



2025-2026
KINDERGARTEN
HANDBOOK

Welcome to District 62





Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

On behalf of our entire staff here in District 62, we are thrilled to welcome you and your family to our learning community.

Kindergarten is an important time in a child's life, filled with growth and discovery. Our school district has many caring staff that will be present and available as you take your first steps here with us in kindergarten.

As you begin this new chapter with your child, we want to share essential information in this handbook which we hope will serve as a resource to ensure a smooth transition here with us. Please take a moment to review it, as the information contained outlines our curriculum and expectations.

I encourage you to stay involved in your child's education. Be present and communicate with your child's teacher, so that we can foster that critical partnership between school and home. Together, we can create a positive and nurturing learning environment.

Our team remains committed to supporting your child's social, physical, emotional and academic well-being. I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge our amazing community and business partnerships. These partnerships are nothing short of enriching and truly make a difference in the lives of children.

I look forward to meeting our new families and students this fall. Kindergarten is such a formative time in a child's life. It is our honor and privilege to support your child and family here in Community Consolidated School District 62.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Amadei". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "A".

Michael Amadei, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

General Information

What Time Should My Child Be At School?

9:00AM – 11:30AM — AM Kindergarten

1:00PM – 3:30PM — PM Kindergarten

1:00PM – 3:15PM — PM Kindergarten (Mondays)

Iroquois Community School (ICS) Schedule:

8:00AM – 10:30AM — AM Kindergarten

12:15PM – 2:45PM — PM Kindergarten

12:15PM – 2:30PM — PM Kindergarten (Mondays)



Special Education Services

We are committed to educating all students in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). This means that students with disabilities learn alongside their peers without disabilities as much as possible, based on their individual needs. When determining services, we focus on what works best for each student. Our flexible approach allows students to access different learning environments throughout the day, including general education classrooms, general education with support, special education classrooms and resource services. We are here to ensure every student has the support they need to succeed. Contact the school if you would like more information.

Extended Day Kindergarten Program

District 62 offers a tuition-based Extended Day Kindergarten (EDK) program. EDK is an extension to the regular kindergarten program that allows students to participate in a full day educational program to further build readiness skills for a successful school experience. The EDK program is offered at the Early Learning Center (ELC) and Forest Elementary School. A bus shuttle transports students from their home school to the ELC or the ELC to their home school. All students that use the bus shuttle have lunch at the ELC. EDK is based on availability and not guaranteed.

Registration, Fees and Transportation Registration

Registration

- Each spring, kindergarten registration is planned for children who will attend kindergarten in the fall.
- Families/guardians are required to provide the following:
 1. The original birth certificate of the child.
 2. Three proofs of residency within the boundaries of District 62.
 3. A completed physical examination form with current record of immunizations is due by the first day of school, if not presented at the time of registration.
- Notice of assignment to morning or afternoon class will be communicated to you by your school, prior to the first day of attendance.
- A conference prior to the start of the school year is helpful to the child, family, and teacher. The kindergarten teacher will request a conference with the family member who will be notified by mail of the appointment time.



Fees and Transportation

- The book fee in kindergarten is \$78.00 and covers special school materials.
- Accident insurance is available for children. Detailed information can be obtained at your school.
- Field trips are often planned as part of the regular program. Transportation costs of such trips are determined in advance and families/guardians are notified.
- A permission form signed by a family member/guardian is required for each trip.
- Bus transportation may be available for children. Detailed cost and schedule information may be secured from your school.



Procedures

Attendance

- Your child should arrive no more than 10 minutes before the beginning of each school day.
- Punctuality and regularity play an important part in the development of your child's school habits. A note is required upon their return after an absence explaining the reason for absence.
- Kindergarten is dismissed on Mondays at 2:30pm (ICS) or 3:15pm (all other schools) to allow teachers to attend weekly staff meetings.

All students must register for each school year on the dates and at the place designated by the superintendent.

Parents/guardians of students enrolling in the district for the first time must present:

1. The student's original birth certificate. Upon failure to provide the student's original birth certificate, that school shall notify in writing the person enrolling the student that within 30 days they must provide either (1) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or (2) other reliable proof, as determined by the department, of the student's identity and age, and an affidavit explaining the inability to produce the original birth certificate. Upon failure of a person enrolling a student to comply, the school shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and shall also notify the person enrolling the student in writing that, unless she/he complies within 10 days, the case shall be referred to the local law enforcement authority for investigation.

If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the school shall refer the case. The school shall immediately report to the local law enforcement authority any affidavit received which appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content.

2. Proof of residence, as required per board policy.
3. Proof of disease immunization or detection and the required physical examination, as required by state law and per board policy.

McKinney-Vento (unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity) Eligible Students

Any child who is unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity will be immediately admitted, even if the child or child's parent/guardian is unable to produce records typically required for enrollment as per Board policy.

