Education, Music, Art and Spanish. A more detailed schedule will be provided at Kindergarten Orientation.

An equally important part of kindergarten is personal and social growth. We will be working on areas such as responsibility, independence, problem solving, organization, conflict resolution/peer interaction, self-control, following directions and listening.

Children benefit greatly from home support as they enter this new phase of their education. The time and energy you spend helping your child's first impression to be a positive one is time and energy well spent. Most children adapt nicely, but the more you can mentally, physically and emotionally prepare your child for the transition, the easier it will be. Here are some suggestions to help in the transition:

- Remember that you are setting the tone for how your child views this experience. Discuss how excited you were when you attended your first day of school. If older siblings have had positive experiences, involve them in the discussion.
- Read stories about kindergarten and school.
- During the month preceding your child's entry into kindergarten, begin routines that will work during the school year. Paying attention to bedtimes and diet prior to school starting will make a big difference for your child.
- If your child has not had experience being around other children, set up playdates with neighbors, family, and/or friends. A big part of the kindergarten experience requires that children know how to relate to and share with others.

- Make sure that you're emotionally prepared; it won't be easy to walk away if your child is crying, but staying will only make the situation more difficult. Simply say goodbye and remind your child that you'll see him or her soon.

Coming to school regularly matters! We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your students go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school. Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up.
- Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Familiarize yourself with the [Edison Township Public Schools website](#). There you will find helpful information about curriculum, policies, lunch menus and a link to our school website.

We are excited to get to know you and your child and have been planning a variety of enriching experiences for this upcoming school year! You will be amazed at how much your child will grow in their kindergarten year!

We look forward to meeting you and discussing our Kindergarten program in greater detail at Kindergarten Orientation.

Friday, September 1, 2023

A strong ongoing home-school partnership is essential to school success. We look forward to building this partnership with you as your child begins their Kindergarten journey.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Supply List

Please send in the following items for your child. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to make this year a successful one!

Please put your child's name on the folders and notebooks only.

- school size backpack, no wheels
- wired headphones compatible with iPad (not bluetooth)
- 2 Sturdy 2 pocket folders (with pockets at the bottom)
- 6-12 sharpened pencils
- 1-2 Expo dry erase markers (black)
- 1 package of large/jumbo glue sticks
- 1 primary lined composition notebook with picture space at top
- 2 boxes of crayons (no more than 24)
- 1-2 Containers of Antibacterial disinfecting wipes
for desks, not for hands or face (ex. Lysol, Clorox, or Generic brand)
- 2 boxes of facial tissues
- change of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear, kept in backpack, labeled in bag)

optional: 1 Box of Ziploc (or any brand) Slider bags (Gallon, quart, or sandwich size, **NO FOLD TOP** sandwich bags, please)

- *Individual teachers may have specific supply requests and will notify parents in the fall*

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Personal Care Routines

- ☐ Use the bathroom
- ☐ Practice good hygiene
- ☐ Dress independently
- ☐ Eat lunch



Social Emotional

- ☐ Interact positively with peers and adults
- ☐ Ask for help
- ☐ Separate from parent
- ☐ Handle emotions appropriately

Academic

- ☐ Knowledge of books
- ☐ Some letter awareness
- ☐ Recognize their name in print
- ☐ Some awareness of colors and shapes
- ☐ Counts to 10 and recognizes some numbers
- ☐ Ability to sit and listen for 5 to 10 minutes
- ☐ Follow simple directions

Fine Motor

Can hold and use the following

- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue



