

## Kindergarten Launch Academy

### What is Kindergarten Launch Academy?

**Kindergarten Launch Academy (KLA)** is an alternative to starting traditional kindergarten. KLA is designed for young learners and provides students with a foundational year before attending a standard kindergarten classroom.

### Who is eligible for Kindergarten Launch Academy?

- **Traditional Kindergarten Age Criteria:** Students must turn 5 by September 30
- **Recommended KLA Age Criteria:** Students considered young compared to their classmates with a late spring or summer birthday between May 1 & September 30.
- KLA Students must meet the registration requirements established for all Parma City School kindergarten students and complete online registration.

### What is unique about Kindergarten Launch Academy programming?

- Students who are enrolled in KLA will complete two years of kindergarten.
  - Year 1: Full-day KLA classroom
  - Year 2: Full-day traditional or STEM kindergarten classroom
- Students are coded as retained after year one and will be listed as a kindergartener for two school years.
- Students will participate in state-required Kindergarten assessments. Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will only occur in year 1 (KLA). They will participate in district Literacy benchmark test assessments in both years.

### Where is Kindergarten Launch Academy located? Is bus transportation provided?

- Student enrollment at one of the three locations is based on the PCSD home school.
  - Click [HERE](#) for the home school boundary designation map.
- Bus transportation is *not* provided to KLA students unless the student's assigned school is their KLA program site and the student lives more than 2 miles away from the school.

Green Valley	Green Valley and Dentzler students
Thoreau Park	Thoreau Park & John Muir students
Ridge-Brook	Ridge-Brook & Pleasant Valley Students

### What is the calendar and schedule for Kindergarten Launch Academy?

- ★ Students follow the PCSD district calendar and participate in elementary building activities.

- ★ Students adhere to a typical kindergarten schedule, including lunch, recess, and encore classes (Art, Music, and Physical Education).

### What do students experience in Kindergarten Launch Academy?

- ★ With KLA, students have extended exposure to Ohio's Kindergarten Standards:
  - Phonological awareness, letter names/sounds, vocabulary
  - Number sense/counting, patterns, and problem-solving
- ★ Students engage in explicit fine motor skills practice: cutting, coloring, handwriting
- ★ Daily hands-on and play-based learning opportunities enhance students' social and self-regulation skills, empathy, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication.

### Is KLA a good fit for my child?

Our traditional kindergarten classrooms are equipped to support the varied needs of all learners. We have interventions, support staff, and enrichment opportunities for all kindergarteners. Regardless of your child's needs, we are ready to meet them where they are and help them grow.

KLA is an alternative option that families may choose for young kindergartners. Overall, feedback from families and staff indicates positive reactions to KLA, especially for students without preschool experience or a structured daycare setting. KLA student data shows social and emotional growth and significant academic improvements. Over the years, some families have expressed concerns that their child would have been successful in a typical kindergarten classroom, and they did not fully understand the two-year commitment to a kindergarten program. Parents determine if KLA is a good fit by considering if more time in a structured kindergarten setting would benefit their child.

### How do I enroll my child in KLA?

KLA is a family choice as an alternative to starting in a traditional kindergarten class. The kindergarten age criteria must be met; students must be 5 by September 30, 2025. The KLA program is designed for young kindergartners with a late spring or summer birthday between May 1 and September 30.

- First, register for kindergarten using our district's [online registration process](#).
- Attend the virtual information event on January 28, 2025, to learn more about KLA. ([flyer](#))
- Complete the KLA application ([LINK](#)).
  - KLA Applications will open for the 2025-2026 school year on January 29, 2025.
  - Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and should be submitted by April 1. If space remains available, applications may still be accepted after April 1.
  - For applications submitted by April 1, email notifications of approved enrollment will be sent on April 15, 2025.

### Who do I contact if I have questions?

For questions about KLA:

- Contact our Curriculum and Instruction Department by calling (440) 885-8316 or contacting the Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, Amy Szeremet [szerejeta@parmacityschools.org](mailto:szerejeta@parmacityschools.org)

For questions about online registration:

- Contact our Registration and Enrollment Office by calling (440) 885-8334 or contacting the Administrative Specialist, Jennifer Nance [nancej@parmacityschools.org](mailto:nancej@parmacityschools.org)