



The Kindergarten Forum: Welcome to Kindergarten!

Carlynton School District

March 11, 2026



Opening Remarks

Dr. Jeff Taylor,
Assistant Superintendent



Kindergarten Teacher Introductions

Dr. Jeff Taylor,
Assistant Superintendent

Carnegie Kindergarten Team:

Mrs. Fekety, Mrs. Price, Ms. Roadway

Crafton Kindergarten Team:

Mrs. Helfrick, Mrs. Alex, Mrs. Dzurko

Kindergarten Readiness Resources

Dr. Jeff Taylor

- Drawstring bag
 - Storybook
 - Bookmark and Pencil
 - Safety Scissors
 - [Volunteer clearance information](#)
 - [Registration information](#)
 - [Kindergarten readiness FAQs](#)





Kindergarten Readiness Assessments

When, Why, Where, How?

Dr. Jeff Taylor,
Assistant Superintendent

What Can I Do To Prepare My Child For Kindergarten?

Mrs. Fekety, Carnegie

- Print Knowledge
 - Book handling
 - Identify basic features of print
 - Associate some letters with their names and sounds
- Math
 - Know number names to 10
 - Rote count up to 20
 - Differentiate numbers from letters
- Expressive and receptive language
 - Participate in a group conversation
 - Follows directions



What Can I Do To Prepare My Child For Kindergarten?

Mrs. Fekety, Carnegie

- Go to the Carlynton website for the Kindergarten Readiness Standards or click the link below:
 - [Kindergarten Standards](#)
- Toilet Trained – what does this mean?
 - Students must be independent in the restroom.
 - Students are not permitted to attend wearing pull ups or diapers unless there is a special need or medical need in which documentation would be required.

What Can I Do To Prepare My Child For Kindergarten?

Mrs. Price, Carnegie

Social and Emotional Readiness

- Self-Awareness and Self-Management
 - Manages Emotions and Behaviors
 - Resiliency
- Establishing and Maintaining Relationships
 - Trust and Attachment
 - Communication
 - Managing Conflicts
 - Asking for Help
- Decision-Making and Responsible Behavior
 - Interpreting the consequences of choices



Fostering Independence

Mrs. Price, Carnegie




- Zipper and Button Coats
- Shoes and Boots
- Lunchboxes
- Bathroom



Reading with Your Child

Mrs. Helfrick - Crafton

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Frey and Krashinsky, 1992)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

The ELA Curriculum

Mrs. Helfrick - Crafton





A Typical Day in Kindergarten

Mrs. Dzurko - Crafton

Morning Meeting/Calendar Math

Lunch/Recess

ELA

Social Studies and Science

ELA/Math Centers

Small Groups/Partner Work

Math



Brain Breaks/Snacks

Computer Time

Read Alouds



The Specials Classes

Mrs. Dzurko - Crafton

- PAWS
- Art
- Computer Technology
- Physical Education
- Library/STEAM
- Music





Lunch Questions

Dr. Roberto

- **Opening Items for Lunch**
 - There will be staff on hand to assist your child open things when necessary.
 - Practice opening items at home to help foster your child's independence.
- **Free lunch**
 - Carlynton School District is pleased to announce their participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in all Carlynton schools for the 2026/2027 school year. This provision allows the District to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all enrolled students during the school year. Families with students who attend the District do not need to complete a free and reduced meal application.
- **Food Allergies** must be reported to the nurse. Peanut free areas are provided in each school cafeteria.
- **Free Grab and Go Breakfast** is offered if students would like to grab breakfast when walking into the building.





Lunch Questions, Continued

Dr. Roberto

Adding money to your child's account for buying extra snacks

- Create a [My School Bucks](#) account to track your child's account balance as well as his/her spending and eating habits
- Use the [My School Bucks](#) account to prepay your child's cafeteria account.

Follow these simple steps to register for the service:

- Click on the link; once the MySchoolBucks site opens, click on "Sign Up Here"
- Create your account by inserting your child's name, their six (6) digit student ID (retrieve this by calling the Food Service Department at 412-429-2500, ext. 1118)
- Enter the school's zip code: 15106
- Click "Finish" to complete the initial registration process



First Day of School

Dr. Franczyk

- Staff will be positioned throughout the school to assist your child to their classrooms.
- For safety purposes, you are not permitted to walk your child to their classroom.
- We will hold a Kindergarten Welcome Back event at each building (dates TBD) for students that will allow your child the opportunity to learn their way around the building and meet the teachers.
- Your child should bring a backpack on the first day of school along with a change of clothes.
- Bathroom breaks will be taken throughout the day as needed.



