



Northern York County School District

Kindergarten Welcome

Dear Northern York Family,

Welcome to Kindergarten at NYCSD! What an important and exciting year in the life of your child and we are honored to be on this journey together. Our Principal Team looks forward to sharing the joys of Kindergarten and what you can expect in the year ahead.

SPRING SCREENING DAY

Each spring, incoming kindergarteners participate in a brief screening experience that serves to build connection and gather data for future planning. This Kindergarten Screening Day is an important step before your child's official start. Families have the opportunity to sign up for a screening slot during the registration process or directly, via the My Conference Time link on the NYCSD website. Specifics regarding this day will be provided during sign-up.

Your child will participate in these screenings during the time slot selected:

- Speech and language (speech clinician)
- Readiness skills (reading specialist/instructional staff)

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED

The NYCSD nurse packet received from our registrar outlines the medical examinations required for Kindergarten entry and provides physical and dental forms for parent/provider completion. These documents are key to the registration process and should be returned to the school or the registrar. All forms are additionally available on the District Website.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

As you prepare for your child's entry to Kindergarten you may also wish to reference the Kindergarten Readiness information in this packet. Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to attend a Kindergarten Information Night where teachers share more about the curriculum and the year ahead. The District Registrar will provide this date during registration.

At the beginning of the school year, parents receive the Elementary Handbook which spotlights a host of important information. Please be assured, we are here to support you and we look forward to connecting with you and your student this summer.

We are so pleased to welcome you to our NYCSD Family!

The Elementary Principal Team

KINDERGARTEN SNAPSHOT: READING FOR THE START OF SCHOOL

School Hours	
Grade K – 5	9:00 AM - 3:40 PM
Children should not arrive at school before 8:45 AM	

Early Dismissal Schedule	
ALL Elementary Schools	Dismissed at 12:00 PM

2 Hour (Weather Related) Delay Schedule	
ALL Elementary Schools	11AM – 3:40 PM
Children should not arrive at school before 10:45 AM	

Lunch at School: Students have the option of packing a daily lunch (no glass containers or soda) or purchasing a lunch at school. Information on Food Service and **MyPayments Plus** can be found at this link: <https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/90>

Class Placement/Bus Assignment: In early August, families will receive a letter providing school information and teacher assignment. In mid-August, bus transportation assignment is shared with families via the Community Sapphire Portal.

Transportation: Kindergarten students are required to have an adult remain with them at the bus stop and an adult pick up at the bus stop. Please inform the school office with a written note, giving an alternate person permission to receive your child off the school bus. The note must be written and provided by the parent, not the alternate person receiving the child. The bus driver will be notified with this information. If the person is not familiar, they must show the bus driver ID when they come to receive the child at the bus stop.

Community Sapphire Portal: An important step to receiving information specific to your child is the activation of a Community Sapphire Portal in our Sapphire System. Please follow the directions provided by our District registrar to activate your account.

Ready Freddy Transition: In the spring, Ready Freddy is a free transition program that is optional for families and students to enjoy together. Families are offered five Thursday evening sessions, each focused on a different topic aimed at helping the transition to kindergarten and to promoting academic success. After registering your student, you may sign up for this transition program.

Kindergarten Open House: The week prior to the start of school, Kindergarten students and their family have the chance to meet the classroom teacher, ride the bus, explore their new school, engage with the PTO, and orient themselves in advance of the first day of school.

Back to School Night: In September, a Back-to-School Night is hosted by the classroom teacher, providing specifics on curriculum and classroom. More information regarding this event will be posted on each school website closer to the first day of school.

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN READINESS – AN OVERVIEW



Kindergarten Readiness

The parent, as the child's first teacher, has the pleasure and responsibility of interaction with the child at home to help the child be excited and prepared for his/her first formal educational experience. We are grateful for your partnership!

While no child is ever turned away if age eligible, it is of immeasurable benefit for children to have developed school readiness skills prior to beginning kindergarten. The student who has the opportunity to develop school readiness skills will have emotional, developmental, and educational advantage during his/her entrance to school.

What are kindergarten readiness skills?

Many families seek insight on the kindergarten readiness skills to work on with their child. The article, **10 Kindergarten Readiness Skills Your Child Needs**, supports families in daily activities that can be done anywhere. These are all areas your child will learn and grow in throughout their kindergarten experience:

- **Reading Readiness** - book handling skills, rhyming, word play, segmenting sounds, etc.
- **Letter Recognition** - learning lowercase, capital letters, etc.
- **Beginning Sounds** - hearing, saying, and identifying the beginning sounds in words
- **Writing** - writing of first name, last name, etc.
- **Number Recognition and Counting** - identifying numbers, one to one correspondence when counting, counting to 10, 20, etc.
- **Shapes and Colors** - learning basic shapes and colors
- **Expressive Language** - strengthening vocabulary through conversation
- **Fine and Gross Motor Skills** - (Fine Motor) strengthening the tiny muscles in our fingers: zipping, cutting, buttoning, picking up tiny objects, etc. (Gross Motor) strengthening the large muscles: jumping, hopping, climbing stairs, etc.
- **Attention and Following Directions** - building stamina for longer experiences, building capacity for 2+ directions, etc.
- **Social Skills** - turn taking, contributing to conversations, using words over actions, etc.

