

Boardman Local School District
Kindergarten Handbook
2024-2025

WELCOME
Parents of Kindergarten Children
To Our
Elementary Schools

Welcome to the Boardman Local School District and our outstanding kindergarten program. The start of the formal educational experience is a very exciting time for both parent and child. However, getting your child ready for the first day of kindergarten is typically more anxiety provoking for parents than for the child. Fortunately, after only a few days, that worry is diminished considerably through the efforts of our skilled kindergarten teachers. Boardman's kindergarten program has long been a source of pride for our school system. Our experienced kindergarten staff is here to provide a sound educational, social, and emotional foundation for each child so that teachers in subsequent years can build upon that framework.

Boardman's kindergarten program is full-day/every day. We believe that the investment in full-day kindergarten pays dividends in later years as is evident in the success of our reading program as well as student performance on state achievement tests.

Your child's first year in school is very important. Research indicates that habits and attitudes formed in the early years have a strong influence on your child's social and intellectual development. In order to provide the best possible school experience, your child will need the guidance and encouragement of both home and school. This booklet has been prepared for the parents/guardians of kindergarten children to provide information about the goals of this early formal educational experience.

Again, we welcome you and your child to the Boardman Local School District and look forward to a strong partnership in the years to come.

Christopher Neifer
Superintendent of Schools

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

A child between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) years of age is of compulsory school age. No child can be admitted to first (1st) grade unless he or she has successfully completed kindergarten.

Registration for a Kindergarten child requires:

1. Age five on or before August 1, 2024.
2. Completion of a Registration Process.
 - A. Go to: boardman-oh.finalforms.com
(NOTE: If you already have an account, please skip to step 3!)
 - B. Locate the parent icon and click new account; follow the steps to create your account.
 - C. Locate and click the add student button.
 - D. Type in the student's legal name and other required information. Click create student.
 - E. Complete each form in its entirety and sign your full name (i.e. 'Jonathan Smith') in the parent signature field at the bottom of each page.
 - F. When all forms are complete, you will see a 'forms finished' message. If any forms are still red, you are not finished. All forms must be in green in order to enroll your child.
3. Presentation of proof of immunization and completion of the School Health Record. (Proof of your child's immunization is a physician's statement or immunization card with dates entered.)
4. Presentation of an official state birth certificate with raised seal. (If your child was born in the state of Ohio, this certificate may be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, telephone 330-743-3333.)
5. Presentation of at least two proof of residency forms, e.g. homeowner's tax statement, voter registration, utility bill, rent receipt. Residency affidavit and rental affidavit are needed, if applicable (for renters only).
6. Custody papers, if applicable.
7. Parents of a student identified with a disability must contact the Office of Student Services at 330-726-3411 prior to the start of school. An intake meeting must be scheduled prior to starting school for the purpose of proper placement.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

The Ohio Department of Health, under the authority granted in Section 3313.67, Ohio Revised Code, has established the following minimum immunization requirements for school children.

1. **Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/DT Tdap/Td):** K-12: Four or more doses of DTaP or DT, or any combination. *If all four doses were given before the fourth birthday, a fifth dose is required.* If the fourth dose was administered at least six months after the third dose, and on or after the fourth birthday, a fifth dose is required. Grades 1-12: Three doses of Td or a combination of Td and Tdap is the minimum acceptable for children ages 7 years and older with the first dose being Tdap. Minimum spacing of four weeks between doses 1 and 2, and six months between doses 2 and 3. Grade 7: One booster dose of Tdap must be administered on or after the 10th birthday. **All students in grades 8-12 must have one documented Tdap dose.**
2. **Poliomyelitis (IPV):** K-12: Three or more doses of IPV. *The FINAL dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday regardless of the number of previous doses and there must be six months' spacing between doses 2 and 3.* If a combination of OPV and IPV was received, four doses of either vaccine are required.
3. **MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella):** K-12: Two doses of MMR. The first dose must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first dose.
4. **Hepatitis B Vaccine:** K-12: Three doses of Hepatitis B. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. The third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least eight weeks after the second dose. The last dose in the series must not be administered before age 24 weeks.
5. **Varicella (Chickenpox):** K-12: Two doses of varicella vaccine must be administered prior to entry. The first dose must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose should be administered at least three months after the first dose. If the child has had natural chickenpox and presents a signed statement to that effect, he/she is not required to be immunized.
6. **Meningococcal (MCV4):** Grade 7: One dose of meningococcal vaccine must be administered prior to seventh grade entry. **All students grades 8-11 must have one documented dose of MCV4.** Grade 12: Two doses of MCV4 by age 16 years, with a minimum interval of eight weeks between doses. If the first dose was given on or after the 16th birthday, only one dose is required.

