

***Kindergarten  
Program  
Guide***



**2024-2025**

Avonworth School District  
Avonworth Primary Center  
1310 Roosevelt Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-7171  
[www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us)







### **Message to Parents/Guardians**

Welcome to the Avonworth School District! Another kindergarten year will be here before you know it. We are very excited to have your child attend our Primary Center. During our first few weeks, we will get to know this group of children, and if we have not already done so, we look forward to meeting every parent or guardian throughout the year.

We hope that your child will have a happy and productive year in kindergarten and we will strive to meet his/her individual needs. Our comprehensive kindergarten program is concerned not only with teaching the child to acquire specific skills and knowledge, but also with fostering the whole child and his/her physical, mental, social, and creative development. We promise to provide a stimulating educational environment, while helping to increase self-identity, self-fulfillment, and the feeling that your child is truly valued.

During the first important weeks of school, routine and learning patterns will be established and we will have a chance to begin to discover each child's special needs and interests. At the same time, we hope your child will begin to recognize kindergarten as a secure and happy place where he/she has a chance to experience independence, to develop social contacts, to express ideas verbally as well as non-verbally, to experiment, to investigate, and to discover.

Kindergarten sets the tone for life-long learning. It is a pivotal, challenging, and fulfilling year in your child's school career. As you will notice, kindergarten expectations have increased according to national, state, and school district standards. Parents and caregivers are partners with the school in the instruction of their children. Your assistance in reinforcing, enriching and supporting your child's classroom instruction is welcomed and encouraged! We are enthusiastic about your child's education and hope that you will continue that enthusiasm at home. The most important way in which you may accomplish this, is by asking your children to share their daily work with you, showing them how much you value their efforts.

Again, welcome to the Avonworth School District!





### Admission Requirements

Admission of kindergarten children begins in January and continues throughout the school term. Kindergarten Round Up is held each spring. This program provides parents an overview of the kindergarten program. More information is available on our website.

Children entering school for the first time must present a valid birth certificate as children must be **5 years of age before September 1** to be admitted to kindergarten. In addition, state law requires that all children entering any school for the first time in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be immunized against specified diseases prior to admission. Parents should refer to the “Health Program” section of this guide for further information.

### Kindergarten Registration Procedures

Avonworth School District operates a comprehensive full day kindergarten program. Registration procedures for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

- Kindergarten registration opens in January 3, 2024.
- Only complete registration packets will be accepted.
- Registration packets are available in the Primary Center office and on the district website at [www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us).
- **A registration packet is considered complete if it contains ALL of the following:**
  - Registration Form-2 pages
  - Home Language Survey
  - Registration Statement
  - **Current** Immunization Records
  - Original Birth Certificate
  - Proof of Residency
- **Proof of Residency must include:**
  - one of the following:
    - Driver’s License
    - Closing Papers
    - Lease Agreement
    - Rent Receipt
    - Residency Form

AND

- one of the following:
  - Utility Bill
  - Cable Bill
  - Paid Wage Tax Receipt
  - Guardian Form of Court Order

(All of these items must have the same address as those listed above.)



- Along with originals, please bring copies of proof of residency documents and Birth Certificate that can be left with the school.
- Following Kindergarten Round Up/Registration you will be asked to sign your child up for a school visit time held the week of May 28th.
- You will receive a letter notifying you of your child's tentative homeroom teacher assignment by August 10, 2024.



## KINDERGARTEN DAILY SCHEDULE

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:45-9:00   | <b>Arrival, Warm Up Work</b>   |
| 9:00-9:15   | <b>Morning Routine</b> (Greeting, Morning Meeting, Calendar)   |
| 9:15-11:00  | <b>ELA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonological Awareness</li> <li>• Phonics</li> <li>• Interactive/Shared Reading (W &amp; W)</li> <li>• Handwriting</li> <li>• Geodes (emergent readers)</li> </ul> |
| 10:30-11:00 | <b>WIN Time</b>  |
| 11:10-12:10 | <b>Recess and Lunch</b>  |
| 12:15-12:50 | <b>Math</b>  |
| 12:55-1:40  | <b>Specials</b>  |
| 1:45-2:00   | <b>Snack</b>   |
| 2:00-2:30   | <b>WIN</b>   |
| 2:30-3:00   | <b>Centers/Science/Social Studies</b>  |
| 3:00-3:15   | <b>End of Day Routine</b>  |
| 3:20-:340   | <b>Dismissal</b>   |



**Language Arts (Reading, Composition, and Spelling)**

Avonworth Primary Center follows a comprehensive program from a variety of resources.