What can I expect during the kindergarten registration process?

The Northern York County School District website assists families with instructions and vital paperwork. Please visit the NYCSD website - Kindergarten Registration Tab for more information.

What does the Northern York County Kindergarten Program involve?

Northern York County School District offers a full-day Kindergarten Program that centers on structured learning and play. The District philosophy comes with a focus on integrated play, exploration and learning through authentic application. Modifications to the District approach were made due to the health and safety requirements currently in place.

Must I send my child to kindergarten just because he/she is five (5) by September 1?

Northern York County School District offers a full-day Kindergarten Program for students who turn 5 years of age before September 1 of the given school year. No early entry exceptions.

With this however, it is not mandatory for students age 5, to start Kindergarten. Families have the best insight on whether another year before enrolling in Kindergarten would be beneficial for their child. It is important to note that once a student attends school, compulsory attendance is required.

Our Northern Partnership

It is always so wonderful when an adult takes an interest in providing the best educational opportunities for a child. The least the school can do, as an educational entity, is provide interested families with appropriate goals and activities for children that will help make a successful start to the formal school process.

Adults looking for information, regarding a successful start to kindergarten at Northern York County School District, can use the information provided in this document, and at the District Website, to answer questions, guide children, and help the family become excited about a future school-home relationship.



Northern York County School District

Kindergarten Speech & Language and vision Screenings

Dear NYCSD Family,

Welcome to Kindergarten! One of the safety nets of our Kindergarten Program includes a speech and language assessment for all incoming students. Your child will be screened by a district speech and language clinician in the first few weeks of his/her kindergarten year.

This brief screening will assess the student's current receptive and expressive language skills, including basic concepts, following simple directions, and retelling in sentences, a short story.

Your child's articulation skills will also be assessed. At this point, your child should be understood by others when speaking. Most speech sounds should be produced correctly apart from /r/, vowel - r, /th/, /s/, /sh/, and /ch/ sounds. These sounds are developmental, and they are not a concern if not produced correctly by your child at this time.

As a result of the screening, should your child need further consideration, he/she will be checked again in late-fall of the new school year. At that time, it will be determined if a complete Speech and Language evaluation is recommended and if so, a Permission to Evaluate form will be sent home for your written consent.

In addition to a Speech and Language screening, your child will participate in a Vision Screening upon entry to Kindergarten. To assist your child in preparing for this screening, please review the pictures below so that your child understands what each picture represents. Some of the pictures could be confusing for your child because items, such as the telephone, have a new look.



Telephone



Birthday Cake



Horseman



Jeep

From these screenings, should any next steps be required, the school speech and language clinician and/or the school nurse will reach out to you with information specific to your child. We thank you for your partnership this year.

With appreciation,

The Elementary Principal Team



Self Help Skills to Practice for Kindergarten

- Can state full first and last name
- Can communicate basic needs such as "My belly hurts" or "I need to go to the bathroom"
- Knows body parts
- Understands privacy and needs to close the bathroom door
- Can adjust clothing before and after toileting
- Knows how to use toilet paper and wipes without assistance
- Can flush the toilet
- Can wash and dry hands independently
- Can change clothing after spills and accidents
- Can put on coat and zip independently
- Can blow nose independently
- Covers mouth when coughing
- Able to use eating utensils

* Please keep at least 1 change of clothing in backpack at all times

Please Communicate to the school, the following:

- Toileting issues
- Health fears (sight of blood, taking medication, etc.)
- New medications or diagnoses

Don't Wait to Vaccinate Your Children in PA

Revised March 10th, 2023

Pennsylvania school rules for vaccinations have been updated, and the grace period for students to be up to date on immunizations essentially has shrunk to the first week of school. After that, they can be sent home until they comply.

Vaccines protect children against multiple serious diseases, including whooping cough, polio, and measles, which can require hospitalization and be deadly, especially in young children.



Starting this August, on the first day of school, students who are not current on their vaccinations have five days to catch up or have a written plan signed by their doctor or other qualifying health professional outlining when the vaccinations are scheduled. Students who don't meet the deadline can be sent home until they vaccinate or have a plan in place. School administrators must review such a medical plan every 30 days to ensure the child is in compliance.

Previously, Pennsylvania students had an eight-month grace period to meet vaccination rules. State health officials said that long period made unvaccinated children vulnerable during an outbreak of an illness such as measles, and it put children who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons at greater risk of contracting an illness.

For attendance in all grades, children need the following:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis* (1 dose on or after the first birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)**
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella***
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox) or evidence of immunity

**usually given as DTP or DTap or, if medically advisable, DT or Td*

***A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose*

****usually given as MMR*

For attendance in 7th grade

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7th grade

For attendance in 12th grade

- 1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at age 16 or older that shall count as the 12th grade dose

What's new?

New requirements this year are a fourth dose of the polio vaccine, a second dose of Tdap in seventh grade and, for seniors, an extra dose of the MCV.

Parents retain the ability to exempt their children from immunization requirements based on medical reasons, religious beliefs, or a strong philosophical, moral, or ethical conviction. A signed waiver is required.

For eligible residents, vaccinations are available year-round at state health centers and county/municipal health departments. Find one near you on this [searchable list](#).

For a detailed explanation of the vaccination rules, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health's [website](#).