Dismissal

Dr. Roberto

- Transportation information will be mailed to you.
- Students will wear a tag/lanyard for the first few weeks of school to ensure everyone gets to the correct bus.
- School staff will be stationed at each bus with a clipboard to check your child's name off for the first few days of school.
- An adult must be at the bus stop to meet a kindergarten-aged student. There are no exceptions.
- Have your child follow the same dismissal routine on the first day of school. Avoid doing something special on the first day.



District Contact Information

Dr. Franczyk

Building Principals:

- Carnegie: Dr. Franczyk
- Crafton: Dr. Roberto

Transportation Questions:

- Amy Jenkins, Transportation Coordinator
- 412-429-2500 ext. 1107

Food Service Questions:

- Ryan Racicot, Food Service Director
- 412-429-2500 ext. 1118

Health-Related Questions – Building Nurses:

(Contact the nurse to discuss any medical conditions or food allergies)

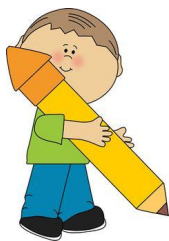
- Crafton Nurse's Office: 412-429-2500 ext. 4380
- Carnegie Nurse's Office: 412-429-2500 ext. 3308



Clearances and Important Dates

Dr. Roberto

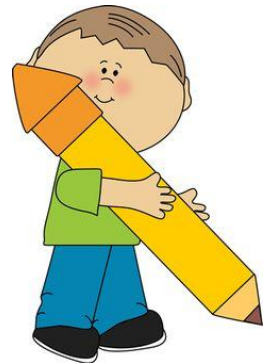
- **Upcoming Events (Dates TBD)**
 - Kindergarten Welcome Back Event
 - Kindergarten Staggered Start / First Day of School for Kindergarten
 - Meet the Teacher Night
- **Clearances**
 - How do I obtain the proper clearances?
 - Visit www.carlynton.net > Menu > Our District > Volunteers
 - Follow all of the directions listed.
 - Make sure to complete the online intent form.
 - A copy of your clearances must be turned into the school office.
 - Completed paperwork will be reviewed and approved on the 15th and 30th of each month via the office of the Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeff Taylor.



Keeping Informed

Dr. Franczyk

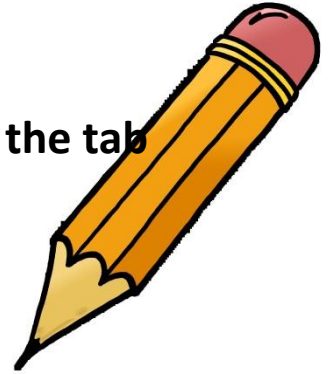
- **Cougar Connection (bi-weekly email)**
- **PowerSchool**
- **District Website**
- **District Facebook Page**
- **District e-Blasts**
- **PTA Emails & Letters**



Kindergarten Registration

Dr. Jeff Taylor

- **Starting March 1, 2026, visit www.carlynton.net >Registration (from the tab on the home screen)**
 - Complete the pre-registration steps online and submit form.
 - Schedule your in-person registration appointment, if needed.
 - Bring required documentation to the registration appointment.
- **Register Your Child Early!**
 - Per School Board Policy 205, children who are not registered to attend school by June 1, may be assigned to a district building outside of their attendance area.
- **Additional information**
 - All incoming kindergarten students will participate in a kindergarten readiness assessment in order to provide parents and teachers with readiness information about the child.
 - Students must be 5 years of age before August 15, 2026, to be enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year. Students who turn five years of age in August and seek admission to kindergarten shall take a kindergarten readiness assessment.



Stations in Gymnasium

Registration Table

Nurse's Information Table

School Psychologist / Speech Teacher Table

Crafton / Carnegie Principal Tables

Crafton / Carnegie Teacher Tables

Crafton / Carnegie PTA Tables

School Counselor Table

Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts Tables

Boys and Girls Club

WQED Education