- Foundations
- *Phonemic Awareness Curriculum* by Dr. Michael Heggerty
- *Wit and Wisdom* by Great Minds



Throughout the year, the pre-reading and reading skills of each student will be assessed in order to individualize instruction and target the needs of each learner. Lessons addressing students' specific needs will be both group and individual in nature.

### Mathematics

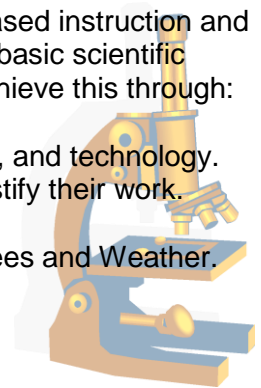
Avonworth Primary Center follows Great Minds *Eureka Math* series for Kindergarten.

- *Eureka Math* is organized into 6 modules and separated into topics A – H.
- There is an intense focus on key concepts that layer over time, creating enduring knowledge.
- *Eureka Math* uses the same models and problem-solving methods throughout the entire program to solidify concepts.
- There are a variety of assessment resources including sprint checks to provide both formative and summative feedback to teachers and parents.
- *Zearn* is an interactive application and tool that provides technology integration in conjunction with *Eureka Math*.

### Science

The kindergarten science curriculum is designed around the concepts of inquiry-based instruction and science process skills. Our curriculum points to the need for the understanding of basic scientific principles and processes rather than sole acquisition of factual knowledge. We achieve this through:

- The use of hands-on experiences, discovery, investigation, observation, and technology.
- Developing communication skills in order for students to explain and justify their work.
- Integrating science with other disciplines.
- ASSET Science Kits: Push/Pull/Go and Plant Growth/Development, Trees and Weather.



### Social Studies

The kindergarten social studies program builds upon children's growing awareness and interests in the world around them. The program begins with a study of self, friends, and family, and expands to a study of neighborhood, community, state, region, nation, and America's neighbors.



### Centers

Young children find it challenging and rewarding to make choices about their work for the day. Even if they work for long periods of time, children are more attentive and tend to have fewer traditional problems with staying on task and working productively when they feel they have some control over



their learning and actions. The following is a brief description of the learning centers available in our classrooms:

**Writing Center** – Within this area students can manipulate letters in a variety of forms. There are tactile letters, letter and picture stamps, writing activities, and materials to create seasonal writings.

**Word Making Center** – In the word making center students have the opportunity to manipulate letters and sounds to form words and word families.

**Reading for Meaning Center** – Within this area students are introduced to story elements, i.e. main characters, beginning – middle – end, etc.

**Math Center** – The materials in the math center help children develop an understanding of numbers, computation, classification, and patterning.

**Science/Art/Discovery Center** – Within this area children have the opportunity to experiment with materials such as magnets, rocks, insects, watercolors, chalk, and works of art.

### Digital Media/Maker

Combines technology and making through literature and every day life experiences.

### Art

The art concepts of form and space, color and value, texture, shape, and line provide the framework for the curriculum. This program helps children increase their skills and basic knowledge of art, as well as provides the opportunity to work creatively.

### Physical Education

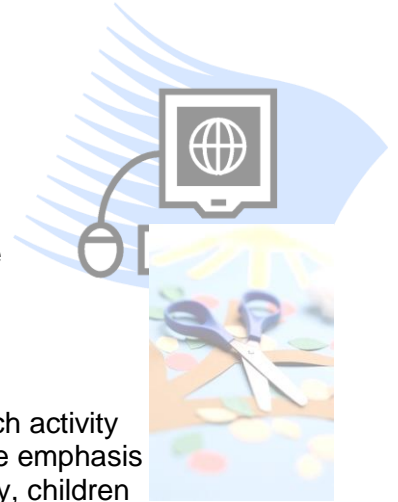
Participation in physical activity is critical throughout the kindergarten year. Such activity builds positive attitudes toward both individuals and participation on teams. The emphasis of all instruction is skill development and involvement in the activity. Additionally, children have the opportunity to develop lifelong habits of physical activity and fitness.

