

WELCOME TO
KINDERGARTEN
2024-2025



A Guide For
Kindergarten Parents

**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent of Schools

p. 203.255.8309
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January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend Kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Our staff is looking forward to welcoming your child as a Kindergarten student and also welcoming you as part of our school community.

This handbook contains information that will help you and your child prepare for kindergarten. Please refer to page 1 for the specific dates for parent orientation and student visitation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the principal of your elementary school or Dr. James Zavodjancik, Chief Academic Officer, at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Testani". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent of Schools

**FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2024 – 2025 KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES**

Schools	Parent Orientation	Student Visitation
Burr	Thursday, May 23, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)	Thursday, May 23, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)
Dwight	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (A-L) 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (A-L) 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 p.m. (M-Z)
Holland Hill	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Jennings	Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 16, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 16, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
McKinley	Wednesday, May 22, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (A-Z)	Wednesday, May 22, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (A-Z)
Mill Hill	Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Friday, May 10, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Friday, May 10, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
North Stratfield	Friday, May 3, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-Z)	Friday, May 3, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-Z)
Osborn Hill	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) <small>in LLC – C Day</small> Thursday, May 9, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z) <small>in LLC – C Day</small>	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) <small>in LLC – C Day</small> Thursday, May 9, 2024 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z) <small>in LLC – C Day</small>
Riverfield	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Sherman	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Tuesday, May 14, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Tuesday, May 14, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Stratfield	Friday, May 17, 2024 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Friday, May 17, 2024 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)

Kindergarten Program

Fairfield Public Schools offers full day kindergarten for all students. If your child needs a transition to a full day program, please speak with the school principal to make these arrangements. The full day kindergarten schedule consists of five full days of school (8:55 AM - 3:30 PM except Holland Hill, 8:10 AM - 2:45 PM) Monday – Friday starting on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Enrollment in the full day class is projected to range from 17 to 23 students. A full-time teacher is assigned to each class, as well as paraprofessional support. A formal kindergarten report card of student progress and achievement is issued three times a year, in December, March, and June. This report card is a comprehensive evaluation of how well your child progressed through the skills and concepts at this level.

Home-School Communication

Infinite Campus is a web-based student information system that gives parents and guardians access to important school and student information and enhances communication between faculty, parents, and students. It is extremely important for parents/guardians to log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and check the appropriate boxes (e-mail, text, voice) under the “emergency” column. Checking the appropriate boxes is the only way to ensure receipt of all the notifications. If you have problems entering your activation code, received at your Registration meeting, email: reghelp@fairfieldschools.org. **Information regarding bus route and assigned teacher will be communicated from Infinite Campus approximately one week prior to the start of school.**

Meaningful, timely communication between the parents/guardians of kindergarten students and their child's kindergarten teacher is a very important part of Fairfield's kindergarten philosophy. This communication may take one of several forms including informative notices and newsletters, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and student report cards. Parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and early spring. Teachers are also available for conferences by mutual arrangement as necessary.

Please read and respond to the notices you receive from school. Often these communications ask for your involvement in some aspect of the kindergarten program. Your willingness to be involved sends a powerful positive message to your child. Your participation in your child's education is very important. Kindergarten in Fairfield is designed for student success and we want you to be an informed partner in your child's achievement.

The district and each school will also communicate through **Parent Square**. This web-based application will provide communications from your child's teacher, principal, and any information from the district office. More information on downloading and connecting will be provided by your child's principal.

Transportation

Children who live a distance of three-fourths of a mile or more from school will be eligible for bus transportation. If you are uncertain if your address qualifies for transportation, you may call the Transportation Office at 203-255-8385. **NOTE – Kindergarten students are not discharged from the bus unless an adult is present or with a sibling at the bus stop to meet the child. Students will be returned to school if an adult is not present.**

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

- Teach your child his/her full name, address (including town and state), and telephone number.
- Help your child to assume responsibility for dressing himself/herself as best as possible. Label all outerwear.
- Teach your child the proper use of bathroom facilities.
- Encourage clear and proper speech.
- Help your child to be a good listener and to respond at appropriate times.
- Listen to your child and show genuine interest in what your child has to say.
- Ask questions to prompt your child to think such as “Why do you think so?” or “What do you think that means?”
- Teach your child to develop an appreciation and respect for the rights and property of others.

- Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children to learn sharing and taking turns.
- Read to your child. Choose material appropriate to your child's level of development, interest, and maturity.
- Limit the amount of screen time and monitor the quality of television your child watches.

Curriculum

The kindergarten curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and safety, music, art, physical education, and library media. Instruction by specialists takes place once every six-day rotation in art and twice every six day rotation in music and physical education. A lunch period and recess are provided daily.

The kindergarten program emphasizes physical, social, emotional, and academic development. Each child will progress based on his/her individual developmental needs.

Art

- Learns to handle art tools such as scissors, markers, and paint brushes.
- Explores the 7 Elements of Art: colors, lines, shapes, values, texture, space, and three-dimensional form.
- Uses a variety of media including clay, paint, cut and torn paper, crayons, markers, and crafts.
- Begins to express individuality in art and appreciates the art of others.

Health

- Understands the importance of good personal practices (hygiene, rest, exercise, nutrition).
- Learns simple self-awareness skills.
- Identifies and observes safety rules at home, school, play, and in the community.
- Learns about germs and how to stay healthy.
- Learns how being a healthy person affects your body and its growth.

