

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN WELCOME



Dear Northern York Family,

Welcome to Kindergarten at NYCS! What an important and exciting year in the life of your child and we are grateful to be on this journey together. Our Principal Team looks forward to sharing further the joys of Kindergarten and what you can expect in the year ahead.

To proactively prepare for your child's arrival, we have prepared a screening day that serves to gather data for future planning. Our Spring Kindergarten Screening day serves as an important event for your child's entry. Please sign up for a slot, via our My Conference Time link on the NYCS registration page. Your child will participate in these screenings on that Kindergarten specific day.

- Vision and hearing (nurse)
- Speech and language (speech clinician)
- Early numeracy and Early literacy skills (reading specialist/instructional staff)

The NYCS nurse packet received from our registrar outlines the medical examinations required for Kindergarten entry and provides physical and dental forms for parent/provider completion. These items are additionally available on the District Website.

In the fall, your child will be briefly assessed by the speech clinician for receptive language, expressive language and articulation skills. Please reference the Speech and Language and Vision overview provided in this packet.

As you prepare for your child's entry to Kindergarten, you may also wish to reference the Kindergarten Readiness information in this packet and additionally located on the Kindergarten Registration page on the District website.

The accompanying information provides a snapshot of other important information and anticipated events.

Other Important Kindergarten Information:

Full-Day Kindergarten Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:40 PM

Modified Kindergarten Hours (2-hour delay due to weather): 11:00 AM to 3:40 PM

Lunch at School: Students have the option of packing a daily lunch (no glass containers) or purchasing a lunch at school. Information on Food Service and [MyPayments Plus](#) can be found at this link: <https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/90>

Class Placement/Bus Assignment: Families will receive a letter at the beginning of August providing information sharing bus information and teacher assignment. This information will also be communicated via the Sapphire Parent/Community Portal.

Community Sapphire Portal: An important step to receiving information specific to your child is the activation of a Parent Portal in our Sapphire System. Please follow the directions provided by our District registrar to activate your account.

Ready Freddy: Ready Freddy is an optional transition opportunity for families and students to engage in prior to the start of their Kindergarten year. This program takes place virtually in the Spring. Visit our Kindergarten Registration page to sign up for this year's sessions.

Please Note: It is important to register your child in Kindergarten before signing up for this transition program.

Kindergarten Orientation: An orientation for incoming kindergarten students is typically held one evening the week prior to the start of school. This orientation gives the students an opportunity to visit the classroom, meet the teacher, and depending on the health and safety status of our county, experience a brief ride on the school bus. During the evening parents/guardians receive information specific to the Kindergarten Program, including school procedures. Parents/Guardians attend Kindergarten Orientation with their kindergarten child (no siblings please).

*A modified Kindergarten Orientation may be required should health and safety requirements indicate such a need.

Back to School Night: A school-wide Back-to-School night (in-person or virtual), providing specifics on curriculum and classroom will be held in early September. More information regarding this event will be posted on each school website closer to the first day of school.

We look forward to connecting with you and your student in the summer ahead. Please anticipate a follow up from our Principal Team and we are so pleased to welcome you to our NYCSD Family.

Our best,

Your NYCSD Elementary Principal Team

Feel free to contact us at: 717-432-8691

- Dillsburg Elementary ext. 1400
- Northern Elementary ext. 1500
- South Mountain Elementary ext. 1700
- Wellsville Elementary ext. 1600

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN READINESS – AN OVERVIEW



Kindergarten Readiness

The parent, as the child's first teacher, has the pleasure and responsibility of interaction with the child at home to help the child be excited and prepared for his/her first formal educational experience. We are grateful for your partnership!

While no child is ever turned away if age eligible, it is of immeasurable benefit for children to have developed school readiness skills prior to beginning kindergarten. The student who has the opportunity to develop school readiness skills will have emotional, developmental, and educational advantage during his/her entrance to school.

What are kindergarten readiness skills?

Many families seek insight on the kindergarten readiness skills to work on with their child. The article, **10 Kindergarten Readiness Skills Your Child Needs**, supports families in daily activities that can be done anywhere. These are all areas your child will learn and grow in throughout their kindergarten experience:

- **Reading Readiness** - book handling skills, rhyming, word play, segmenting sounds, etc.
- **Letter Recognition** - learning lowercase, capital letters, etc.
- **Beginning Sounds** - hearing, saying, and identifying the beginning sounds in words
- **Writing** - writing of first name, last name, etc.
- **Number Recognition and Counting** - identifying numbers, one to one correspondence when counting, counting to 10, 20, etc.
- **Shapes and Colors** - learning basic shapes and colors
- **Expressive Language** - strengthening vocabulary through conversation
- **Fine and Gross Motor Skills** - (Fine Motor) strengthening the tiny muscles in our fingers: zipping, cutting, buttoning, picking up tiny objects, etc. (Gross Motor) strengthening the large muscles: jumping, hopping, climbing stairs, etc.
- **Attention and Following Directions** - building stamina for longer experiences, building capacity for 2+ directions, etc.
- **Social Skills** - turn taking, contributing to conversations, using words over actions, etc.