If you have questions, please contact the district's McKinney-Vento Liaison, Katerina Vaselopoulos, by calling 847-789-5616 or e-mail at vaselopulosk@d62.org.

In case of emergency, it is important to keep the school informed about:

- Changes in your name, address, phone number, and family physician.
- Name of person to contact in case either family/guardian cannot be reached.
- Your absence from home in the case of travel.

Health Information

Physical Examinations

In accordance with Illinois State Law:

- A child entering school for the first time shall present a compiled record of physical examinations and immunizations. **Physicals and immunizations must be completed and located in the student's school health file, or your child cannot remain in school after October 15.**
- Diabetes screening and screening for lead poisoning are required as part of the health examination.
- Skin testing is advised to determine contact with tuberculosis.

Vision Screening

Parents/guardians of students entering kindergarten, or an Illinois school for the first time, shall present proof, before October 15 of the current school year, that the student received an eye examination within one year prior to entry of kindergarten, or the school.

Hearing Survey

Individual pure tone hearing tests are given to all students in kindergarten. Parents are notified and referral to a doctor is made when indicated.

Dental Exam

All children in kindergarten must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15 of the current school year in accordance with rules adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.



Multilingual Programs

District 62 is committed to providing high quality multilingual services that value and use a student's native language and culture to accelerate the acquisition of linguistic, academic and social/cultural success in a diverse society.

GOAL: To provide students with the academic and language skills needed to meet or exceed achievement standards.

A high quality ML program should be grounded in research. Therefore, we are committed to the following beliefs:

- Enable all students to achieve high standards.
- Use native language instruction, as available, to access content area curriculum while simultaneously providing English language instruction.
- Emphasize English Language Development (ELD) and content area learning at every grade level.
- Evaluate data and make program adjustments to continually improve student learning.
- Develop higher teacher competencies through comprehensive training of all staff on extensive strategies/methodology and second language acquisition.
- Promote understanding of and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity by students, parents and community.

The ML Program has two components: English Language Development (ELD) and Bilingual Education. ML programs and services are offered at each District 62 school.

English Language Development consists of a variety of student supports. Some of these supports include:

- Small group pull out services to support academic content and improve literacy
- In-class support by EL certified teacher to reinforce concepts
- Native language where applicable and available
- Training for all classroom teachers on teaching strategies and methods that match ML learning needs

Bilingual Education services consist of a variety of student supports. Some of the supports include:

- Literacy instruction in native language for students who are proficient in their native language.
- English Language Development to increase vocabulary and deepen understanding.

Home Language Survey

Illinois School Code requires that each school district administer a Home Language Survey to every student entering the district for the first time. The district is then required to screen the English Language Proficiency of each student identified through the Home Language Survey that reports a language other than English is present in the home, or is the student's first language.

FAQs about **Multilingual** Programs

How do you qualify for services?

Parents fill out the Home Language Survey at the time of registration. If a language other than English is reported to be present in the home or is the student's first language, the student will be screened with the state's required English language assessment, the WIDA Screener.

Can parents refuse screening assessment?

No. The state requires testing to be done per the information reported on the Home Language Survey.



Can parents refuse ML services?

If the student qualifies for ML services, parents may withdraw their child immediately from the program by sending a letter indicating their desire to the school or to the school district. However, students will still participate in the annual state mandated English proficiency assessment, ACCESS, until they meet exit criteria.

What is the English Language Development Exit Criteria?

Exit Criteria is determined by the Illinois State Board of Education. The criteria is an overall composite score of 4.8.



Kindergarten **Readiness Skills**

Kindergarten Curriculum

The kindergarten curriculum is available online at www.d62.org. The kindergarten curriculum will be provided to parents/guardians at the school's fall open house.

Before the first day of kindergarten— Getting off to a great start!

Starting school is one of the most important events in a child's life. Children who are prepared for kindergarten will have a rewarding and productive year. As a family member/guardian, you can help your child develop the skills necessary for a great start in kindergarten. The following skills are considered "readiness skills." Your child may not master all of these skills before starting kindergarten, but exposure to them will build a foundation for your child's success. The skills outlined below are divided into five different categories: social and emotional, motor skills, speaking, reading and writing, and math.

Supporting your child with social and emotional learning in school

Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success:

- Several key sets of skills and attitudes provide a strong foundation for achieving school and life success. One involves students knowing their emotions, how to manage them, and

ways to express them constructively. This enables students to handle stress, control impulses, and motivate oneself to persevere in overcoming obstacles to goal achievement.

- It is critical for students to be able to establish and monitor their progress toward achieving academic and personal goals.

Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships

- Building and maintaining positive relationships with others are central to success in school and life and require the ability to recognize the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others, including those different from one's own.
- Establishing positive peer, family, and work relationships requires skills in cooperating, communicating respectfully, and constructively resolving conflicts with others.

Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school and community contexts

- Promoting one's own health, avoiding risky behaviors, dealing honestly and fairly with others, and contributing to the good of one's classroom, school, family, community, and environment are essential to citizenship in a democratic society.
- Achieving these outcomes requires an ability to make decisions and solve problems on the basis of accurately defining decisions to be made, generating alternative solutions, anticipating the consequences of each, and evaluating and learning from one's decision-making.

continued

Kindergarten **Readiness Skills**

Developing Motor Skills

Practice and encourage the following skills with your child:

- snapping, zipping and buttoning their clothes
- controlling scissors, crayons and pencils
- putting glue onto paper
- bouncing a ball
- walking in a straight line
- sitting with their legs crossed
- climbing up and down stairs
- throwing, catching and kicking with control

Developing Speaking Abilities

Practice and encourage the following skills with your child:

- speaking in complete sentences
- asking for things that they need
- asking questions
- expressing ideas about things
- describing objects or situations in their own words
- telling a story in their own words
- continuing to speak in your home language

Developing Reading and Writing Abilities

Practice and encourage the following skills with your child:

- knowing first and last name
- knowing age and birthday
- knowing address and telephone number
- recognizing and printing first name
- enjoying listening to and responding to books and stories
- holding a book and turning the pages
- telling a story by looking at the pictures
- retelling a story with a beginning, middle and end
- recognizing rhyming words
- identifying some letters

- holding their pencil correctly
- attempting to write letters and messages that include their own name
- drawing a picture and talking about what is happening in it
- singing a song and doing actions that go with the words
- predicting what will happen next in a story
- understanding concepts of time (yesterday, today and tomorrow)
- understanding positional words (over, under, beside, in front, behind, between, middle)

Developing Math Skills

Practice and encourage the following skills with your child:

- counting objects to 10 or more
- recognizing basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle, diamond, oval)
- recognizing basic colors (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, brown, black, white)
- sorting similar objects by color, size and shape
- completing puzzles with 12 to 18 pieces or more
- identifying and making simple patterns (circle, square, circle, square)

Along with practicing the kindergarten readiness skills, you can help your child get ready for kindergarten when you:

- speak positively about school, the teachers and learning
- establish routines in your home (bed time, wake up time, get dressed, breakfast, leave for school)
- set up a study area in your home for reading and writing
- talk and read with your child everyday to build vocabulary, knowledge and thinking skills
- encourage your child to share, take turns, express their wants and needs with words, and listen to others

Healthy Habits and Safety

Healthy Habits at Home and School

The following suggestions might be helpful in aiding your child to establish good health habits:

- Encourage outdoor exercise.
- Stress the use of tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Supervise your child's choice of movies, videos, T.V. programs, and internet usage.
- Avoid over-excitement, especially at bedtime.
- Each day you keep your child home from school, please call the school.
- When the child returns to school, send a note repeating the reason for the absence and give any additional information which you feel would be helpful to the teacher or nurse.

Clothing

When purchasing clothing, parents should take care to secure apparel with simple fastenings so that the child is able to clothe themselves with very little help. Boots should be large enough so that they can manage them. Clothing and shoes should be comfortable and practical.

Labeling

All outside apparel such as coats, hats, caps, sweaters, boots, and mittens should be plainly marked with the child's name.

Money

When sending money to school, place it in an envelope and write the child's (and teacher's) name on the outside.

Safety Patterns

Safety while walking

- Walk on the sidewalk or the left side of a road facing automobiles.
- Look carefully—left then right—before crossing a street.
- Cross only at intersections and never from between parked cars. During school hours cross where crossing guards or patrols are stationed.
- Learn about and observe traffic signals.

Safety while riding

- Remain in seat and be quiet when riding.
- Be careful boarding or leaving bus or auto.
- Remember to buckle your safety belt.
- Do not lean on door handles.
- Refuse to ride with strangers.

Safety At Play

- Know own name, address, and phone number.
- Tie shoe strings, buckle boots, and zip zippers.
- Avoid throwing hard objects such as stones.
- Play in yards or playgrounds—not in the streets.
- Take turns on slides and swings.
- Avoid running and pushing on stairs and in crowds.

District 62 Schools with **Kindergarten** Classes



Central Elementary School

1526 East Thacker Street
847-824-1575

Cumberland Elementary School

700 East Golf Road
847-824-1451

Forest Elementary School

1375 South Fifth Avenue
847-824-1380

Iroquois Community School

1836 East Touhy Avenue
847-824-1308

North Elementary School

1789 Rand Road
847-824-1399

Orchard Place Elementary School

2727 Maple Street
847-824-1255

Plainfield Elementary School

1850 Plainfield Drive
847-824-1301

South Elementary School

1535 Everett Avenue
847-824-1566

Terrace Elementary School

735 South Westgate Road
847-824-1501