### Music

The kindergarten program provides a variety of experiences including: singing, movement, music appreciation, music reading, composition and improvisation.

### Library

In the library students learn about different genres and diverse literature through positive reading experiences.







## Assessment and Reporting Progress

### Assessment

Assessment is the process of collecting information in order to make instructional decisions about students. The use of both formal and informal assessment tools, including Acadience (Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) provides a comprehensive picture of students' achievement as they progress through an instructional program. Whether formal, or informal, assessment is used to differentiate instruction in order to target the needs of each learner.

### Report Card and ALMA

Report Cards are issued on a trimester schedule at Avonworth Primary Center. Classroom information and announcements will be available on ALMA, the district's online content management system. Account information will be distributed to parents and caregivers during the first month of school. Please activate your ALMA account and register your email to receive important classroom, school, and district updates. Also, please be sure to add your **Emergency Contacts** to your page as this is how we will get in touch with someone if we cannot get hold of you. The Avonworth School District promotes a "Going Green" electronic approach for announcements, newsletters, fliers, etc. **Please remember to keep your email updated throughout the year in ALMA.**

In addition, scheduled parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year for the purpose of communicating with parents about student's progress. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time during the school year when they have questions or concerns about their child's progress.

### Testing Program

In addition to the typical classroom assessments used by teachers to determine student growth, the Northwestern Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test will be given two times throughout the year.

### Special Services

Special Services include learning, emotional, gifted support, and English as a Second Language (ESL). Please contact Ashlea Rineer-Hersehy, Director of Student Services at [arineerhershey@avonworth.k12.pa.us](mailto:arineerhershey@avonworth.k12.pa.us) for details.

### Primary Center Counseling

Through individual, group, and classroom contacts, our Primary Center counselor facilitates students' social, emotional, and academic development and growth in the general school and classroom environments. Consultation is available to parents on academic, social, and emotional concerns.



### Health Program

Every kindergarten student attending school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must be immunized against the following diseases prior to being admitted to school:

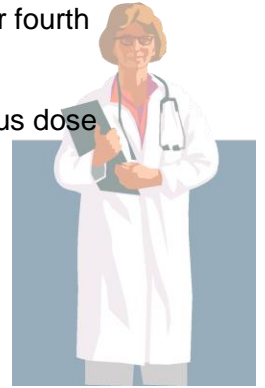
4 doses – Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis. One dose to be given on or after fourth birthday.

4 doses – Polio (4<sup>th</sup> dose given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given.)

3 doses – Hepatitis B.

2 doses –Measles, Mumps, and Rubella.

2 doses- Varicella Vaccine (Protection against Chicken Pox) or evidence of immunity.



State law requires that proof of immunization, serology results, or doctor's verification be provided before any child can be admitted to school. Families are encouraged to obtain the needed immunizations from their physicians. However, the Allegheny County Health Department does offer the required vaccines at a reduced cost. To obtain information about clinic locations and times, contact the Allegheny County Health Department Infectious Disease Program at 412-578-8060.

### Exclusion from School

The Pennsylvania and Allegheny County health departments require exclusion of all students who are suspected of or have been diagnosed as having the following communicable diseases:

| Illness  | A student may return to school   |
|--|--|
| Strep Throat, Tonsillitis, Scarlet Fever, and Conjunctivitis | 24 hours after beginning appropriate treatment.  |
| Chicken Pox  | When all vesicles are crusted; approximately six days from eruption of first crop of vesicles. |
| Scabies and Ringworm   | Until judged non-infective by a physician or school nurse.                                     |
| Impetigo   | When pustules have healed and are judged non-infective.  |

The school nurse should be consulted if there are any questions or concerns regarding readmission to school.



