SVSD KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILLS

WELCOME, FUTURE SVSD FAMILIES!

As you prepare for your child's transition to Kindergarten, we're excited to partner with you for a smooth and successful start to their school journey. In addition to the Kindergarten website, this flyer outlines kindergarten readiness skills, which are skills that, on average, children develop prior to entering Kindergarten and that help support a positive start to school.

It's important to know that children grow and learn at different rates. Every child brings their own strengths, experiences, and abilities, and there is a wide range of what "ready" can look like. These skills are not requirements or expectations to be mastered before the first day of school, but rather general developmental milestones that can support your child's confidence and success.

Our Kindergarten teachers are experienced in meeting children where they are and supporting each learner's growth. We look forward to welcoming your child and partnering with your family in this exciting next chapter!

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS

- Practice taking turns and sharing.
- Encourage self-advocacy and asking for help when needed.
- Help your child recognize, name, and talk about their feelings.
- Persist with a task even when it feels challenging.
- Try new things and take appropriate risks.
- Work with your child on strategies to cope with upset or frustration in healthy and safe ways.
- Practice accepting adult redirection.
- Encourage consistent routines (such as morning and bedtime) to help students acclimate to consistent, predictable structures.
- Transition between activities with adult support.
- Engage in cooperative play with peers.
- Participate safely in playground activities (climbing, running, stopping on cue).
- Respect personal space and classroom materials.
- Practice quick goodbyes with reassurance from adults to support your child in successfully transitioning at the start of each school day.

GET STARTED

As a reminder, please complete online registration through the school district website and sign up for ParentSquare (our communication tool) to ensure you receive ongoing communication leading up to the start of school.

SELF-CARE SKILLS

- Practice independently putting on and taking off coats, backpacks, and shoes.
- Practice independently buttoning and zipping pants and coats.
- Have your child practice independently opening snacks, lunch items, and water bottles.
- Practice handwashing, covering sneezes, and basic hygiene habits.
- Practice going to places that have toilets with automatic flushers.
- Ensure your child can take care of their toileting needs and hygiene independently.

ACADEMIC READINESS SKILLS

- Follow 1–2 step directions.
- Hold a crayon, marker, or pencil with control.
- Draw simple shapes and pictures.
- Color for a short period without fatigue.
- Cut with scissors along a straight or slightly curved line.
- Sort objects by color, size, or shape.
- Manipulate small objects (blocks, beads, snap cubes).
- Read together every day to build a love of stories and books.
- Build stamina for sitting and listening for short periods (attend to an activity for 10-15 minutes).
- Encourage them to recognize and begin writing their name.
- Practice recognizing and naming letters of the alphabet, starting with letters in their name.
- Practice changing sounds in words (e.g., bat to cat), and engage in riddles and nursery rhymes.
- Practice counting to 10 and recognizing some numbers 0-10.