

Getting Ready for Kindergarten!

Welcome! We are excited to partner with you in your child's education. Rest assured, we are committed to providing exceptional care for your child in a safe and secure environment. Through collaboration, we aim to make this year a rewarding experience. Our team of highly-qualified teachers and administrators maintains regular and ongoing communication with families, keeping you informed about your child's experiences and progress. We know that when our youngest students are provided with the tools necessary to develop strong academic, social and emotional skills, they will succeed in school and in the future!

INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

Teachers will help students master Indiana Academic Standards for Kindergarten in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students will also participate in rotational Related Arts programming, such as Music, Physical Education and Art. Our curriculum is organized into four quarters, and your child's report card provides insights into their progress by highlighting strengths and setting goals for improvement.



Reading & Writing

Students develop crucial literacy skills through foundational work and explicit instruction in areas such as focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Students' learning progression is monitored and communicated to families. Additionally, students may apply their understanding of story sequence and letter/sound relationships to create their own books during creative writing.



Math

Students engage with essential concepts through direct math instruction and small group activities, enabling them to apply key standards. Teachers reinforce these concepts through personalized instruction, offering both re-teaching and enriching opportunities to cater to individual learning needs.



Inquiry-Based Learning

Students acquire research and inquiry skills through project-based learning. Teachers engage students in lessons using the scientific process that will develop students capabilities. Other subjects are incorporated into inquiry-based learning such as Science and Social Studies. Within this framework, teachers will intentionally cultivate dispositions such as self-confidence, problem-solving, research, collaboration, questioning, critical thinking, class discussion and presentation skills.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

The following are skills a child will typically have a solid grasp of when starting school. Please note this list is merely a suggestion and not mandatory criteria for enrollment.

- Demonstrates appropriate school behavior, including when to use an "inside voice," when to wait for a turn and how to share.
- Sits and actively listens for 10 minutes or more at a time.
- Uses independent dressing skills, shoe tying and restroom use.
- Identifies basic shapes.
- Recognizes some letter sounds and knows many letters by sight, both uppercase and lowercase.
- Can write some letters, holding a pencil or crayon correctly.
- Knows that printed words read left to right and top to bottom.
- Follows multi-step directions.
- Sorts objects by attributes such as color, shape, and size.
- Recognizes numbers and counts up to 20 in order.
- Uses materials to create original artwork to express themselves.



Student Schedules

Elementary School Hours: 7:40 a.m. - 2:10 p.m. Classroom assignments are typically released the Friday before the first day of school at 3 p.m. This information will be located in Skyward Family Access.



Transportation

Transportation is available to all students attending their assigned school. Students are automatically assigned to a bus route. Bus information will be available the week before school begins. Once the routes are finalized, parents will receive an email with instructions on how to check for detailed route information. Please note that buses may experience delays during the initial days of school, as drivers and students familiarize themselves with bus operations.



Technology

Hamilton Southeastern Schools embraces a 1:1 learning environment, utilizing iPads as essential tools in the classroom. We are delighted to announce that every incoming kindergartner will be provided with a district-owned iPad at absolutely no cost, ensuring seamless integration of technology into their educational journey.



School Supplies

Your child's school will post supply lists on their school website. If you have questions, please contact the school directly.



Food Services

Hot breakfast and lunch is served daily to students. The cost for breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch is \$2.80 (elementary). However, pricing for the 2024-25 school year has not yet been finalized. Families may qualify for Free and Reduce Meal Rates based on income. Visit Food Services on the district website for more information, menus and payment options.



Health Services

Each school building is equipped with a dedicated, full-time registered nurse. The school nurse plays a vital role in providing care for students. Furthermore, required immunizations must be completed for students to attend school. For more information, visit Health Services on the district website.



Communication

While there are several ways you can receive information regarding your child, be sure to familiarize yourself with both Skyward Family Access and ParentSquare. In Skyward, you can manage student information, make fee payments, and receive alerts for attendance, grade thresholds and missing assignments. ParentSquare is the platform for communication, and while no action is necessary to receive messages, it's advisable to adjust your settings to ensure you stay connected and do not miss crucial updates.

- "Before the Bell" District Celebration
 - August 1, 2024
- First Day of School for K-12 Students
 - August 7, 2024
- Labor Day: No School
 - September 2, 2024
- eLearning Day for Students
 - September 27, 2024
- Fall Break: No School
 - October 14 - 18, 2024
- Thanksgiving Break: No School
 - November 27 - 29, 2024
- Last Day before Winter Break
 - December 20, 2024
- Students Return from Winter Break
 - January 7, 2025
- MLK Day: No School
 - January 20, 2025
- Presidents Day: No School
 - February 17, 2025
- Flex Day
 - February 18, 2025
- Flex Day
 - March 10, 2025
- Spring Break
 - April 4 - 11, 2025
- Memorial Day: No School
 - May 26, 2025
- Last Day of School
 - May 28, 2025

The official district calendar can be downloaded by by visiting hsechools.org



After-School Care

The YMCA provides after-school care in all 13 HSE elementary buildings. The hours are from 2:10 - 6:00 p.m. Care is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and often reaches capacity. If you are not able to secure a spot, many local childcare providers offer transportation from our schools to their facility. Please contact your child's school for more information.