

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS WADSWORTH ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN



Achieving Success Academic Excellence Panther Pride

Leah Dumezich, Superintendent of Schools
Ann Marie Jaros, Wadsworth Elementary Principal
Katie Garvey, Wadsworth Assistant Principal

VISION FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten Readers and Writers at GPS will:

- Develop and continue to grow a passion for Reading, Writing and Learning
- See themselves as capable Readers and Writers
- Know, understand, and celebrate their peers as Readers and Writers
- Feel empowered and develop confidence as learners
- Be inquisitive learners who ask questions, make connections, and seek answers
- Use creativity, imagination, play, reading, and writing as avenues for making meaning in their lives
- Understand multiple perspectives and be open to new ideas and concepts
- Build their independence and take responsibility for their own learning/actions
- Communicate their thoughts and opinions to others
- Actively listen and respond to others in their conversations
- Develop, build, and apply foundational reading skills
- Build stamina for Reading and Writing
- Know and understand different ways to read a book
- Understand what makes a story (beginning, middle and end)
- Interact with text by making connections, asking questions, and responding to others' questions
- Set goals for their Reading and Writing
- Identify upper- and lower-case letters and their sounds
- Master Kindergarten sight words
- Become proficient in the Indiana Academic Reading Standards

Kindergarten Mathematicians at GPS will:

- Become engaged in Math work and know that Math is fun
- Have a desire to pursue Math concepts
- Demonstrate excitement and curiosity about Math
- Be ready to tackle experiences with hands-on activities
- Understand problems can be solved with real materials as well as on paper
- Verbalize and write about the process used to approach and solve Math problems
- Apply Math skills, strategies, and processes to real world situations
- Know Math can be represented concretely (with objects), pictorially, and abstractly
- Understand and use consistent Math language and vocabulary
- Know there are a variety of ways to solve problems and recognize multiple perspectives
- Have the confidence to tackle and solve different types of problems (story and situational)
- Be familiar with Math tools and use manipulatives or other tools to solve problems
- Be able to write numbers through twenty
- Efficiently add and subtract numbers within ten
- Interact and collaborate with peers to solve Math problems
- Identify shapes and use them to solve problems
- Be able to count and understand 1:1 correspondence through twenty
- Understand and use positional words
- Become proficient in the Indiana Academic Math Standards

Enrollment and Registration:

All incoming students will be assessed to determine proper placement. During Kindergarten Round-Up, an annual event typically held in early spring, parents can enroll their child, finalize paperwork, meet school staff, and learn school-specific information. Any child who is five years of age before August 1st of the current school year may be registered for kindergarten. Students who be five after August 1st up until October 1st are eligible for early entrance per testing results and may be on a probation period of thirty days if approved. Parents must provide a valid birth certificate and proof of residency. Proof of residency include:

Homeowners:

- Mortgage statement
- Two utility bills in homeowner's name (Nipsco, phone, water bill etc.)
- Valid driver's license or state ID (Griffith resident address)
- Proof of custody (if applicable)
- Original birth certificate
- Current immunization records

Renters:

- Current lease agreement listing custodial parent and student(s) name
- Two utility bills in homeowner's name (Nipsco, phone, water bill etc.)
- Valid driver's license or state ID (Griffith resident address)
- Proof of custody (if applicable)
- Original birth certificate
- Current immunization records

Curriculum and instruction:

Students enter Kindergarten with a variety of educational backgrounds, such as preschool, day care and home. Some can read and write simple words, while others have yet to learn the alphabet. Moreover, our Kindergarten teachers differentiate classroom instruction to provide the appropriate learning situation for each individual child. All children will be issued an iPad, which will remain at school. Parents are financially responsible for any damages that would occur.

