

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN 2026-2027



A Guide for Kindergarten Parents



FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent of Schools

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January 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend Kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Our staff looks forward to welcoming your child as a Kindergarten student and to having you join our school community.

This handbook contains information that will help you and your child prepare for kindergarten. Please refer to page 1 for the specific dates for parent orientation and student visitation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the principal of your elementary school or Dr. James Zavodjancik, Chief Academic Officer, at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent of Schools

Fairfield Public Schools
2026-27 Kindergarten Orientation Dates

Schools	Parent Orientation	Student Visitation
Burr	Thursday, May 21, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)	Thursday, May 21, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-M) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (N-Z)
Dwight	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (A-L) 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (A-L) 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (M-Z)
Holland Hill	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (A-L) 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Jennings	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
McKinley	Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-Z)	Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-Z)
Mill Hill	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
North Stratfield	Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) Friday, May 1, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (M-Z)	Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) Friday, May 1, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (M-Z)
Osborn Hill	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) in LLC Thursday, May 7, 2026 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z) in LLC	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (A-L) in LLC Thursday, May 7, 2026 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-Z) in LLC
Riverfield	Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Sherman	Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (A-L) Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)
Stratfield	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (A-L) 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (M-Z)

Kindergarten Program

Fairfield Public Schools offers full-day kindergarten for all students. The full-day kindergarten schedule consists of five full days of school (8:55 AM - 3:30 PM except Holland Hill, 8:10 AM - 2:45 PM), Monday through Friday, starting on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Enrollment in the full-day class generally ranges from 17 to 23 students. A full-time teacher is assigned to each class, along with paraprofessional support. A formal kindergarten report card, detailing student progress and achievement, is issued three times a year in December, March, and June. This report card provides an evaluation of your child's progress.

Home-School Communication

Infinite Campus is a web-based student information system that provides parents and guardians with access to important school and student information, enhancing communication among faculty, parents, and students. It is critical for parents/guardians to log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and check the appropriate boxes (e-mail, text, voice) under the “emergency” column. Checking the appropriate boxes is the only way to ensure receipt of all notifications. If you have problems entering your activation code, received at your registration meeting, please email reghelp@fairfieldschools.org. Information regarding the bus route and the assigned teacher will be communicated from Infinite Campus approximately one week prior to the start of school.

Meaningful and timely communication between the parents/guardians of kindergarten students and their child's kindergarten teacher is a vital part of Fairfield's kindergarten philosophy. This communication may take several forms, including informative notices, newsletters, parent-teacher conferences, and student progress reports. Parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and early spring. Teachers are also available for conferences by mutual arrangement as necessary.

Please read and respond to the notices you receive from school. Often, these communications ask for your involvement in some aspect of the kindergarten program. Your willingness to be involved sends a powerful positive message to your child that education is very important. Kindergarten in Fairfield is designed to support student success, and we want you to be an informed partner in your child's educational achievement.

The district and each school will also communicate through **Parent Square**. This web-based application will provide communications from your child's teacher, principal, and any information from the district's office. More information on downloading and connecting will be provided by your child's principal.

Transportation

Children who live more than three-fourths of a mile from school will be eligible for bus transportation.

If you are uncertain if your address qualifies for transportation, you may call the Transportation Office at 203-255-8385. **NOTE – Kindergarten students are not discharged from the bus unless an adult is present or with a sibling at the bus stop to meet the child. Students will be returned to school if an adult is not present.**

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

- Teach your child his/her full name, address (including town and state), and telephone number.
- Help your child to assume responsibility for dressing himself/herself as best as possible. Label all outerwear.
- Teach your child the proper use of bathroom facilities.
- Encourage clear and proper speech.
- Help your child to be a good listener and to respond at appropriate times.
- Listen to your child and show genuine interest in what your child has to say.
- Ask questions to prompt your child to think, such as “Why do you think so?” or “What do you think that means?”
- Teach your child to develop an appreciation and respect for the rights and property of others.
- Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children to learn to share and take turns.
- Read to your child. Choose material appropriate to your child's level of development, interest, and maturity.
- Limit screen time and monitor the quality of television your child watches.

Curriculum Overview

The kindergarten curriculum includes daily language arts, mathematics, science or social studies. Kindergarteners will also participate in specials, including music, art, physical education, STEAM, and library media programs. Instruction by specialists takes place once every six-day rotation in art, STEAM, and library media. Music and Physical Education are scheduled twice every six-day rotation. A lunch period and recess are provided daily.

The kindergarten program emphasizes the development of physical, social, emotional, and academic skills. Each child will progress based on his/her individual developmental needs. Below is a non-exhaustive list of curriculum expectations for each discipline.

Art

- Learn to handle art tools such as scissors, markers, and paint brushes.
- Explore the seven elements of art: colors, lines, shapes, values, texture, space, and three-dimensional form.
- Use a variety of media, including clay, paint, cut and torn paper, crayons, markers, and glue.
- Begin to express individuality in art and appreciate the art of others.

Health

- Learn simple self-awareness skills.
- Identify and observe safety rules at home, school, play, and in the community.
- Participate in visits from the fire and police departments.

