

# Gearing up for Kindergarten

## Radnor Township School District

May 9, 2024  
Virtual Parent Webinar

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sliding down a red slide. He is smiling and has his arms outstretched. The slide is made of a smooth, reddish-orange material. The background is a solid dark blue.

# Welcome Families

**Assistant to the Superintendent  
Teaching and Learning:**  
Dr. Shawn Dutkiewicz

**Elementary Principal Team:**  
Dr. Tronya Boylan (IES)  
Dr. Nancy Young (RES)  
Ms. Nancy Ferguson (WES)  
Mr. John Wagner (IES/RES)  
Mr. Jon Smerecky (WES)

**Kindergarten Teachers:**  
Ms. Carly Henry (WES)  
Ms. Jessica Stortini (IES)  
Ms. Theresa Weir (RES)

**ELD Teacher and Department Lead:**  
Ms. Sarah Steiner

**Radnor PTO Representative**  
PTO Reps

**Head of Youth Services at Radnor Memorial Library**  
Ms. Carrie Sturgill

# Registration Process

- RTSD has a Central Registration process that is facilitated at our District Office Administration building. To register for Kindergarten, your child must be age five by September 1st
- Registration is completed online through the link on our website: [www.rtsd.org/register](http://www.rtsd.org/register)
- Our Central Registrar, Amelia Dougherty is located at our administration office: 135 South Wayne Avenue, Wayne PA 19087
  - Email: [amelia.dougherty@rtsd.org](mailto:amelia.dougherty@rtsd.org)
- Be sure to include a signed Health/Immunization report from a physician (please refer to the most recent immunization requirements)
- Proof of Birth (original birth certificate)
- Proof of Residency
- Early registration is KEY

# Presentation Topics

- The Radnor Kindergarten Experience
- The Kindergarten Day -- Schedule and Logistics
- Program and Curriculum Features
- Technology and Communications
- English-Language Learning Supports and Services
- Skills to Practice
- Kindergarten Orientation – May 24, 2024
- Additional Information
- Extended Day Care Options
- Parent-Teacher Organization Information
- The Radnor Memorial Library Resources and Supports

# The Radnor Kindergarten Experience

Radnor Township School District aims to facilitate a balanced kindergarten experience that fosters academic and social-emotional growth with each individual.

Kindergarten classes will not exceed 21 students based on School Board class size guidelines.



# A Day in the Life of a Radnor Township S.D. Kindergartener



# Sample Schedule

8:50-9:10:	Arrival and Unpack
9:10-9:30:	Morning Meeting/Calendar Math
9:30-10:00:	Reading Workshop
10:00-10:50:	MTSS
10:50-11:40:	Lunch and Recess
11:40-12:00:	Foundations
12:00-12:30:	Writing Workshop
12:30-1:00:	Social Studies/Science
1:00-1:50:	Specials
1:50-2:10:	Afternoon Snack
2:10-3:10:	Math and Math Centers
3:10-3:30:	Recess
3:40:	Dismissal



# Drop-off / Bus Procedures



**Bus orientation  
for children and  
their families  
will occur in  
August**

- Drop off/bus procedures differ slightly from school to school.
- Buses pick up as close to your home address as possible.
- In the morning, buses drop students in front of the school and adults are there to greet the children and supervise them until teachers come to lead them to class each day.
- For afternoon dismissal, children are grouped according to bus number and MANY adults guide them to their buses or to the pick-up line. Children have bright orange bus tags with bus number and home address information attached to their backpacks all year long.
- Don't worry! The children learn this routine very quickly!
- Kindergarteners sit in the front of the bus.



# Morning Activities

**Morning Meeting:** A time to build a sense of belonging and community in the classroom

- ▶ Greeting
- ▶ Group Share
- ▶ Activity / Ques. of the Day
- ▶ Morning Message

**Calendar Math:**

- ▶ Yesterday was... Today is...
- ▶ Today's Date
- ▶ Weather/Temperature Reporting
- ▶ Days of School Count
- ▶ Patterns



# English Language Arts

- ▶ **Fundations** – Sets the foundation for reading and writing with daily drills of letters and letter sounds. Word play, introduction of digraphs (sh, ch, th, etc.) and sight word practice is introduced over time. There is a strong emphasis on proper letter formation.
- ▶ **Making Meaning and Being A Writer** – We utilize researched-based programs aligned with the Common Core Standards for Kindergarten. Social Skills are embedded. Narrative, informational and opinion reading and writing are incorporated with quality mentor texts for guidance.
- ▶ **Guided Reading** – Teacher meets with small groups to teach reading strategies and guide individual readers. These groups are flexible according to needs and growth of students. A reading specialist may also meet with students based on needs.
- ▶ **IDR-Independent Directed Reading** – Children read independently while the teacher works with small groups. Teachers will confer regularly with individual students during this time as well.
- ▶ **Staff Resources** – Reading Specialist(s), MTSS Facilitators/Coaches and Literacy Paraprofessionals help to support classroom instruction.