Full Day Kindergarten:

Griffith Public Schools provides a Full Day Kindergarten program for all students of legal settlement. The Kindergarten experience provides curriculum through units of study guided by the Indiana Academic Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Science and Social Studies are integrated using inquiry and real-world experiences. Each component is connected and allows for our young learners to develop and grow a passion for learning. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, Griffith Kindergarten teachers have created a common vision for students and learners. This vision includes children seeing themselves as capable and competent learners that use an inquisitive stance to ask questions, make connections and seek answers as well as using creativity, imagination, play, reading, writing, as avenues for making meaning in their lives. Additionally, Kindergarten teachers guide students to develop independence and responsibility for their own learning. They assist in building confidence in students so that they are willing to take risks in their learning and communicate their thoughts and opinions to others in a variety of ways. The Kindergarten experience is meant to be well rounded as it builds foundational skills for your child's future success.

Sample Kindergarten Schedule:

8:45-9:00	Opening/Morning work
9:00-9:15	Morning Meeting
9:15-10:45	Reading Block
10:45-11:15	Writing Block
11:15-12:00	Recess/Lunch
12:00-12:15	Brain Break
12:15-12:45	Science/Social Studies
12:45-1:30	Special
1:30-2:30	Math
2:30-2:45	Second recess
2:45-2:55	Read Aloud
2:55-3:05	Pack up
3:05-3:15	Dismissal: Bus, Car, Walkers & Daycare

Attendance:

Achievement is directly related to academic learning time, even at the Kindergarten level. Children are expected to be at school and on time every day. Student absences should be reported to the school office by 9:00 am. Parents use the link on GPS's website. School begins at 8:45 am. After 8:45 am, students are counted tardy. Ten tardies equals an absence. Ten unexcused absences warrant a DCS report (state mandate). Additionally, an early pick-up result in a "reverse" tardy. To excuse absences, doctor notes should be provided.

Report Cards:

Kindergarten teachers conduct ongoing assessments of student skills and learning activities. Kindergarten students receive assessment reports in addition to quarterly report cards to keep parents informed of their child's progress. Grades are available on Schoology, our school's communication platform (explained further in document).

Conferences:

Parent/Teacher conferences are an extension of the report card and are held once a year in the Fall. Parents and teachers may also request a conference as needed at any time during the school day.

Transportation:

Griffith Public Schools provides transportation both to and from school for our students who are eligible. Riding a bus is a privilege. Students are expected to abide by all rules to ensure the safety of all.

Kindergarten Transportation tags:

Kindergarten teachers will issue a set of transportation tags to each student. One tag must be attached to your child's backpack every day. The tag should indicate how your child is going home at the end of the day (car, bus, daycare, or walker).

Specials:

Students attend weekly specials of forty-five minutes in length. They attend Music, PE, Library, STEAM and Art classes. These classes are taught by Allied Arts teachers. Grades are given at semester and are pass/fail.

Get Involved in Education:

Parental involvement is the key to any child's education. Anything you do in or outside of a classroom will greatly benefit the children. Consider the following:

- Chaperone field trips
- Assist with class parties
- Join PTC and assist with planned events
- Serve on a school or district committee
- Join Schoology and check regularly
- Attend conferences/meetings
- Check child's take home folder nightly

School-Home Connection:

Schoology 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 Schoology. You will receive updates about what is happening in the classroom, Wadsworth, and Griffith Public Schools. It is important that parents read these announcements as this will help keep you informed about learning, school and community events, and materials you may need to send in. Meaningful, timely communication between parents/guardians of Kindergarten students and their child's Kindergarten teacher is very important. This communication may take one of several forms including Schoology messages or posts, informative notices and newsletters, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and student report cards. Please read and respond to 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 essential to their success. Anything you do in or outside of a classroom will greatly benefit your child. Consider the following:

- Chaperone field trips
- Assist with class parties
- Join PTC and assist with planned events
- Serving on a school or district committee
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- Check your child's take home folder nightly

Help Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten

- Teach your child his/her full name, address (including town and state), and phone number.
- Help your child to assume responsibility for dressing himself/herself as best as possible. Label all outerwear.
- Practice tying shoes and zipping zippers.
- Teach your child the proper use of bathroom facilities.
- 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 and improve social skills.
- 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 tv your child watches.