What can I expect during the kindergarten registration process?

The Northern York County School District website assists families with instructions and vital paperwork. Please visit the NYCSD website - Kindergarten Registration Tab for more information.

What does the Northern York County Kindergarten Program involve?

Northern York County School District offers a full-day Kindergarten Program that centers on structured learning and play. The District philosophy comes with a focus on integrated play, exploration and learning through authentic application. Modifications to the District approach were made due to the health and safety requirements currently in place.

Must I send my child to kindergarten just because he/she is five (5) by September 1?

Northern York County School District offers a full-day Kindergarten Program for students who turn 5 years of age before September 1 of the given school year. No early entry exceptions.

With this however, it is not mandatory for students age 5, to start Kindergarten. Families have the best insight on whether another year before enrolling in Kindergarten would be beneficial for their child. It is important to note that once a student attends school, compulsory attendance is required.

Our Northern Partnership

It is always so wonderful when an adult takes an interest in providing the best educational opportunities for a child. The least the school can do, as an educational entity, is provide interested families with appropriate goals and activities for children that will help make a successful start to the formal school process.

Adults looking for information, regarding a successful start to kindergarten at Northern York County School District, can use the information provided in this document, and at the District Website, to answer questions, guide children, and help the family become excited about a future school-home relationship.

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE AND VISION SCREENINGS



Dear NYCSD Family,

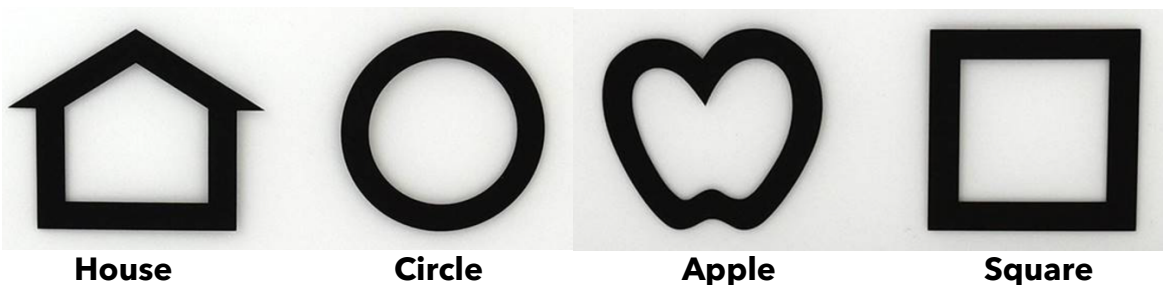
Welcome to Kindergarten! One of the safety nets of our Kindergarten Program includes a speech and language assessment for all incoming students. Your child will be screened by a district speech and language clinician during our Kindergarten Screening day and/or entry to his/her kindergarten year.

This brief screening will assess the student's current receptive and expressive language skills, including basic concepts, following simple directions, and retelling in sentences, a short story.

Your child's articulation skills will also be assessed. At this point, your child should be understood by others when speaking. Most speech sounds should be produced correctly with the exception of /r/, vowel-r, /th/, /s/, /sh/, and /ch/ sounds. These sounds are developmental and are not a concern if not produced correctly by your child at this time.

As a result of the screening, should your child need further consideration, he/she will be checked again in late-fall of the new school year. At that time, it will be determined if a complete Speech and Language evaluation is recommended and if so, a Permission to Evaluate form will be sent home for your written consent.

In addition to a Speech and Language screening, your child will participate in a Vision Screening. To assist your child in preparing for this screening, please review the pictures below so that your child understands what each picture represents.



From these screenings, should any next steps be required, the school speech and language clinician and/or the school nurse will reach out to you with information specific to your child. We thank you for your partnership this year.

With appreciation,

Your NYCSD Elementary Principal Team



Notes from the Nurse

Self Help Skills to Practice for Kindergarten

- Can state full first and last name
- Can communicate basic needs such as "My belly hurts" or "I need to go to the bathroom"
- Knows body parts
- Understands privacy and needs to close the bathroom door
- Can adjust clothing before and after toileting
- Knows how to use toilet paper and wipes without assistance
- Can flush the toilet
- Can wash and dry hands independently
- Can change clothing after spills and accidents
- Can put on coat and zip independently
- Can blow nose independently
- Covers mouth when coughing
- Able to use eating utensils

* Please keep at least 1 change of clothing in backpack at all times

Please Communicate to the school, the following:

- Toileting issues
- Health fears (sight of blood, taking medication, etc.)
- New medications or diagnoses