

Starting Kindergarten at Riverview: A Parent Timeline & Survival Guide

Welcome to Kindergarten at Riverview!

If this is your child's first time entering public school, you're not alone—and if you've found yourself waiting for information and wondering *"Shouldn't we know more by now?"*, you're also not alone.

Many families expect a steady stream of communication starting months before kindergarten begins. In reality, much of the detailed information doesn't arrive until late summer, sometimes just weeks or even days before school starts. That quiet period can feel unsettling, especially if this is your first experience navigating a public school system.

This guide was created by Riverview parents for other Riverview parents to help fill in those gaps. It walks through what typically happens from the spring before kindergarten through the first week of school, explains why communication may feel limited at times, and offers reassurance about what's normal.

You are not behind. You haven't missed anything. And you don't need to have everything figured out right now.

Our hope is that this timeline helps you feel more prepared, more confident, and less alone as you and your child take this big step together.

Spring Before Kindergarten (March–May)

What Usually Happens

- Kindergarten Round-Up to begin the enrollment process and learn basics
- Enrollment paperwork and required documents - this can be emailed, turned in at Kindergarten Round-up or dropped off at anytime before school starts
- Enroll in JCPRD Out-of-School-Time (OST) programs on **April 13th** if you require Before and/or after school care
- Initial confirmation emails
- Kindergarten Screening - You should have been contacted for scheduling

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) - Link will be emailed to you or you can complete during the screening process
- School supplies kits available for purchase through [1st Day School Supplies](#)

What Parents Can Do

- Bookmark this website and watch for 2026-27 school year information: [Kindergarten Round Up - Riverview Elementary](#)
- Complete the Roundup Information Form when it's published so the school has your contact information.
- Watch for an email with information about the Round Up, including enrollment forms you can complete beforehand. The school fees aren't due until the start of school.
- Gather required information (a copy of the child's birth certificate, copy of immunization records, and proof of residency) to take to the Round Up in March.
- Watch for an email in March/April with a link to sign up for Incoming Kindergarten Student Screening in May and complete the screening questionnaires beforehand. This email will also have information for parents to complete the ASQ(Ages and Stages Questionnaire)
- If you require BEFORE AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL CARE, REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 JCPRD OST OPENS **APRIL 13 @ NOON!!** Follow instructions on the [Main Website for DeSoto](#). Space is limited and will fill up on day 1 of registration, so set an alarm/calendar appointment if you want to utilize this program. JCPRD is closed on holidays and large breaks, but will open for some other dates, like professional learning days and parent/teacher conferences.
- Follow USD 232 on Instagram and Facebook & Riverview Elementary PTA on Facebook. There is typically a group setup just for the grade at Riverview, for example "RE Class of 2040" that is typically run by a PTA member with older siblings so they know the ropes. They repost information from the school and PTA. The FB site is also where people set-up outside events, sports teams, and other activities for fun and social gatherings for students and families.

A quick playground note

Kindergarten Round Up is often the first chance for kids to explore the playground together and it can be a little busy! You'll see children of many ages, from toddlers to older siblings, all excited to try everything at once.

Parents of younger children may want to stay close during this time. A little awareness goes a long way, and things usually settle quickly.

Early Summer (June)

What's Going On Behind the Scenes

- Staffing and class balancing
- Enrollment changes
- Planning for fall

Why Communication Is Quiet

- Many details depend on final enrollment
 - Staff may be on modified schedules
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Mid–Late Summer (July)

What Usually Happens

- Online registration opens
- Access to Skyward portal and app - See SkywardQ Insert
- Fund meals, pay school fees, and register and pay for bus service - See eFunds insert
- Get school supplies

What Parents Can Do

- **SkywardQ Registration:** Watch for an email from USD 232 about online registration. Follow instructions to register in Skyward and download the app.
- **Fee Management:** If you want to pay for fees, lunch, etc online, set up e-Funds online payments, accessible through Skyward. Find step-by-step instructions here [e-Funds](#)

[Online Payments - Unified School District #232](#). eFunds charges a fee for transactions. Paying by cash or check to the front office is still an option.

- Lunch Account: Fund your student's meal account using e-Funds in Skyward. You can set up Low Meal Balance notifications and recurring payments.
 - School Fees: Pay your district-required school fees using e-Funds. Skyward will show your balance and the due date, which is around when school starts.
 - **Bus Service:** Register for bus service in Skyward. If money is due for transportation, you will be contacted by First Student for payment options.
 - **Text Alerts:** Sign up to receive text alerts for emergency information, school closings, early dismissals, and administrative reminders here: [Text Message Alerts - Unified School District #232](#)
 - **School Supplies:** Shop for school supplies if you didn't pre-order them. You can find the list published here: [School Supply List - Riverview Elementary](#). It isn't sent out.
 - Other Helpful Tips:
 - Get your child a backpack and a spill-proof water bottle
 - Watch the Mill Valley Jr. Football & Cheer Association socials and sign up for Junior Jag Cheerleading and Football program. Other sports opportunities are communicated through the school newsletter but the deadline for this one is early!
 - Familiarize yourself with available resources here: [Family Resources - Riverview Elementary](#)
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The Week Before School Starts

This Is When Things Pick Up

- Kindergarten Meet and Greet
- Teacher assignments/class placements released
- Back to School Night - date to be announced
- Transportation details

What to Watch For

- Multiple communications in a short time, spread across platforms. All messages are pushed into Skyward in the event you miss them in your email inbox.
- You won't know your student's teacher/class assignments or bus stop details until right before the Back to School Night.
- First-day instructions and arrival/dismissal procedures.

What to Expect at Back to School Night

- Students divided into two groups by last name, each allocated about 45 minutes
- Short classroom visits to meet the teacher and learn where to put their things
- Supply drop-off if you did not order through 1st Day School Supplies

Parent Tip

- Create a folder or note just for Riverview info—it comes fast.
- Practice opening snacks! Start thinking about what snacks to send your child. They must be nut free and your child should be able to open the snack themselves. Nuts are allowed in the lunchroom. This is the same for the lunchroom. Practice opening Lunchables, Capri Sun drinks, chips, fruit cups, etc.
- Practice zipping and buttoning coats, jackets, pants and shoe tying.
- Practice with your child on self-toileting skills and washing hands.
- Practice picking up after themselves, as well as packing and unpacking their backpack

*These are all things that are new to the kinders and practice makes progress

The First Day of Kindergarten

What the Day Is Like for Kids

- Lots of guidance and repetition
- Teachers helping with routines
- Emotional ups and downs

What Parents Should Know

- You'll get to drop your student off at the exterior door on the *first morning*. You can go in, help your student put their things where they belong, and take pictures. After the first day, they will be dropped off and can walk into the school.
- Tears are common—and usually short-lived
- Teachers expect *zero* perfection

Arrival and Dismissal - See Attached Arrival and Dismissal Map

- For arrivals, the doors open at 8:30 and everybody goes in the front door (with the exception of Day 1 when parents can bring students to their classroom doors).
 - For departures, staff will be directing your kid where to go.
 - **Car Riders**: You'll be dropping off your Kindergartener in the West Loop, which is the loop that is in front of the Kindergarten classrooms, and picking them up from the Back Loop UNLESS they have an older sibling, in which case you'll drop off and pick up from the East Loop. You'll need a sign in the car with your child's name on it. Most people hang the sign from the sun visor so teachers can call back for which kids to release. There will be staff and/or students helping your kinder out of the car, so please ensure seatbelts are unbuckled to expedite the drop-off process
 - **Walkers**: Always cross where the crossing guard is located. At dismissal, a staff member will walk your Kindergartener out to the flag pole, but don't look for them to come out first! The older kids that can walk without an adult come out first. However, if your Kinder has an older sibling in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade, they will walk out with their older sibling in the first group.
 - **Bus Riders**: There will be a staff member greeting your child as they are dropped off in the West Loop. A staff member at the front will watch for their bus and send them out when it arrives.
 - **JCPRD**: The cafeteria is the main space, with access to the gym, outdoor playground, and other spaces if needed. Using the side door directly into the cafeteria, students can be dropped off as early as 7:00am and must be picked up by 6:00pm
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Other Important Information

- **Reporting Absences:** There are several ways to report an absence and any one of these methods will suffice (please note: not reporting an absence will result in an unexcused absence):
 - You can call the school's Attendance Line (913-441-0808, menu option 1) and leave a message. You'll report your name, your student's name, the reason for the absence, and any symptoms if illness is the reason for absence.
 - Use the online form. [Riverview Report an Absence - Riverview Elementary](#).
 - Email your child's teacher and/or the front office (nsturdy@usd232.org and jettie.carter@usd232.org).
 - Submit the absence in Skyward under the attendance tab.
- **Going Home Changes:** Going home changes must be **reported before 3pm on the day of the change**, call the school and select option 2 to leave a message with your name, your child's name, and how they'll be going home. If for any reason the change is after 3pm, you'll need to speak with someone in the office, 913-441-0808, select option 0. You can also email the front office with changes: jettie.carter@usd232.org and nsturdy@usd232.org. Changes can be as needed or changed going forward (i.e., if they are a walker and the weather is cold, etc.).
- **Early Check-Out:** While it is not necessary to notify us if you plan to check your student out early, we absolutely do not mind the heads-up so we can have them ready. You can report an early check-out on the Going Home Change line (913-441-0808, opt 2), emailing your child's teacher and the front office staff (jettie.carter@usd232.org and nsturdy@usd232.org), or giving the front office a call (913) 441-0808, opt 0.
- The PTA maintains teacher wish lists and staff favorites on their website [Riverview PTA](#).
- Riverview has a [nut-free snack list](#) for parents. This list is for providing pre-approved party treats and birthday treats.