English Language Arts

- Engage in structured literacy activities that explicitly teach students a wide range of skills for reading and writing in phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, fluency, and handwriting.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of texts and genres while actively engaging in reading activities.
- Build topic knowledge and vocabulary through the acquisition of content and skills related to social studies, science, and high-interest topics.
- Retell familiar literary stories and identify main topics in informational texts, including key details, using pictures and words.
- Understand how books are organized and the basic features of print.
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds.
- Recognize and name upper-and lower-case letters of the alphabet.
- Read common irregular words and texts that feature grade-level phonics skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of letter-sound correspondences.
- Illustrate/write opinion pieces, informative texts, and narratives through the writing process with events told in sequential order.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects.
- Collaborate with peers and adults during discussions and conversations.
- Use appropriate grade grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and vocabulary when writing or speaking.

Handwriting

- Practice stroke and letter formation.
- Demonstrate proper writing position, including pencil grip and paper position.
- Print upper-and lowercase letters.
- Write numbers from 0-20.

Library and Technology

- Utilize the Library Learning Commons to select reading material based on personal interests and abilities, navigating both the library's physical and digital environments.
- Begin learning foundational inquiry skills and participate in collaborative and creative problem-solving experiences.
- Generate original ideas and products based on new learning, communicate information in a variety of ways, and create products using different media in order to express ideas effectively and creatively.
- Navigate our district's network and virtual Library Learning Commons with assistance, demonstrating responsible and acceptable use of digital technology.
- Use print resources and online applications to obtain and deepen knowledge, to create and to share learning.

Mathematics

Fairfield utilizes Bridges in Mathematics, a K-5 math program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In kindergarten, students focus on whole numbers and shapes, including:

- Count and compare numbers to 100, with a special focus on numbers to 20
 - Children will build sets of 10 using fingers, five frames, ten frames, and objects
 - Counter, order, and compare numbers
 - Write numerals
 - Using words such as more or less
- Think about joining and separating situations as addition and subtraction
 - Add and subtract from 1 to 10
 - Write equations to sum up to 5
- Sort, compare, and draw shapes
 - Explore weight and capacity
 - Estimate, measure, and compare length
- Combine shapes to make other shapes and complete puzzles
 - Explore the difference between two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes
 - Combine shapes to make new shapes and figures

Music

- Experience their singing voice to match pitches and perform a variety of songs.
- Experience the pulse/beat through moving and body percussion.
- Differentiate between higher and lower sounds, fast and slow tempo, upward and downward contour, and soft and loud sounds through moving, speaking, singing, and instruments.
- Create dramatizations, sound accompaniments, and movement improvisations for stories, rhyme, and poetry.

Physical Education

- Learn to move with purpose and develop a love of being active- understanding that movement helps one feel good, helps one's brain to develop, and benefits one's general health and wellness.
- Develop a variety of motor skills and motor patterns, including locomotor skills (running, hopping, leaping) with non-locomotor movements (body movements without travel, like bending, swaying, swinging), with directionality (forward, backward, low level), and pathways (curved, zigzag).
- Explore spatial awareness through body management activities, discovering balance, strength, flexibility, agility, control, and power.

- Engage in activities independently, with a partner, in small and large groups through cooperative and competitive games and activities with and without equipment (balls, balloons, bean bags, hula hoops, parachutes).

Social Studies

- Define “community” and understand why it is important to learn to work with others.
- Understand the importance of rules in their families, at school, and in other communities to which they belong.
- Define history and begin to understand how the past is different from today.
- Begin to understand how we use maps and globes to learn about the world.

Science

- Develop an understanding of patterns and variations in local weather and the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.
- Apply an understanding of the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object to analyze a design solution.
- Develop an understanding of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive and the relationship between their needs and where they live.
- Demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Elementary Contact Information

School	Address	Principal	Assistant Principal	Phone Number
Burr	1960 Burr Street	Dana Firmender	Michael Glasgow	203-255-7385
Dwight	1600 Redding Road	Mimi Maniscalco	Tara Hyder	203-255-8312
Holland Hill	105 Meadowcroft Road	Molly Farrell	Bret Henkel	203-255-8314
Jennings	31 Palm Drive	Anthony Vuolo	Christina Fuller	203-255-8316
McKinley	60 Thompson Street	Christine Booth	Eric Therriault	203-255-8318
Mill Hill	635 Mill Hill Terrace	Amy Yost	Rebecca Feola	203-255-8320
North Stratfield	190 Putting Green Road	Luisa Wolf	Thomas Woodard	203-255-8322
Osborn Hill	760 Stillson Road	Sean Smyth	Patricia Day	203-255-8340
Riverfield	1625 Mill Plain Road	Mary Rose Dymond	Zoe Dolan	203-255-8328
Sherman	250 Fern Avenue	Ian Banner	Nicola Callahan	203-255-8330
Stratfield	1407 Melville Avenue	Elizabeth McGoey	MaryJo French	203-255-8332

Fairfield Board of Education

Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Board Chair
 Nick Aysseh, Board Vice Chair
 Kathrynanne Flynn, Board Secretary
 Jacquelyn Bardenwerper
 Jennifer Jacobsen
 David Krasnoff
 Jason Li
 Kristin O’Neill
 Tracey Rinaldi

Central Office Administration

Michael Testani	Superintendent of Schools	255-8371
Zakia Parrish	Deputy Superintendent	255-8372
James Zavodjancik	Chief Academic Officer	255-8372
Kanicka Ingram	Executive Director of Human Resources	255-8462
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director, Special Education, and Special Programs	255-8379
Janine Goss	Executive Director of PK-12 Literacy	255-8392
Frank Magneri	Executive Director of Finance & Business	255-8383
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	255-8373

Administrative Offices

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
 Fairfield, CT 06825



Additional information is available at: www.fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources