

Welcome to Kindergarten!

A Handbook for Parents

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

345 Lakeville Road
Great Neck, New York 11020
516.441.4000
www.greatneck.k12.ny.us

Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become life-long learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.



Kindergarten! A Handbook for Parents

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WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

The beginning of kindergarten is both an exciting and important time in your child's life. In the kindergarten program, we lay the foundation for learning. We recognize that children enter kindergarten with different levels of ability. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the school to meet the individual and developmental needs of all children in a nurturing, stimulating, appropriate learning environment. We believe our kindergarten program establishes the perfect balance between cognitive, social-emotional development and play, all equally important in your child's growth.

As your child(ren) begin(s) kindergarten in the Great Neck Public Schools, we hope you will find the information in this guide helpful. Communication between home and school is essential to the success of our educational program. Please call the school office if you have any concerns and/or questions.

We look forward to a successful and productive year with your children.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The school district houses four elementary schools and an early childhood center (the Lakeville kindergarten is located in the Parkville Early Childhood Center). Each elementary school is headed by a principal and an assistant principal except Parkville which only has a principal. They all work closely with the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction whose office is in the Phipps Administration Building, 345 Lakeville Road (441.4010).

<u>School</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Office No.</u>	<u>Nurse</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
E.M. Baker	60 Baker Hill Rd.	441.4100	441.4110	441.4115
J.F. Kennedy	1-A Grassfield Rd.	441.4200	441.4210	441.4215
Lakeville	47-27 Jayson Ave.	441.4300	441.4310	441.4315
Parkville	10 Campbell St. NHP	441.4350	441.4360	441.4365
Saddle Rock	10 Hawthorne Lane	441.4400	441.4410	441.4415



Kindergarten Essentials

Following is a **SAMPLE** kindergarten day:

The school day begins at 9:10 AM and ends at 3:20 PM.

- 9:10 Arrival
- 9:35 Morning Meeting Time
- 10:00 Word Study (review letters, letter sounds, rhyming, vocabulary, sight words)
- 10:20 Special Areas: art, computers, library, music, phys. ed, science
- 10:50 Snack/Independent Reading
- 11:15 Reader's Workshop (mini lesson, independent and partner reading, reading conferences)
- 11:25 Literacy Centers: small-group instruction
- 12:00 Learning Centers: art, blocks, library, computers, drama, math, science, writing
- 12:30 Lunch/Recess
- 1:45 Writer's Workshop or Social Studies
- 2:15 Math
- 3:15 Pack Up and Dismissal



Special Area Teachers and Support Staff

Special area teachers in art, library, computers, music, physical education, and science enhance the kindergarten program and provide well-rounded experiences for our children.

Support staff in each school includes:

- Nurse
- Psychologist
- Reading specialist
- Social worker
- Speech and language teacher
- TESL teacher (Teaching English as a Second Language)
- Occupational/Physical therapist



ART

In art, kindergarten children experience freedom of expression. They cut, paste, draw, and paint. They observe their surroundings and connect art and nature to their world.

They learn about:

- colors, shapes, textures, patterns
- different materials and methods
- art appreciation



TECHNOLOGY

The elementary technology program develops students' computer skills while integrating technology into the prekindergarten-grade 5 classroom curriculum. Students learn that technology as an educational tool can be used creatively, responsibly, and collaboratively for teaching and learning.

Kindergartners learn to:

- identify the parts of a computer, understand and use the mouse and basic keyboard functions
- log on to the network and manage files in an individual folder
- create original graphics and use clip art to illustrate concepts and ideas
- use word processing software and grade-appropriate functions
- launch software programs to support the curriculum



LIBRARY

In the library, students learn about proper book care, genres of literature including fiction and nonfiction, folktales and fairytales and engage in author and illustrator studies. Technology and twenty-first century skills are essential parts of the library and computer curriculum and are integrated in many ways. Students are exposed to a variety of educational web sites and computer programs. Many library/computer lessons are taught utilizing an interactive SMARTBoard.



SCIENCE

In science, children develop concepts and skills through observation, exploration, and discovery. They will learn to observe, classify, predict, manipulate materials, measure, and record and interpret data. Some of our units of study for kindergarten include:



- living and non-living things
- magnets
- senses
- plants
- sink/float
- seasons
- measurement
- water
- conservation/recycling



MUSIC

The kindergarten music program integrates singing, instrument playing, movement, storytelling, and technology. Children are exposed to many different types of music from all over the world.

Children learn:

- beat and rhythm
- movement
- singing
- tempo



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes incorporate a variety of activities to help students develop motor skills, team work, and character. Classes are fun, engaging, challenging, and adaptable for all skill levels.

