

Kindergarten: Building A Firm Foundation for the Future

Kindergarten! The very word conjures up images of oversized pencils, gooey white glue, posters of the alphabet and flashcards for counting to 100. And who can forget the waxy smell of a fresh box of crayons? Kindergarten is an essential year for building the foundation for your child's education experience, and we believe children will learn more, grow more, and achieve more in a Cherokee County School District classroom than they could anywhere else! **CCSD offers full-day kindergarten at all of its elementary schools. If your child will turn 5 years old on or before September 1st, he or she is eligible for enrollment for the 2026-27 school year.**

Your child's kindergarten teacher will utilize a variety of education strategies to fill your child's day with a structured approach to learning, such as hands-on centers, small group or self-directed activities, as well as journaling and story time, transitioning frequently throughout the day to keep young students engaged and on task. Technology is integrated into the kindergarten day as well, with five networked computers in each classroom to utilize educational software in support of math, reading and other new skills under rapid development. Kindergarteners also have dedicated time each day for "specials," where they go to art, music or physical education class on a rotating basis with those specialist teachers at the school, and they have scheduled time for recess. Kindergarten students have access to the same educational amenities as older students — they have lunch in the school cafeteria, visit the media center and can take advantage of school bus transportation. An After School Program is also available on a user-fee basis.

It's an exciting time for parents and students alike, and we look forward to helping parents build that solid foundation students need to be successful through high school and beyond!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN ONLINE AT WWW.CHEROKEEK12.NET

What will my child learn in kindergarten?

A few of the skills you can expect your child to master during the school year include:



Reading/Language Arts

- Print upper and lower-case letters of the alphabet
- Associate long and short sounds for the five major vowels and recognition of initial consonant sounds
- Read common words by sight
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to narrate an event or several loosely linked events

Mathematics

- Count to 100 by ones and tens
- Write numbers from 0 to 20
- Beginning addition and subtraction
- Analyze and compare two- and three- dimensional shapes

Science

- Use tools and instruments for observing, measuring and manipulating objects in scientific activities
- Sort living organisms into groups by observable physical visible attributes
- Investigate different types of motion
- Observe and communicate the effects of gravity on objects

Social Studies

- Identify important American symbols and explain their meaning
- Demonstrate an understanding of good citizenship
- Identify the purpose of National holidays and describe the people or events celebrated
- Explain how money is used to purchase goods and services

CCSD Teaching & Learning standards for Kindergarten can be reviewed on our website at this link.

You can see all our standards for all grades and subjects on our website: https://www.cherokeek12.net/divisions/academics-accountability/ccsd-custom-teaching-learning-standards







Having A Great First Year: Expectations and Experiences

Being Involved

Parental involvement is the single most important indicator of school success; and kindergarten is the best time to start getting involved. Whether it's a regular volunteer assignment in the classroom or creating home-made flash cards to help review sight words, you are an essential part of your child's kindergarten experience.

Report Cards

Kindergarten students receive a quarterly report card showing their progress on the kindergarten standards.

Assessments

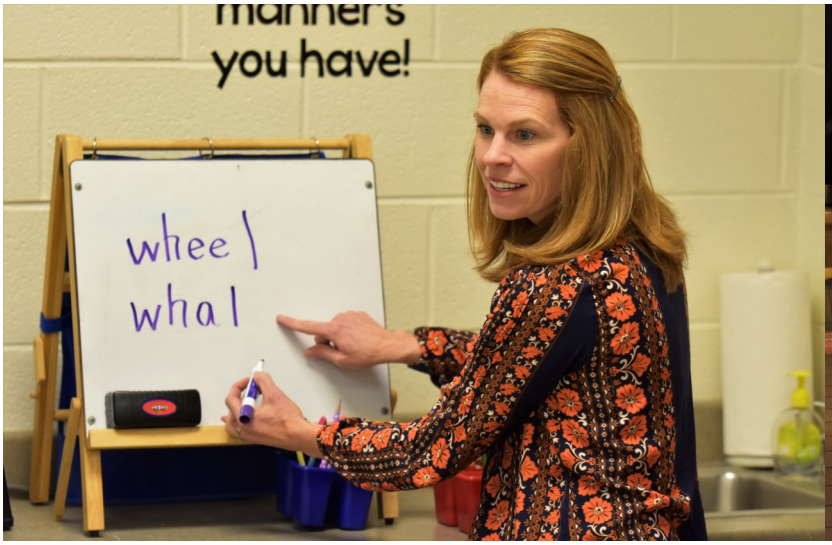
Kindergarten students are assessed using the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). It is a year-long, performance-based assessment tool that forms the basis for the report card for kindergarten. In addition to math and reading skills, GKIDS also assesses a child's approaches to learning, as well as personal and social development.

Attendance

Kindergarten students are expected to attend school each day and to arrive on time. Attendance is important, even at this early age, to be sure students are in class to learn new material. Structure and schedule are also very important to children at this age.

Teachers

All CCSD teachers are "highly qualified" (teaching in their field of certification). CCSD kindergarten teachers are certified in Early Childhood Education and many also have additional endorsements, such as reading or gifted instruction. CCSD kindergarten classrooms also have a paraprofessional shared between every two classrooms.









What documents do I need to register my child for kindergarten?

Proof of Residency

- Home owners: current property tax statement or real estate closing documents
- Home renters: lease or rental agreement and affidavit signed by property owner
- Residing in another's home: affidavit signed by the parent and affidavit signed by property owner

Verification of Parents'/Guardians' Identity

- Picture ID

Evidence of Student's Age

- Certified copy of birth certificate, certified hospital-issued birth record, passport or adoption record, or religious record signed by an authorized religious official

Immunization Certification

- DHR Form 3231

Certificate of Eye, Ear, Dental and Nutrition Exam

- DHR Form 3300

Social Security Card

- The original card is strongly recommended to ensure accuracy in student records (although its provision is not a State law requirement).

For more information on these documents, please see our website at Forms - Cherokee County School District (cherokeek12.net). The affidavit forms can be downloaded from this page as well.

Can I still register my child if I do not have all the required documents? Yes, we encourage you to go ahead and start the registration process and provide the additional documentation to the school when it is secured.





What can I expect from my child's year in kindergarten?

From CCSD kindergarten teachers:

"Your child will develop socially, physically, emotionally and intellectually in a safe and positive environment this school year. Kindergarten teachers desire for all students to develop a love for learning that will propel them to set goals, dream and believe in themselves."

"Parents can expect to see a lot of positive change in their child over the course of the kindergarten year: growth, knowledge and independence."

"The kindergarten experience will help the student develop more self-confidence and a sense of independence. Kindergarten sparks an active interest and excitement about future learning and school."

"In the first year, students will develop socially and learn how to interact with all types of students. They will develop early literacy skills and begin reading, writing and developing critical thinking skills."

"You can expect to have a reader, writer, and mathematician by the end of the school year! Your child will participate in a countless number of fun learning experiences; and he or she will make lots of friends and memories along the way!"





How should I prepare my child for kindergarten?

Getting your child ready for kindergarten should include:

- Reading to your child daily.
- Establishing a routine and schedule at home, even before the school year starts.
- Practicing fine motor skills— holding a pencil and crayons correctly, using scissors.
- Giving your child small tasks at home so they can begin to learn independence.
- Learning basic colors and shapes.
- Recognizing upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet, and numbers 1-10.
- Teaching your child to write his/her name with a capital first letter and remaining lowercase letters.
- Making sure your child can take care of basic personal needs independently, such as going to the bathroom, tying shoes, zipping a jacket.

How can I support my child's first year?

Provide support for your child and his/her teacher throughout the year by:

- Volunteering in the classroom and/or joining PTA.
- Reading school and class newsletters and checking teacher websites frequently.
- Helping your child with homework and giving positive feedback for completed work that comes home.
- Providing a healthy snack each day for your child.
- Demonstrating a love for learning at home.
- Keeping open communication with the school and teacher.
- Remember that children learn at different rates, so try not to compare your child to siblings or other students.

More resources and information on school readiness can be found on our website at CCSD KINDERGARTEN - Cherokee County School District (cherokeek12.net)







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For more information on the Cherokee County School District and its programs, please visit our website: http://cherokeek12.net/