### Stated Mandated Health Screening

- A physical examination is required upon entering kindergarten.
- A dental examination is required upon entering kindergarten.
- Tuberculosis testing is required by the Allegheny County Health Department.

Although it is recommended that these state and county mandated examinations/tests be conducted by the student's regular family physician, they are also provided by the school district with written parental permission and given by an approved physician and/or dentist and the school nurse.

The following examinations are administered by the school nurse:

- Vision screening tests
- Audio screening tests
- Height and weight

Parents will be notified if their child fails any part of these examinations or screenings. All health related forms are available on our website at [www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us) under Departments/Health Services.

### Sickness and Injuries

Students should not be sent to school if they are not feeling well. Students who become ill or injured at school will be sent to the nurse. When children become ill at school, it is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation from school to home. Emergency care cards are completed by parents annually. The cards enable the school nurse to see that children receive the best possible care in case of an emergency.

Home-incurred accidents are not the responsibility of the school.



### Administering Medication at School

A copy of the school medication policy is available on the Avonworth School District website. Parents are advised to retain the policy and accompanying form for possible use throughout the school year. The form, to be completed by a parent and physician, should be taken along to any doctor's appointment when medication is anticipated.

Absolutely no medication will be administered at school unless all requirements of the medication policy are met.



## General Information

### Attendance

Regular school attendance is extremely important and should be reinforced. Children achieve more and feel better about themselves when instruction is continuous and when a sense of belonging is established within the classroom.

The school laws of Pennsylvania classify absences as unexcused (illegal). The only exceptions are illness of the child, death in the immediate family, quarantine, and “exceptionally urgent reasons.”

When it is necessary for a child to be absent from school, parents should email the school secretary by the start of the child’s school day. Parents must email each day the child is absent. This email helps to ensure each child’s safety.

When children return to school after any absence, they must bring with them an excuse signed by their parent or guardian stating the reason for absence and the dates of absence.

Parents are urged to restrict travel which would result in children missing school. Lack of continuity disrupts instruction for the child and the class.

### Tardiness

A child who arrives after the scheduled start of the school day (9:00 a.m.) is required to present a note of explanation from his or her parent or guardian.

### Early Dismissal

No child will be excused at any time other than regular dismissal times without permission from the parent or guardian. When a home emergency arises and a request for a child to leave school is made, the person making the request must be personally identified as the parent or as the one bearing the written request of the parent and the child must be met in the school office. Presentation of identification will be required.

Every child must go directly home from school unless accompanied by an adult, or unless a written request signed by a parent or guardian is made to the school for a departure from the child’s regular route home. Children may not ride or walk home with a friend, for example, without written permission. Telephone requests cannot be honored.



### **Parent Pick Up Procedures-After School**

Parent Pick Up is inside the gym lobby from 3:25 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. Parents/Guardians should notify their child's teacher in writing that their child is to go to Parent Pick Up including the name of the adult picking the child up.

Parents enter the building through Entrance 9, doors closest to playground.

Parents give the name of the child they are picking up, their own name and show photo identification (license). Parents need to show their identification each time they pick up their children. The child is then released to the adult. If the name of the adult picking up the child does not match the name provided on the parent pick up note, the child will not be released. The adult will have to report to the office and a phone call will be made to the child's parent verifying that the child can leave with this adult.

We ask that you refrain from calling the office late in the day to add your child to the Parent Pick Up list. It becomes difficult to inform the child, the classroom teacher, and the monitor that a child is being added to the list at such a late time. Whenever possible, we suggest that students take district provided transportation home.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Programs**

School breakfast and lunch programs are provided at a reasonable cost to each family. Breakfast and lunch menus are available on the district's website under Departments/Nutrition Services. Forms are available in each school office for families who may qualify for free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches. Participation is based on annual family income.

### **Recess**

Outdoor play time is scheduled once daily, weather permitting, and is supervised by a staff. Children are to be appropriately dressed for the weather. During inclement weather, the students will have indoor recess.