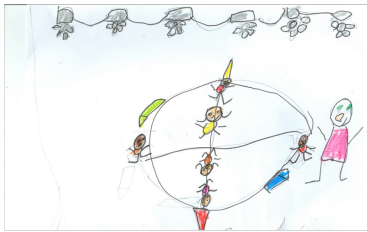
Kindergartners learn:

- fundamental movements
- manipulation skills such as ball handling
- rhythmic activity/movement
- cooperative skills



OUTDOOR PLAY

Weather permitting, children will enjoy daily outdoor play on well-equipped playgrounds. Proper attire for outdoor play is necessary. In inclement weather, similar play opportunities are provided indoors.



CLOTHING

- All clothing should be comfortable and washable to permit your child to sit on the floor. Please send in a smock or old, large shirt, clearly marked with your child's name, to be kept at school. In addition, a complete change of clothing should also be sent to school, clearly labeled in a shoebox or plastic container. **Please remember to change this clothing seasonally.**
- Outdoor Clothing
 - ✓ All clothing (coats, sweaters, mittens, hats, scarves, and boots) should be clearly marked with your child's name.
 - ✓ Sweaters and coats need loops so they can be hung up.
 - ✓ Clothing should be loose enough for your child to put on and fasten by him/herself. (Please let your child practice at home).
 - ✓ Boots should be large enough for your child to manage easily.

- Shoes - Rubber soled shoes or sneakers are preferred. Open backed shoes, clogs, and sandals can be dangerous. Children must wear sneakers in order to participate in physical education.



BACKPACKS - Please do NOT send backpacks on wheels, as they are dangerous with young children.



PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students should not bring valuable personal items to school. The Great Neck School District DOES NOT assume responsibility or liability for the loss of personal property brought to school by students.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

To ensure the safety of all children, each person entering the building must stop at the security desk and show identification. Visitors will be asked for a driver's license that will be scanned by "Lobby Guard", our computerized security system. A visitor's pass will be printed and visitors will then proceed to the Main Office before going elsewhere in the building.

EMERGENCY FORMS

When you register your child for school, you will be asked to provide "emergency information". This information is extremely important. Therefore, the names and telephone numbers of your support system need to be current and accurate in the event that you are unable to be reached in an emergency situation. Please make sure that you notify us promptly throughout the year if there are any changes. It is **IMPORTANT** for you to give careful consideration to the individual you list.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are transported to and from school by buses that are equipped with seat belts and two-way radios. If your child is coming to school on the bus, you can help him/her adjust to traveling on the bus by talking about:



- how to wait, board, and leave the bus in an orderly fashion
- the importance of sitting in the seat and using a seat belt
- the importance of listening to the bus driver and/or aide
- how to be considerate and kind to the other children on the bus
- telling the bus driver and/or aide if someone is doing something unsafe

An adult **MUST** meet your child at the bus stop when he/she is expected home or your child will be returned to school.

Additional transportation information and bus passes will be mailed home before the start of school. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please call 441.4060.

TRANSPORTATION/CHANGE REQUEST

If your child is going to be bused to/from school, please make sure that you complete a Transportation Form.

IMPORTANT

To ensure your child's safety, the following procedures are in place:

1. Your child **WILL ONLY BE RELEASED** to you or one of the individuals whose name you have placed on file. That individual must be at least 13 years of age. **YOU MUST CONTACT US IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES: OTHERWISE, YOUR CHILD WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL.** You will be contacted and your child will need to be picked up at school.
2. Please understand that bus schedules are "guestimates" and therefore it is necessary to allow a 5-minute window for bus arrivals/departures. If there is no one waiting at the stop when your child arrives home from school, your child will be returned to the school and he/she will need to be picked up at school.



If your child usually goes home on a bus and you have made arrangements for another adult to pick him/her up from school, **YOUR CHILD MUST BRING IN A WRITTEN NOTE TO SCHOOL THAT DAY.** Without a written note, your child will be sent home on his/her regular bus at the end of the school day. In addition, if you plan to pick your child up at school instead of sending him/her home on the bus, please try to call the office in advance. Upon your arrival at school, it is necessary to sign the child out in the Main Office.

CHILDREN MAY ONLY RIDE HOME ON THE BUS TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED. If your child has a play date with another youngster who rides the same bus, we ARE able to accommodate bus stop changes. **HOWEVER, IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO GET OFF THE BUS WITH ANOTHER CHILD, BOTH CHILDREN MUST PROVIDE NOTES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE TEACHERS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NOTE INCLUDES THE DATE, FIRST AND LAST NAME OF YOUR CHILD, AND THE CHILD'S TEACHER.**

At the end of the school day, walkers will be dismissed as per school procedures.



Emergency and Attendance Notification with ParentLink

The school district uses the ParentLink Notification System to deliver emergency/timely messages to home and/or cell phones and/or e-mail addresses during the school year. ParentLink is also used for daily attendance calls. We ask that you please call the nurse's attendance line at your child's school when your child is absent; otherwise ParentLink will place an automated call to you by 10:15 AM on the day of the absence. Parents may respond to the automated message by calling the attendance number for their child's school. There is also an online option within ParentLink to resolve your child's absence. The school nurse is available to answer any questions you may have regarding your child's health.

