

Dear Parents of AJ West Kindergarten Students,

Thank you for choosing AJ West Elementary School to begin your child's journey into school. We are excited to meet all our new kindergartners and to get this year started!

To help create the most balanced kindergarten classes, we will implement a soft start during the first two weeks of school. This approach allows for flexibility in class assignments before final rosters are established. During this time, your child will have the opportunity to work with all of the kindergarten teachers in one-on-one, small group, and whole-class settings. Through structured academic and social-emotional activities, students and teachers will get to know one another. Any necessary classroom adjustments will be made during these two weeks to ensure well-balanced, supportive learning environments for the year ahead.

- September 2nd-4th: kindergartners will attend school on a half-day schedule and are assigned to an AM or PM cohort.
 - AM sessions will be from 9:00 - 11:30 am: breakfast and lunch will be served
 - PM sessions will be from 12:30 - 3:00 pm: lunch and snack will be served
- Starting Tuesday, September 8th, students will attend school full days 9:00 - 3:00 pm.
- As a school with boundaries within walking distance, district transportation is not provided for students. Each family is responsible for making arrangements for their child(ren) to get to school or for them to walk to school. For the first three Slow Start days, Kindergartners may enter school at the front doors at their assigned cohort time.
- Friday, September 11th through Tuesday, September 15th, there will be no school for kindergarten students.
 - This time will be used for WaKids Family Connection Meetings and will be scheduled by the classroom teachers.
- When you come for Open House on **Monday, August 31**, you will attend your child's "soft start" classroom. This information will be provided soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Malizia, AJ West Office Coordinator at 360-538-2130

		Sep 2, 2026	Sep 3, 2026	Sep 4, 2026
AJ West: 9:00-11:30 (AM cohort) 12:30-3:00 (PM cohort)		Students will attend a half-day of school dependent on the cohort they are assigned.	Students will attend a half-day of school dependent on the cohort they are assigned.	Students will attend a half-day of school dependent on the cohort they are assigned.
Sep 7, 2026	Sep 8, 2026	Sep 9, 2026	Sep 10, 2026	Sep 11, 2026
LABOR DAY: No School	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM	NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten WAKids Meetings
Sep 14, 2026	Sep 15, 2026	Sep 16, 2026	Sep 17, 2026	Sep 18, 2026
NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten WAKids Meetings	NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten WAKids Meetings	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM	Students will attend all day 9:00 - 3:00 PM