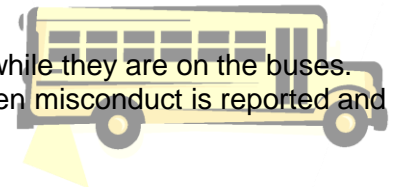
### **Transportation**

Transportation to and from school is a service provided by the school district for kindergarten students. All children are expected to follow the rules and guidelines established by the school district or this service may be revoked.

Bus drivers are responsible for the discipline and safety of the children while they are on the buses. Transportation privileges may be taken away by the school principal when misconduct is reported and founded.

Bus schedules are mailed to each family prior to the beginning of each school year and are available on the district website. All children are expected to ride their assigned bus to and from school. Students may not ride a bus to which they are not assigned.

Kindergarten students must have a parent/guardian waiting at the bus stop to escort the child home. If no parent/guardian is at the stop to meet the child, he/she will not be permitted to exit the bus. The bus will return the student to the Primary Center.



### **Security**

All visitors to the school, including parents, must report to the office whenever entering the building and sign in with the building secretary as well as wear a visitor badge. Parent volunteers must also have all of the required clearances to assist in the classroom.

**A driver's license is required for classroom visitors.**

### **Emergencies**

Emergencies affecting any or all of the Avonworth School District will be made over local radio and television stations as well as through our School Rush alert phone messaging system. In addition, please check our website at [www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us), social media or the district's mobile device app for details. Notification scenarios includes emergencies, school delays, and closures.

In the event of an emergency evacuation when children are already at school, parents will be notified via School Messenger, web site and social media as to procedures for pick up. Parents who work or are not at home are urged to plan with their children where to go should such a situation arise. The school will request this information from parents in the early fall of the school year.

### **Before School and After School BASE Program**

Morning care will be offered by the YMCA Before and After School Enrichment (BASE) Program from 7:00 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. each morning school is in session. Information concerning this program may be obtained from the school office.

**When school is on a 2-hour delay, the BASE Program will be on a 2-hour delay.**

The North Boroughs YMCA offers an after-school program (BASE) from 3:30p.m.– 6:00p.m. when school is in session. Information concerning this program may be obtained from the Primary Center office.

### **Where to Turn for Help**

Your source for information, first and foremost, is the classroom teacher and the building principal. The following list will help you know where to turn to find the information you need when you have additional questions or concerns.

#### **Avonworth Primary Center**

1310 Roosevelt Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
(412) 366-7171 - phone  
(412) 367-8307 - fax  
Website: [www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us)

#### **Avonworth School District Administrative Offices**

258 Josephs Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
(412) 369-8738 - phone  
(412) 367-8746 - fax  
Website: [www.avonworth.k12.pa.us](http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us)



**Avonworth Board of School Directors**

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John Brandt, Vice President  
Danielle White, Treasurer

Beau Blaser  
Jenna Paulat  
Patrick Stewart

Vicki Carlson  
Nora Silvey  
Amy Tokar

**Avonworth School District Administration**

Jeff Hadley Ed.D. -----Superintendent  
Jillian Bichsel Ed.D.-----Assistant Superintendent  
Cindy Donovan-----Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent  
Jennifer Sheridan -----Director of Fiscal Management and Support Services  
Ashlea Rineer-Hershey -----Director of Student Services  
Kristen Butler-----Human Resources Director  
Brandon Gary-----Director of Technology and Information Systems  
Brant Colamarino -----Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
Andrea Patton-----Director of Athletics  
Tracey Eck-----Payroll Specialist/Supervisor of Transportation  
Melissa Schad-----Director of Food Services  
Keera Dwulit, Ed.D. -----High School Principal  
Michael Hall, Ed.D.-----Middle School Principal  
Kaitlin Remensky, Ed.D.-----Middle/High Assistant Principal  
William Battistone, Ph.D.-----Elementary School Principal  
Robert Eastwood-----Elementary Assistant Principal  
Scott Miller, Ph.D.-----Primary Center Principal

The Avonworth School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and participants who have an inquiry, complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for disabled persons, should contact:

Ashlea Rineer-Hershey  
Director of Student Services  
1310 Roosevelt Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-7171 Ext. 1901