ABSENCE NOTES

If your child is going to be absent from school, kindly call the attendance line at your school. Upon your child's return to school, please send a note to your child's classroom teacher explaining the absence. An absence note is required by State law.

SNACK

Throughout the year your children will be learning about proper nutrition. Our daily snack period provides an excellent opportunity to discuss and enjoy healthy snacks. Some suggestions include:

- fruits and/or vegetables
- raisins and other dried fruits
- crackers
- rice cakes or bread
- cereal (not sugar coated)



IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ALLERGIES TO FOOD OR OTHER SUBSTANCES, PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL NURSE KNOW IMMEDIATELY.

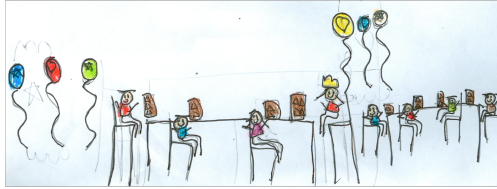
LUNCH PROCEDURE

Your child will eat lunch in school. Each day your child will have the option to bring in or purchase lunch in school. The district menu can be accessed on the Great Neck School district website. It is based on a 5-week cycle. There is an additional charge for the Kosher food choice. Annual lunch tickets will be available through the Food and Nutrition Department. If you wish additional information, please call Food and Nutrition at 441.4090.

Please note that we are unable to provide refrigeration or heat up food brought in by your child.

Since we are a "green" school district, we strongly encourage the utilization of reusable containers. If you send a thermos into school with your child, it must be plastic lined, or you may send in a small plastic container or

cardboard container with a beverage. Please **DO NOT** send in any soda or glass containers.



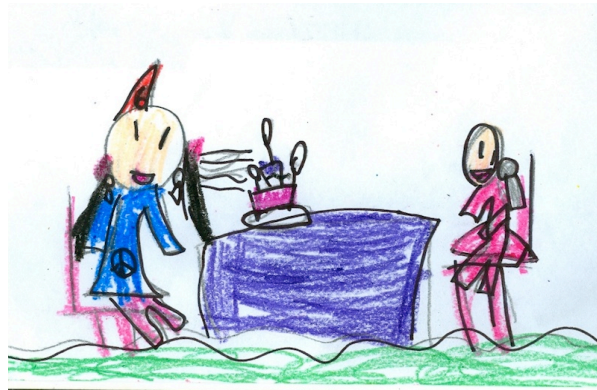
BIRTHDAY PARTIES

We celebrate each child's birthday as close to the real birth date as possible. Prior

to your child's birthday, please discuss food choices with your child's teacher.

SOCIAL INVITATIONS

Please handle all party and other invitations from your home.



TRIPS

Local walking trips may be taken during the year. Such trips provide many opportunities for learning. At the beginning of the school year, you signed a blanket permission slip for walking trips. Parents are often asked to help chaperone trips. If you are available to assist on these outings, you will find it an excellent way to share in your child's kindergarten experience.

PERMISSION SLIPS FOR TRIPS

Permission slips are used for specific class trips and will be sent home as necessary. All class trips are scheduled to leave from and return to your child's school. Therefore, your child should come to school at his/her regularly scheduled time. If you plan to take your child home from the trip location, it is necessary for you to send a note to the teacher **in advance of the trip.**



HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

To facilitate a positive home/school connection, please check the school Website every Thursday for important information, flyers and notices. Go to the district website at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us and click on your child's school.

Through Parent-Link, emails will also be sent periodically for reminders and/or emergency notification. In addition, throughout the year, teachers will disseminate information to parents via email. Kindly provide us with a

current email account for at least one parent (guardian). Teachers can also be contacted through notes, telephone calls, or email. Please let your child's teacher know the best way to contact you.

INFINITE CAMPUS

As a parent(guardian) of a child enrolled in the Great Neck Public Schools, you will need to use the *Campus Parent Portal*. Through this secure website, you have confidential access to attendance information, progress reports, and immunization records of your child(ren). Report cards **will not** be mailed home. The Campus Portal is constantly updated and is easy to navigate. In the beginning of the school year, you will receive instructions as to how to enroll. You will also receive a user code. If you have technical questions or problems logging in, send an email to: Parentsupport@greatneck.k12.ny.us.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled 2 times a year during the day and evening. Your child's growth, development, and progress will be discussed at the time. Translators are available. Prior to each conference your child's report card will be posted on the Parent Portal. The final report card will be posted at the end of the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher regarding any concerns during the course of the year

PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Each school has a PTO or PTA. Parent involvement enriches our school community and enhances programs in our schools. Your participation and support is welcomed throughout the year. Please join our PTO/PTA as working together, we will be able to accomplish our goals and celebrate the achievements of our students.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can refer to the district calendar for additional information. The calendar is posted online for your convenience. You may also visit us on our website: www.greatneck.k12.ny.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THESE MATTERS. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR!



Original Art Work by Parkville Kindergarten Students
Handbook by Ms. Debbie Shalom, Ms. Linda Peters and Ms. Liz Natter

