



About Junior Kindergarten ...

Who is eligible for Junior Kindergarten?

Junior Kindergarten is a free, optional first year of school designed for students who turn five between September 2 and December 1 of 2023. Students who attend Junior Kindergarten go on to attend a full year of traditional Kindergarten the following school year. When space permits, students who turn five between June 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023 may be considered for the Junior Kindergarten (JK) program and there is often room within a few of the JK classrooms for these students with late summer birthdays. This is especially important to consider if your child did not attend a strong preschool program. *Priority is given to students with birth dates closest to the start of the waiver window.*

Students who turn five after December 2, 2023 *are not eligible* for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year. Students in this group may be eligible for the Great Start Readiness free preschool program coordinated by Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) Early Childhood Center, depending on your family's income. Children in this age group can enroll in the tuition preschool programs at Tot Spot Early Childhood Center (Miller) as well. Call Tot Spot at 810-299-3819 or visit their page on the district website for additional information.

Where is the Junior Kindergarten program held?

Junior Kindergarten is offered at each elementary school. Final school/room locations for the Junior Kindergarten program will be assigned after the initial round of kindergarten registration, as the number of needed Kindergarten classrooms determines the number of available classrooms at a school. The number of available classrooms for Junior Kindergarten is limited and is determined by the number of students the district is able to accept into the program based on Kindergarten registration. In the past the district offered 5 Junior Kindergarten classrooms.

Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten?

In general, we recommend children begin kindergarten with their same-aged peers. Therefore, in most cases, students who are turning five years old on or between December 2, 2022 and September 1, 2023 should enter kindergarten. Families of students who are near the end of that window may wish to consider enrolling their child in the Junior Kindergarten program. This is especially important to consider if your child did not attend a strong preschool program.

Students who turn five years old on or between September 2, 2023 and December 1, 2023 are considered to be in the waiver window. While these students are eligible for kindergarten, we normally suggest their families consider our Junior Kindergarten program or continue with preschool for an additional year.

If you are still undecided, you can reach out to the principal at your child’s elementary school to discuss your child’s specific needs. If you need additional days to make your decision, you have until the Junior Kindergarten enrollment deadline to do so. The deadline to apply for Junior Kindergarten is May 2, 2023.

Turning 5 on or before:	General Recommendation:
December 2, 2022 to September 1, 2023	Eligible for Kindergarten
June 30, 2023 to September 1, 2023	Eligible for Kindergarten, but if space allows, may apply for Junior Kindergarten
September 2, 2023 to December 1, 2023	Waiver window- may enroll in Kindergarten - in general, we suggest families consider enrolling their student in our Junior Kindergarten Program (a waiver will be needed for entry to either program).
December 2, 2022 or After	Not eligible for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten

Is transportation provided for Junior Kindergarten?

We are able to provide transportation only for Junior Kindergarten students who are resident students. Contact the transportation department at 810-299-3890 for your specific transportation needs.

When can I enroll for the Junior Kindergarten program?

Enrollment opens February 1st for the 2023-24 school year. The enrollment process and all required forms/documents must be completed and submitted prior to the end of the day May 2, 2023 for students to be considered in initial Junior Kindergarten placements. Enrollments received after May 2nd will be considered if/when space becomes available in the program. Here is a direct link to the enrollment webpage: [Enrollment](#).

When will I know if my child got a spot in the Junior Kindergarten program?

Our goal is that enrollments received on time will receive information that your student(s) are enrolled. During busy enrollment times, please understand that responses are not immediate. Program placement may not be finalized until mid-August.

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