A record of each student's immunization status must be kept on file at the school. Parents must present written evidence of the child's immunization record during school registration. The record must be an official record from the physician's office or health clinic.

Section 3313.67 provides that pupils be given fourteen (14) days (beginning with the first day of school) to comply with immunization requirements before they are excluded from school. Unless a satisfactory waiver is on file, pupils who are to be excluded include those who have no record on file, those who were vaccinated against measles, mumps, or rubella prior to their first birthday, those who have not started their DPT/TD, polio series, MMR #2 vaccinations, and Varicella requirements, those who have not completed their Hepatitis B series, and those who have not received a Tdap/Td booster by grades 7 - 12.

OBJECTIVES OF KINDERGARTEN

1. Create a good self-image
2. Learn to use self-discipline
3. Learn to plan, work, and play with other children
4. Learn to relate to many people
5. Reinforce manners
6. Share equipment with others
7. Use and care for equipment properly
8. Learn to put equipment away
9. Listen to simple directions and learn to follow them
10. Lengthen attention span
11. Increase vocabulary and use of language
12. Learn to enjoy music
13. Form good habits of health and safety
14. Learn to make discriminations
15. Develop:
 - a. an interest in books
 - b. creative expression in language, art, music, rhythms, games, and play
 - c. an inquiring attitude
 - d. mathematics skills such as: counting to 100, recognizing numbers to 100, and printing numbers to 30
 - e. motor and perception skills
 - f. reading skills such as: recognizing capital and lower-case letters, recognizing letter sounds, recognizing short vowel sounds, and reading a Word using consonant-vowel-consonant
 - g. a feeling of being part of a group

A DAY IN KINDERGARTEN

The program will include:

1. Planning and sharing
2. Work period
3. Games
4. Music periods
5. Story time
6. Math time
7. Motor Skills: Gross Motor and Fine Motor
8. Language
9. Library time
10. Science time
11. Computer experience
12. Art time

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Before School Starts

- Visit your family physician and dentist. A thorough dental, hearing, and vision examination can spot problems that could interfere with language skill development. (Any health conditions that might affect your child's learning progress should be explained to the teacher and the school nurse.)
- Please give a copy of the immunization record to the school secretary prior your child beginning school.
- Teach your child to be safe by being sure he/she knows and can tell his/her first and last name, street address, parent names, and telephone numbers.
- These guidelines are in addition to the building guidelines found in the elementary handbook.

ALL children will be provided bus transportation to school and to home. Riding the bus helps to develop responsibility and social skills. If your child will ride the bus to school, he/she should learn:

1. To memorize his/her bus number.
2. Know your pickup time and be outside waiting for your bus five minutes prior to your pickup time.
3. To be careful boarding or leaving vehicles.
4. To refuse rides with strangers.
5. Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is safe to cross the street.
6. Follow all bus rules, including staying in your seat, facing forward, and listen to your driver.
7. Wear clothes that are appropriate for the weather.

If you bring your child to school, we respectfully request that you follow the school's procedures for student drop-off, **CHEERFULLY SAY GOODBYE, AND LEAVE**. In accordance with safety procedures, parents are not permitted to walk students to the classroom.

School Readiness:

It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) can help serve as your guide. Please visit the web address below:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Guidance-About-Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist>

Once school starts, help your child start each day right by:

1. Having had eight to ten hours of sleep during the night.
2. Eating a good balanced breakfast before school or eating breakfast at school.
3. Sending your child to school happy and free from fears. Encourage your child to do things for himself/herself, develop responsibilities, and see that they are carried out.
4. Buying clothes with simple, large zippers or snaps which your child can manage for himself/herself.
5. Appreciating the work your child brings home. It will encourage your child in his/her efforts. Please be sure that backpacks or book bags are large enough for art projects and folders.
6. Reading carefully all notices the school may send out.
7. Giving your child security, love, praise, and affection. Provide opportunities for him/her to play with other children the same age. Answer his/her questions, and take time to share his/her experiences.
8. Talking with your child's teacher, regarding any concerns you may have.

Special Services

1. Kindergarten Screening

Every child will be screened for hearing, vision, speech, communication, health, and developmental disorders. Screening could take place during the months of August, September and/or October. Those students who, in the judgment of school personnel, are "at risk" for success in school will be referred for follow-up evaluations. Parents will be notified if follow-up evaluations are needed.

2. Medical Screening

Although every child receives both a vision and a hearing assessment by the school nurse in the fall, this does not take the place of the recommended examination by a medical doctor prior to the start of school. Speech and/or hearing therapy is available for children identified as in need of this service.

3. Tutorial Services

Title I, a federally funded program, is available in qualifying buildings, for children who are not academically ready for reading readiness concepts. Eligibility for this service is based on standardized test scores.

4. **Progress Report Services** - It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians meet/conference with their child's teacher prior to the end of November so student progress can be explained and understood by all parties. A written progress report assessing specific skill development will be sent home periodically throughout the school year.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

Phase-in Days

As a result of state-mandated testing and the district's commitment to monitoring student progress, phase-in days will be utilized at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Building principals will provide families with a designated reporting schedule for all kindergarten students. The data gathered on these phase-in days will enable us to place your student in the appropriate class and provide intervention if needed.

Busing

Pupil transportation is available to all students residing in the Boardman School District. Parents are to go to the school in which their child attends prior to the start of school to look at the bus schedule which will be posted on the front door. Parents are encouraged to have pupils ride our school buses to and from school. Research has shown that riding to and from school in a school bus is the safest mode of transportation for children. Students are to be outside in the driveway five minutes prior to their bus stop time. Your child will not be dropped off if a parent is not home. There must be someone at your residence to receive your child or they will be put in after school and charged the after school fee. Rules posted on our buses are to be followed by our students. Busing in our school district is a privilege and students who do not follow the rules have the possibility of being permanently suspended from the bus. We appreciate your cooperation.

School bus transportation is the safest mode of transportation in our United States of America. Parents are encouraged to have pupils ride our school buses to and from school. Research has shown that riding to and from school in a school bus is the safest mode of transportation for children. The number of children riding our school buses also benefits our school district through state funding.

If your child is not dropped off due to a parent not being home, he/she will be returned to their home school and placed in daycare. The cost of daycare will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Please make sure alternate supervision has been arranged in the event you're not home at the time of your child's arrival home.

Parent Transport

Parents/guardians are expected to be prompt when picking their child up from school. If a parent/guardian is late, and supervision of the child is necessary, the child will be placed in the After School Care Program. The expense of this supervision will be incurred by the parent/guardian of the child. Please refer to the After School Program Handbook to determine the cost of this supervision. If your child normally rides the bus and he/she is being picked up, please send a note. No changes to students' after school scenario will be accepted after 1:00pm.

Attendance Information

With the passing of Ohio House Bill (HB) 410, there are several changes that parents and guardians should note. Please review the following:

- Students will be tracked by **hours** missed from school, not **school days**.
- A student will be considered **habitually truant** if he/she is absent for:
 - 30 or more **consecutive** hours, OR
 - 42 or more hours in one school month, OR
 - 72 or more hours in a school year.
- Handwritten parent notes are required for absences. Once a student reaches 30 hours, a medical note will be required. However, all of these absences will count toward the limits as stated above.
- Early excusals and tardies to school are considered **hours** toward absences.
 - The amount of missed time due to tardiness and early excusals will contribute to total absence hours, which could potentially cause a student to be **habitually truant**
- 1 day equals 5.63 hours

Cafeteria

The cafeteria will be open for lunch and breakfast to kindergarten children on the first day of school. Milk will also be available for those not purchasing lunch. The price of both will be announced when school returns in the Fall. Your child should be able to open prepackaged items that are brought to school as part of his/her lunch. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the school office or on-line in the Food Service section of the District's home page. No FREE/REDUCED lunches will be made available to the students unless the proper paperwork is submitted to Central Office. Parents are responsible for any amount charged on lunch accounts prior to the lunch application being processed.

It is very important that your student know his/her lunch number(#) prior to charging on their account.

**ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM
(Every Day)**

School Begins..... 8:00 am
Dismissal Time..... 2:05 pm

Elementary School Telephone Numbers

Robinwood Lane _____ 330-782-3164
Ms. Billie Jo Johnson, Principal

Stadium Drive _____ 330-726-3428
Mr. Michael Zoccali, Principal

West Boulevard _____ 330-726-3427
Mr. Al Cervello, Principal

Central Office Telephone Numbers

Office of Superintendent _____ 330-726-3404
Mr. Tim Saxton

Office of Instruction _____ 330-726-3412
H. Jared Cardillo, Director of Instruction

Student Services _____ 330-726-3411
Ms. Jennifer Scarmack, Coordinator of Special Education
Mr. Bart Smith, Coordinator of Student Supports

Transportation _____ 330-726-3408
Ms. Lisa Bryant, Supervisor

PARENTS' CREED*

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.

**Adapted from "Children Learn What They Live"
Dorothy Law Nolte*