

Welcome to Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten in the Verona Area School District. We are excited to work alongside you to support your child and their growth over their time with us. As we welcome our incoming Kindergarteners, we welcome students who join us from a variety of settings. Our students bring gifts, talents, strengths, and things they're working on that have been a part of their experience up to this point. Students communicate their needs and feelings in a variety of ways, and part of Kindergarten is learning helpful ways to do this, mindful of the identities our students bring with them and the many things that make each of them special and unique. The transition into Kindergarten is a big one, but it is an exciting one, and we are proud to have the opportunity to serve you.

- [-Link to school year calendar](#)
- [-Bussing information](#)
- [-Food Service information](#)
- [-Attendance information](#)
- [-Attendance resources](#)
- [-Elementary Handbook](#)
- [-Curriculum/Standards met in VASD](#)

What instruction will my child receive in Kindergarten?

- Foundational skills (phonics, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness)
- Reading
- Writing
- Handwriting
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Social Emotional Learning
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Library

Sample Daily Schedule

- 7:20am - Breakfast
- 7:30am - Morning meeting
- 7:50am - Literacy foundational skills
- 8:20am - Reading Workshop
- 9:20am - Recess
- 9:40am - Math Workshop
- 10:50am - Lunch/Recess
- 11:30am - Writing/Reading Workshop
- 12:45am - Science/Social studies
- 1:20pm - Related arts (physical education, music, and/or art)
- 2:10pm - Closing circle/pack up
- 2:25pm - Dismissal

Reminder: Late Start Monday start time is at 9:25am and dismissal at 2:25pm

Spanish Two Way Immersion and Charter Schools

Sugar Creek TWI, Glacier Edge TWI, New Century, Core Knowledge, and Verona Area International School will have slightly different schedules and instruction respective to their unique charters and instructional models

Support for Multilingual Learners

Students who interact in a language other than English at home will be screened by the Bilingual Resource Teachers [BRTs] to determine if they need support in learning academic English. You will receive a notification of services if your student qualifies. BRTs consult with classroom teachers, and, based on need, may directly support multilingual students identified as English learners in their academic language development, and content learning through different strategies. BRTs also provide support to teachers who have multilingual students in their classrooms.

Students receiving multilingual services take the ACCESS for ELLs test every winter. This annual test measures each multilingual student's level of academic English and is taken until the student meets the criteria to no longer qualify for multilingual learner services. Please reach out to your school's BRT with any questions about services and the ACCESS test.

Support for Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

In August, you can expect to hear from your child's special education teacher. They will communicate with you throughout the school year per the frequency outlined in your child's IEP. The special education teacher and classroom teacher will be your main points of contact in regards to your child's education and can be reached via electronic communication, phone call, or in-person meeting. We focus on meeting the individual needs of all students and are dedicated to creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment through partnership between families and educators. Our goal is to foster independence and prepare students to thrive in a diverse global society.

If a family has educational concerns about their child who does not currently have an IEP, we have systems in place to support your child's transition to kindergarten and monitor your child's progress as the school year begins. That process will involve a partnership between you, your child's classroom teacher, and other school staff.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) & Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Students will engage in social-emotional learning through weekly [Second Step](#) lessons. This program helps VASD build a positive, inclusive culture through developing social-emotional competencies, including perspective taking, empathy, processing emotions, understanding and resolving conflicts, and building positive relationships. Students will also participate in Second Step's Bullying Prevention Unit to learn how to recognize, report, and refuse bullying. Additionally, the school social worker will teach students to recognize, report, and refuse unsafe situations through Second Step's Child Protection Unit.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) [is an evidence-based](#), tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. When implemented with fidelity, [PBIS improves](#) social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate. It is a way to create positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments where everyone thrives.

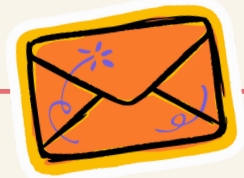
Each elementary school has established positive expectations, or norms, that reflect the shared values of the school community. [This sample teaching matrix](#) shows how schools explicitly identify, define, and teach predictable routines, positive expectations, and critical social, emotional, and behavioral skills.

Homework

Homework is not something that is regularly given in kindergarten. Students may be provided access to enrichment and practice activities that support learning they've done in school, but these are not graded. Students also have access at home to some of the same online programs they use during their school day. Weekly reading practice is the one area that is uplifted for students and their families to work on outside of school.



What communication can I expect?



Our district sends out important information and reminders regarding weather delays/closures, calendar information, and districtwide events/needs through email and/or text messaging. Your school will also send out information and reminders about school events, news, and needs through email and/or text messaging. You will hear from your child's teacher on an ongoing basis through a classroom or grade level newsletter. While you may have been used to daily newsletters in your PreK classroom, this is not common practice at elementary school level.

You may hear from other school staff during your time in kindergarten. The school nurse or nursing assistant will contact you regarding any injury, illness, or medical related needs. Office assistant staff will contact you if your child is absent and we have not heard from you. Your child's teacher/s, Principal, Associate Principal, or other school staff will contact you regarding a variety of things, including but not limited to events, updates, positive phone calls, or any behavioral issues or needs that arise.

Please update your child's school if you have any changes in contact information (email, phone number, address) so that you continue to receive information regarding your child. Our district's main website, as well as your school's website has helpful links listed right under the pictures at the top of the page (ex. Lunch menus, paying fees, accessing your PowerSchool Parent Portal).

If I have questions



➤ If you have any questions regarding your child and their school experience, your child's teacher/s will be your best point of contact. From there, your child's Principal or main office can be a resource you can use. Main office numbers can be found on our district's website by selecting your school on the top right, and then selecting "contact us" at the top of your school's website page. A flowchart for when to contact central office staff can be found [here](#). Our goal as a district is to follow up to all email or phone inquiries within 24 business hours.

[Getting Ready for KG \(English\)](#)

[Getting Ready for KG \(Spanish\)](#)

[Countdown to KG \(English and Spanish\)](#)

WELCOME TO
kindergarten



**Verona Area
School District**