# Math – New Program

- ▶ **Reveal Math**
- ▶ Instruction is delivered using the Smartboard and math manipulatives for a hands on and interactive learning experience
- ▶ **Each lesson includes:**
  - ▶ Core instruction
  - ▶ Use of a workbook for independent practice
  - ▶ Learning activities and games
  - ▶ Enrichment and extra practice options to be completed during math centers



# Social Studies & Science

## Social Studies Alive!

- Community Building, Civics and National Symbols
- Holidays and Family Traditions / Economics
- Connections to History / US Government / Geography and World Cultures
- Resource: Scholastic News

## Science: Exploring the World

- Exploring Forces and Motion
- Exploring Plants and Animals
- Exploring My Weather





# Handwriting



- ▶ Strong emphasis on proper letter formation using top-down approach.
- ▶ Use of capital letters for proper nouns and to begin sentences only-- Use of lowercase letters is expected in all other instances.
- ▶ Use of the “sky” line, “plane” line, “grass” line, and “worm” line to guide handwriting practice.

# Specials

## 6 Special Classes:

Physical Education,  
Wellness, Music, Art, Library, and  
Innovation Design Studio (IDS)  
Students attend one special class a  
day for 50 minutes

Students go to their specials on  
6-day rotation instead of having a  
class on a specific day of the week



# Homework

- Homework is given to reinforce skills taught during school and to strengthen the home-school connection.
- Homework is distributed by the individual teacher.
- All correspondence is exchanged between home and school in the “RED” take-home folders.
- Students typically complete a word work assignment, math assignment, and a “home reader”.
- Parents are also encouraged to practice sight words and read to/with their children on a nightly basis.
- Homework is assigned to help build routines and should not take more than 5-10 minutes per night.

# MTSS

## Multi-tiered Systems of Support

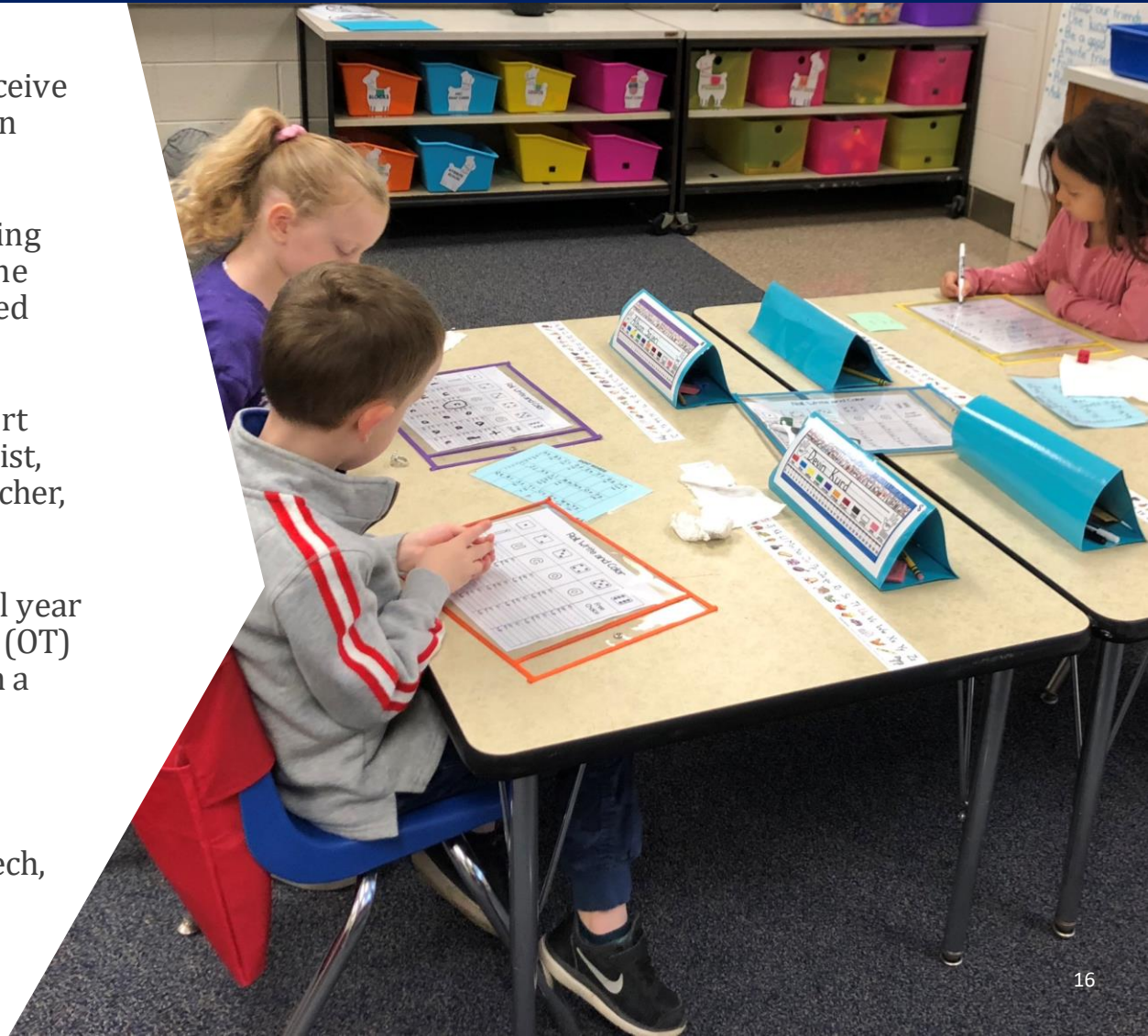
MTSS is a time for all students to receive additional instruction and support in areas of need.

Teachers may facilitate guided reading and math groups or work one-on-one with a student/small group who need extra support or enrichment.

Students may also work with support personnel such as a Reading Specialist, English-Language Development Teacher, or Literacy Aide.

The first MTSS rotation of the school year is focused on Occupational Therapy (OT) Bootcamp where students engage in a variety of exercises and activities to develop their fine motor skills.

Qualifying students may also receive services such as OT, PT, Speech, etc.





# Learning Centers

**What are centers?**

**Centers take place in distinct areas throughout the classroom that offer various materials and opportunities for hands-on learning at individually appropriate levels.**

**Centers may also occur during MTSS time. Students work independently or in small groups to complete language arts or math related activities.**

**Students are practicing previously taught skills through interactive games or activities.**



# Assessments

- ELA and Math assessments are used for universal screening, progress monitoring and to help identify students who may need additional instructional support.
- Ongoing ELA and Math assessments include - letter sounds, letter identification, and number identification / sense.
- Other formative and summative assessments are used based on curricular resources.

# Progress Reports

- Aligned with PA Common Core Standards and RTSD curriculum and inform parents of their child's progress
- Distributed 3 times per school year: December, March, and June
- Parent/Teacher Conferences occur in November and March
- Made available electronically through the district Home Access Center (HAC)





# Lunch, Recess, and Snacks

## Lunch:

- 25 minutes long
- Students may buy lunch or bring lunch
- Students eat in the cafeteria with peers from other Kindergarten classes
- Students use their student ID# to purchase lunch (pay online or send in a check)
- School lunch menus are available online

## Recess:

- 25 minutes of outdoor recess
- Indoor recess on days with inclement weather
- An abbreviated 2<sup>nd</sup> recess is offered in the afternoon

## Snack:

- Times vary per school depending on schedules
- Allergies are closely monitored





# Social / Emotional

- Each building uses responsive classroom strategies to build and sustain a positive school culture.
- Radnor utilizes an SEL curriculum called *Second Step* that is taught once per 6-day cycle.
- Each building has its own counselor and social skills program. Counselors work with individuals and small groups as needed, and regularly teach social skills lessons in the classroom. Social skills are integrated into all parts of the school day.
- Snack time, center time and two recess periods create opportunities for social skills practice.
- Staff Resources: K-5 Social Worker, Counselors, K-12 Wellness and Counseling Coordinator.



# Technology Applications



# Communications



**Classroom  
and School  
Emails**



**RTSD  
Webpage**



**Schoology  
and  
Newsletters**

# English-Language Supports

## Students from Multilingual Families

Steps RTSD ELD Department takes when new multilingual students enroll

- Home Language Survey when Enrolled
- Family interview from Mrs. Steiner
- WIDA Kindergarten Screener
- Enrollment in the English Language Development Program

Questions?  
Email  
[sarah.steiner@rtsd.org](mailto:sarah.steiner@rtsd.org)





# Skills to Practice

It is important that students practice and build independence.

Self-help skills:

- Zipping coat/jacket
- Tying shoes
- Packing/unpacking school bag
- Scissor skills
- Opening food containers
- Bathroom etiquette (washing hands, buttoning pants, etc.)
- Playing with other children
- Turn-taking
- Asking of help/advocating for him/herself
- Following 2-step directions
- Fostering problem-solving ideas



# Skills to Practice

It is important that students practice and build independence.

## Academic Skills:

- Counting to 20+
- Identifying upper/lowercase letters
- Identifying colors and shapes
- Recognizing and writing own name
- Fostering interest in new experiences
- Fostering persistence in activities
- Encourage independent play

# Kindergarten Screening



**May 24, 2024**

Kindergarten Student Orientation and Screening  
Each elementary school



Meet teachers and  
school staff



Participate in  
small group fun and  
individual screening



Play with peers



**Screenings will also be held in August**

Contact your child's main office to schedule a date and time



# RTSD Website

Radnor Township School District

Schools ▾ Students Families Staff

## Kindergarten

The Radnor Township School District Kindergarten Program is open to all Radnor Township children not less than five-years-old on or before Sept. 1 of their K school year.

Each elementary school (Ithan, Radnor and Wayne) hosts its own full day program. The school day begins at 9:07 a.m. and ends at 3:40 p.m., which coincides with the other grade levels.

Extended day options are available at each school through [Right at School](#).

REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN) FOR KINDERGARTEN IN RTSD

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### SAVE THE DATES for 2023-24 Students

#### Kindergarten Orientation

Join us for orientation of newly registered kindergarten students.

**Date:** Friday, June 9

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Your elementary school



### Full Day K in RTSD

RTSD launched the full-day kindergarten program in fall 2014.

For more information regarding our Kindergarten curriculum and program visit: [www.rtsd.org](http://www.rtsd.org)

# Extended Day Care



+ Radnor Township School District

855-AT-SCHOOL [Español](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[LOGIN](#)

Right At School @  
**Ithan Elementary**

**MAKE THIS MY SCHOOL**

[Switch Schools](#)

**ALREADY HAVE AN ACCOUNT? [LOGIN](#)**

a place to  
**BE A  
KID!**



# Get involved!



**Kindergarten Playdate**

**Back to School Night**

**School Activities**

**Volunteers**

**Field Trips**

**PTO**

**REF**





# Radnor Township PTO

## RTSD PTOs

### What is the Parent Teacher Organization (“PTO”)?

- All of us! PTOs are established at all five schools in the district, and if you are a parent/guardian of a child in the district, you are a member of your school’s PTO!
- PTOs work with the principal, teachers & staff to plan additional programs and events for students and families.
- Attending these events or getting involved in the PTO is a great way to make connections with other parents and your child’s school!





# What do RTSD PTOs Do?

**1**

## **Support our teachers & staff**

- ✓ Provide grants to purchase classroom enhancements such as flexible seating, rugs & unique curriculum supplies
- ✓ Book Fair
- ✓ Classroom Parties
- ✓ Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

**2**

## **Enrich the education of our students**

- ✓ Cultural Arts programs: author visits, music and arts residences
- ✓ Science Fair
- ✓ District Wide (DW) International Week
- ✓ Ithan Book Publishing (IES)
- ✓ Circus Production (IES & RES)
- ✓ Musical (RES)
- ✓ Talent Show (WES)

# What do RTSD PTOs Do?

**3**

## **Reach out to the community around us**

- ✓ Seasonal Community Outreach Drives (DW)
- ✓ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (DW)
- ✓ Book Smiles Book Collection & Community Outreach Fridays (IES)
- ✓ Giving Fridays (RES & WES)

**4**

## **Build our community through family events**

- ✓ Bingo Nights, Family Picnics, Trunk or Treat
- ✓ Spring Thing (IES)
- ✓ Family Game Night (RES)
- ✓ Craft Night (WES)

# RTSD Community Partner



Radnor Memorial Library  
Resource for Early Literacy

# Early Literacy Skills:

Learning about  
reading and writing  
before learning to  
read and write!



- **READ:** Every day! Builds background knowledge & vocabulary
- **WRITE:** Practice with LOTS of scribbling & drawing
- **SING:** Builds language skills, like hearing rhymes
- **TALK:** About everything! Builds connections & comprehension
- **PLAY:** Symbolic thinking, problem-solving, and narrative skills



# Resources

## Get

- Get a library card, no minimum age!

## Free

- Borrow free eBooks with your library card:
- Hoopla Digital, Libby, LOTE4Kids, ParentTV, BookFlix, and TrueFlix

## Ideas

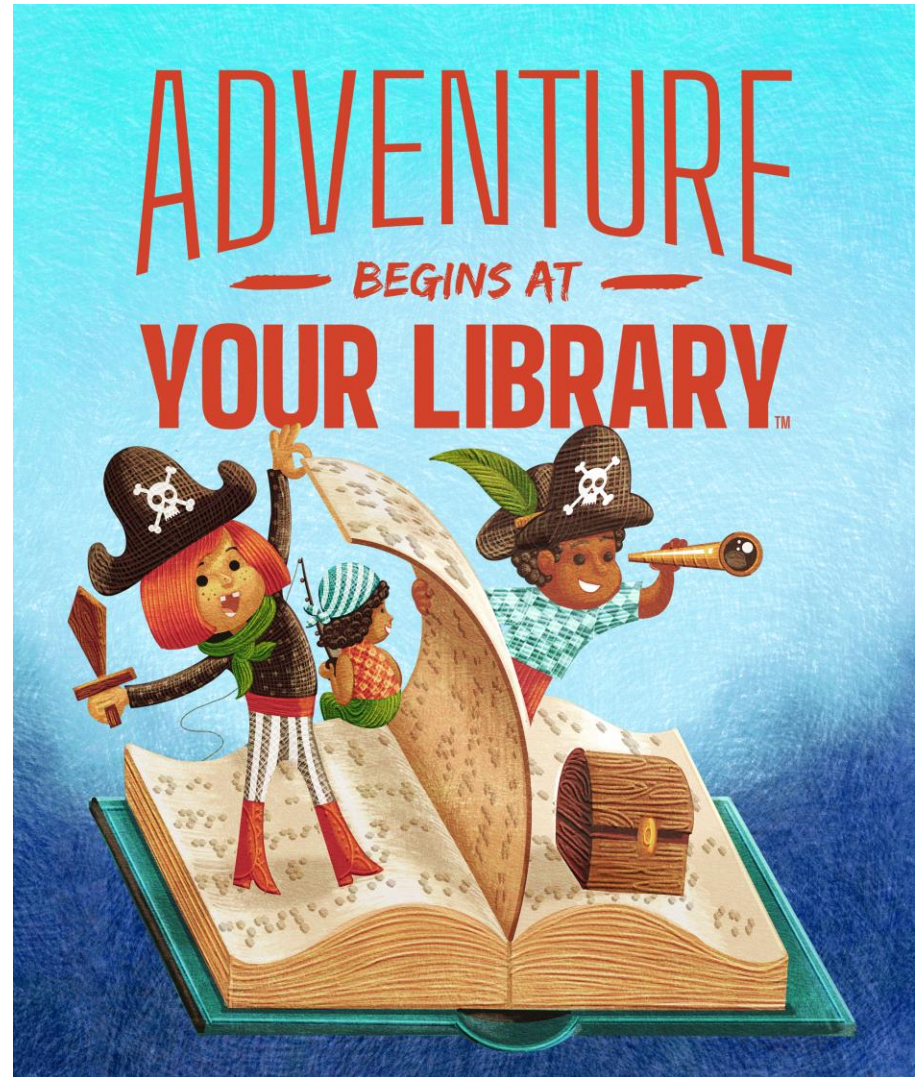
- Access all archived editions of RML's Early Literacy Spotlight, a monthly newsletter with ideas and tips.





# Kindergarten Readiness Camp

August 12-15





A photograph of children playing on a wooden floor with colorful blocks and toys. A large white circle is overlaid in the center, containing text. The background shows a child in a blue shirt and shorts, a child in a grey shirt and shorts, and a child in a blue shirt and shorts. There are blue plastic chairs and a red toy box. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Play gives children a  
chance to practice what  
they are learning.**

Fred Rogers

The Youth Services  
Department is  
always happy to  
help with book  
suggestions. Reach  
out any time!

**Carrie Sturgill**, Head of Youth  
Services

[csturgill@radnorlibrary.org](mailto:csturgill@radnorlibrary.org)

[www.radnorlibrary.org](http://www.radnorlibrary.org)

610-687-1124





# Welcome to Kindergarten