English Language Arts

- Develops a joy for literacy and talking about reading and writing.
- Demonstrates comprehension of a variety of texts and genres while actively engaging in reading activities.
- Builds topic knowledge and vocabulary through the acquisition of content and skills related to social studies, science, and high-interest topics.
- Retells familiar literary stories and identifies main topics in informational texts, including key details using pictures and words.
- Understands how books are organized and the basic features of print.
- Demonstrates understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds.
- Recognizes and names all upper-and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Reads common high-frequency words and texts that feature grade-level phonics skills.
- Demonstrates knowledge of letter-sound correspondences.
- Illustrates/writes opinion pieces, informative texts, and narratives with events told in sequential order.
- Participates in shared research and writing projects.
- Collaborates with peers and adults during discussions and conversations.
- Uses proper grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and vocabulary when writing or speaking.

Handwriting

- Practices stroke and letter formation.
- Demonstrates proper writing position including pencil grip and paper position.
- Prints upper-and lowercase letters.
- Writes numbers from 0-20.

Library and Technology

- Utilize the Library Learning Commons to select reading material based on personal interests and abilities, navigating both the library's physical and digital environments.
- Begin learning foundational inquiry skills and participate in collaborative and creative problem solving experiences.
- Generate original ideas and products based on new learning, communicate information in a variety of ways, and create products using different media in order to express ideas effectively and creatively.
- Navigate our district's network and virtual Library Learning Commons with assistance, demonstrating responsible and acceptance use of digital technology.
- Use online applications to produce information and use interactive learning applications to obtain and deepen knowledge.

Mathematics

- Counts to 100 by ones and tens.
- Adds and subtracts within 10.
- Writes and matches numerals to a set of objects from 0-30.
- Understands vocabulary associated with time-hour, parts of the day, seasons and the calendar.
- Describes, compares, classifies and counts objects in categories.
- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes.
- Identify and describe shapes.

Music

- Experiences their singing voice to match pitches and performs a variety of songs.
- Experiences the pulse/beat through moving and body percussion.
- Differentiates between higher and lower sounds, fast and slow tempo, upward and downward contour, and soft and loud sounds through moving, speaking, singing, and instruments.
- Creates dramatizations, sound accompaniments, and movement improvisations for stories, rhyme, and poetry.

Physical Education

- Learn to move with purpose and develop a love of being active- understanding that movement helps one feel good, helps one's brain to develop, and benefits one's general health and wellness.
- Develop a variety of motor skills and motor patterns including locomotor skills (running, hopping, leaping) with non-locomotor movements (body movements without travel like bending, swaying, swinging), with directionality (forward, backward, low level), and pathways (curved, zig zagged).
- Explore spatial awareness through body management activities discovering balance, strength, flexibility, agility, control, and power.
- Engage in activities independently, with a partner, in small and large groups through cooperative and competitive games and activities with and without equipment (balls, balloons, bean bags, hula hoops, parachutes).

Science

- Identify patterns in weather and how those patterns help predict weather.
- Describe and record how speed and direction of an object changes with pushes and pulls.
- Develop an understanding about how plants and animals change their environment to meet their needs and why plants and animals live where they live.

Social Studies

- Define "community" and understand why it is important to learn to work with others.
- Understand the importance of rules in their families, at school, and in other communities of which they belong.
- Define history and begin to understand how the past is different from today.
- Begin to understand how we use maps and globes to learn about the world.

Fairfield Public Schools – Elementary Contact Information

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL	ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	PHONE NUMBER
Burr	1960 Burr Street	Jason Bluestein	Michael Glasgow	255-7385
Dwight	1600 Redding Road	Mimi Maniscalco	Tara Hyder	255-8312
Holland Hill	105 Meadowcroft Road	Molly Farrell	Bret Henkel	255-8314
Jennings	31 Palm Drive	Anthony Vuolo	Christina Fuller	255-8316
McKinley	60 Thompson Street	Christine Booth	Eric Therriault	255-8318
Mill Hill	635 Mill Hill Terrace	Kevin Chase	Rebecca Feola	255-8320
North Stratfield	190 Putting Green Road	Luisa Wolf	Thomas Woodard	255-8322
Osborn Hill	760 Stillson Road	David Hudspeth	Patricia Day	255-8340
Riverfield	1625 Mill Plain Road	Mary Rose Dymond	Lindsay Given	255-8328
Sherman	250 Fern Street	Dr. Ian Banner	Nicola Callahan	255-8330
Stratfield	1407 Melville Avenue	Elizabeth McGoey	MaryJo French	255-8332

Members of the Fairfield Board of Education

Jennifer Jacobson Chair
 Nicholas Aysseh Vice Chair
 Carol Guernsey Secretary
 Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly
 Jeff Peterson
 Kathryn Anne Flynn
 David Krasnoff
 Jason Li
 Tracey Rinaldi

Central Office Administration

Michael Testani	Superintendent of Schools	255-8371
Dr. Zakia Parrish	Deputy Superintendent	255-8372
Dr. James Zavodjancik	Chief Academic Officer	255-8372
Kanicka Ingram	Executive Director of Human Resources	255-8462
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director, Special Education and Special Programs	255-8379
Janine Goss	Executive Director of PK-12 Literacy	255-8392
Dr. Nicole Danishevsky	Executive Director of K-12 Mathematics and STEM	255-7359
Courtney LeBorious	Chief Financial Officer	255-8383
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	255-8373

Administrative Offices

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
 Fairfield, CT 06825



Additional information is available at: www.fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources