



## **NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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November 14, 2022

Dear New Providence School Community,

It is my pleasure to announce the commencement of our School District's Full-Day Kindergarten program. While the current half-day program has served our students well, after many years of consideration and in light of the opportunities set forth below, we will offer the full-day program beginning in September of 2023. I want to thank the Board of Education and the school community for supporting this initiative. I would also like to thank and commend Ms. Jean Drexinger, Salt Brook School Principal, Mr. Jay Richter, Allen W. Roberts School Principal, Mr. Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and the Full-Day Kindergarten Committee for their efforts in developing our program. Our committee members are: Katie Blanco, Brandee Conover, Sandra Natale, Rebecca Sebastian, Beth Smargiassi, and Michelle Testa. I appreciate all of their expertise, thoughtfulness, and collaboration in creating a meaningful program for the next generation of New Providence students.

The committee developed our program over the past two years by utilizing their experiences, visiting other school districts' full-day programs, and evaluating Department of Education best practices. As a result, the vision/philosophy of our program was designed with the following elements in mind:

The New Providence School District will provide Kindergarten students with a caring, developmentally appropriate, and well-rounded classroom community that will inspire students to love school and provide them with multiple opportunities to develop the skills necessary to be successful in their early school years. Emphasis will be placed on the development of the whole child by supporting and nurturing all areas of their development and learning, from social-emotional and cognitive skills to literacy and math understanding.

The program will be operated using the following guiding principles:

- Full-Day Kindergarten will address the developmental needs of all students through guided play, structured exploration, experimentation, and discovery-based learning in a literature-rich environment.
- Students' social and emotional development will be central to their Kindergarten experience.
- Students will be provided with time every day to delve more deeply into reading, writing, and math exploration.

- Free choice and center time will be designed into the schedule to enhance fine and gross motor skills and promote learning through the use of manipulatives, exploration, and play.
- The important role parents/guardians play in early child development will be emphasized.
- Equity will be promoted by focusing on the early diagnosis of learning needs, enrichment opportunities, and by addressing the needs of all students, including those with special and/or language learning needs.
- Care has been taken to design a developmentally appropriate and comprehensive Kindergarten program separate from our traditional 1st-grade class.

Here is a comparative analysis of our current program and next year’s Full-Day Kindergarten schedule. Please note that the times below are approximate and may change based on daily circumstances.

Feature	Half-Day (Current)	Full-Day
<b>Morning Meeting</b>	10 minutes	20 minutes
<b>Calendar/Weather</b>	Absent	10 minutes
<b>Shared Reading/Interactive Writing</b>	20 Minutes	20 Minutes
<b>Readers Workshop</b>	30 Minutes, 3x per week	30 minutes, 5x per week
<b>Guided Reading</b>	15-20 Minutes, 2-3x per week	20 minutes, 4-5x per week
<b>Writer’s Workshop</b>	30 Minutes, 2x per week	30 minutes, 5x per week
<b>Word Study</b>	20 minutes 3x per week	20 minutes, 5x per week
<b>Snack (SEL Work)</b>	10 minutes	10 minutes
<b>Specials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Physical Educations</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• FLES</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	40 minutes	40 minutes
<b>Math</b>	30 minutes 4x per week	45 minutes, 5x per week (Including Math Centers)
<b>Choice Time</b>	Absent	30 Minutes
<b>WIN (What I Need)</b>	Absent	30 Minutes

-Intervention Period (Reading/Math Specialist) -Differentiation -Enrichment -Guided Reading -Personalized Learning -Catch Up Work -Occupational Therapy		
<b>Science/Social Studies</b>	15-20 minutes, 2-3x per week	30 minutes, 5x per week
<b>Closing Meeting (SEL component)</b>	Absent	15 minutes
<b>Lunch/Recess</b>	20 minutes (recess only)	40 minutes

Kindergarten Registration will begin on Monday, January 23, 2023. Please visit our [website](#). If you have any additional questions, please contact the District Registrar, Dena DiRocco.

**We will have a special Full-Day Kindergarten presentation at the Board of Education's meeting on November 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the High School/Middle School Media Center. Please join us for this presentation.**

Sincerely,



David M. Miceli, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools