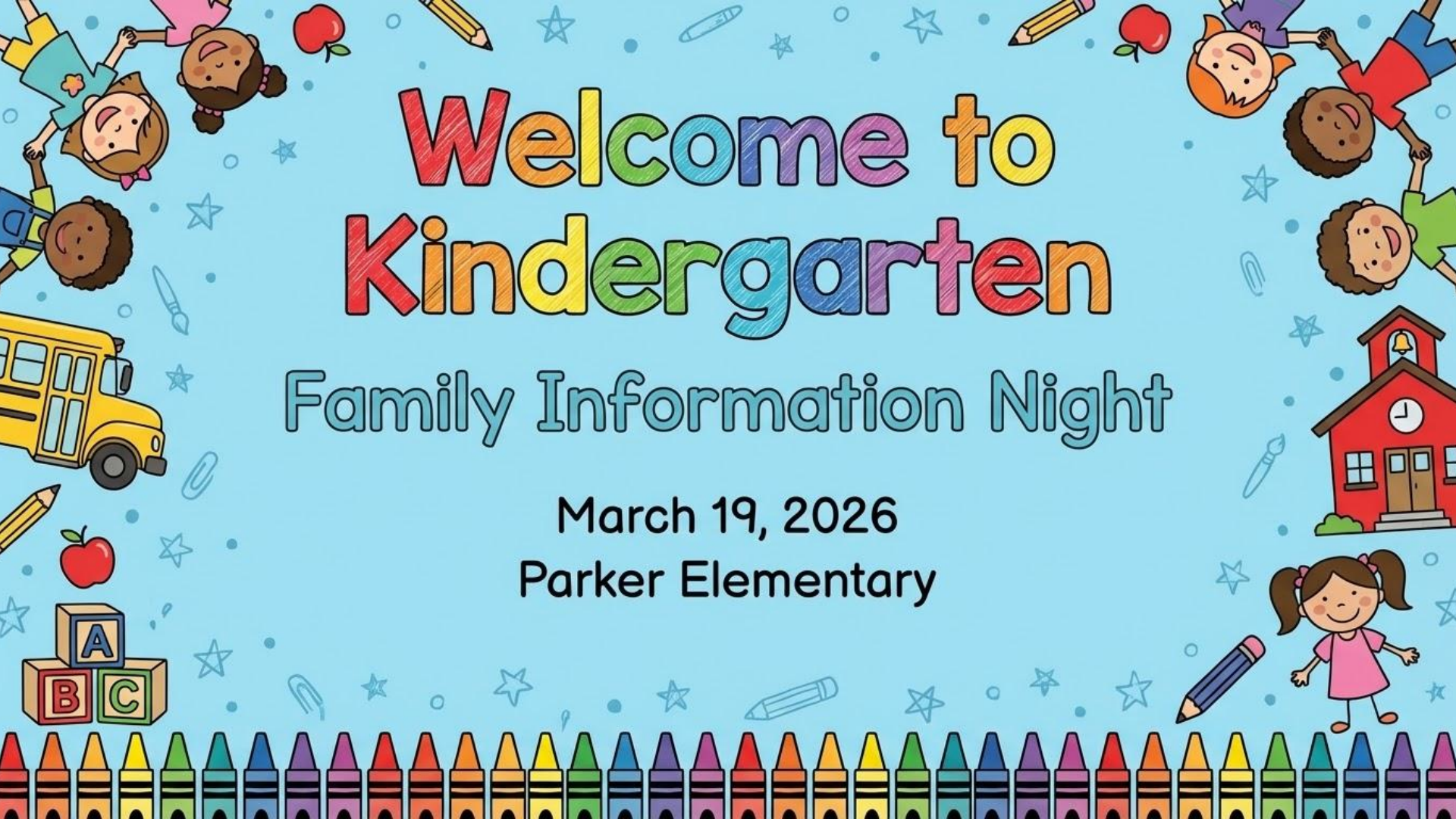

Welcome to Kindergarten
Family Information Night
March 19, 2026
Parker Elementary
A
B
C

Parker Elementary

Kindergarten Information Night

Stations to Visit

Main Office:
- Required Documents: birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization record
- Questions about student drop off and pick up
- Weekly School Newsletter: Parker PAWS; Attendance Reporting

Health Office:
- Immunizations; Health Action Plan; Medications; Food Allergies; Illness Guidelines for School

Early Ed Screener:
- Check to make sure your child was screened for Kindergarten
- If needed, schedule screening

Community Ed & EdVenture Club:
- Before and after school care; Community Education Class Offerings

Transportation:
- Bus transportation to and from school

Parker PAC & School Volunteering:
- PAC Information; Background Check Process

Important Dates To Know:
Open House: August 25th
First Day of School: September 1st
Picture Day: September 8th

School Supply List

Qty.	ITEM DESCRIPTION
1	Large backpack (no wheels)
1	Tennis shoes for P.E. (no need to be a separate pair)
2	Black dry erase markers (2 sets of 8 markers - skinny fine tip)
1	Personal wired headphones labeled in sealed plastic bag (no earbuds)
2	24 ct Crayons (skinny) - classic colors
1	2 Pocket Plastic Folder with 3 Prongs - Red
1	2 Pocket Plastic Folder with 3 Prongs - Black
16	Glue sticks (small) (Non scented)
1	Blunt tip scissors (labeled)
1	Plastic school box (5"x8") - no zippers please
2	8 ct washable markers, classic colors (broad line)
1	8 ct Crayons (skinny) for Art- classic colors
3	12 ct Sharpened #2 pencils (not mechanical)
1	Box of Tissue
1	Clear, flexible rulers with inches and centimeters
1	sticky note package
1	Pack of index card
2	Skinny highlighters (fine tip)

Appreciated but not required items: $20 donation for classroom activities payable through the School Store on the Parker Elementary website (Our School, Donate).

ISD 728 Core Values

We Believe That:



ALL people have value.



Valuing and respecting differences strengthens the individual and the community.



People thrive when they feel connected, supported and affirmed.



Everyone can learn.



Hope inspires and empowers.



Lifelong learning is essential for personal growth.



Change is an opportunity for growth.

ISD 728 Successful Learners

In ISD 728 we believe that it is the responsibility of each learner's adults, teachers, programs and systems to support learning.



- Children are always learning.
- Experiences, skills and knowledge are tied to each family culture.
- A strengths-based mindset is critical to supporting children and families.
- Adults and systems should support all children wherever they are in their learning progression.
- Diversity of all types should be celebrated.
- Instruction should be individualized and developmentally appropriate.
- School should be welcoming and joyful for all.

When is my child eligible to start kindergarten?

5 years old

ON or BEFORE



Building a Strong Parker Community

Welcoming Environment & Student Goals



Adults create warm, welcoming, and positive learning environments for academic and personal growth.

Support students in setting and reaching challenging educational goals; celebrate growth and accomplishments.

Positive Relationships & Connection



Teachers build community leading to improved behavior, engagement, and personal success.

Staff build and maintain positive and trusting relationships; unconditional connections have a lasting impact.

Intentional Community Building



Students know each other, leading to positive intent and decreased conflicts.

Class meetings and circles set aside time for students to get to know each other.

Daily connection time (9:00-9:25 AM) and community activities (9:25-9:40 AM) include Morning Meeting components and social skills teaching.

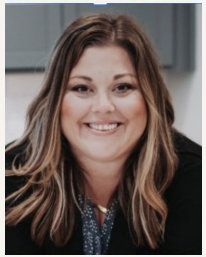
Main Office Information



Main Office



Kate Loveland
Principal



Amanda Alt
Sr. Administrative Asst.



Jenifer Rindels
Administrative Asst.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Address: 500 School Street, NW
Elk River, MN 55330

www.isd728.org/parker

Phone: 763.241.3500
Fax: 763.241.3501

School Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Student Arrival: 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

School Hours: 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Student End of Day Dismissal: 3:45 p.m.

Student Absences

If your child is absent, please call the Parker attendance line at 763-241-3555 to leave a message. Include the following information:

- Student name
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence
- Name of person reporting the absence

If your student is not in school and we have not received notice of the absence, we will call the parent/guardian. The absence is unexcused if we don't hear back from the parent/guardian.

Late Arrivals

Students who arrive at school after 9:15 a.m. are considered tardy unless the parent/guardian has communicated via the attendance line prior to 8:00 a.m.

Upon arrival, please pull up curbside in front of the main entrance and call the office (763-241-3500) for further instructions.



Early Release Procedures

Requests must be communicated in advance by calling the Attendance Line (763-241-3555) before 8:00 a.m., sending a signed note with your student, or calling the Parker Office (763-241-3500) before 1:00 p.m.

When picking up your child, pull up to the curb in front of Door 1 and call the office (763-241-3500).

Your child will be released to your vehicle once your identification is verified.

END OF SCHOOL DAY

The end of our school day is 3:45 p.m.

Students will only be released to persons listed on the emergency form unless a note is submitted to the office from the parent.

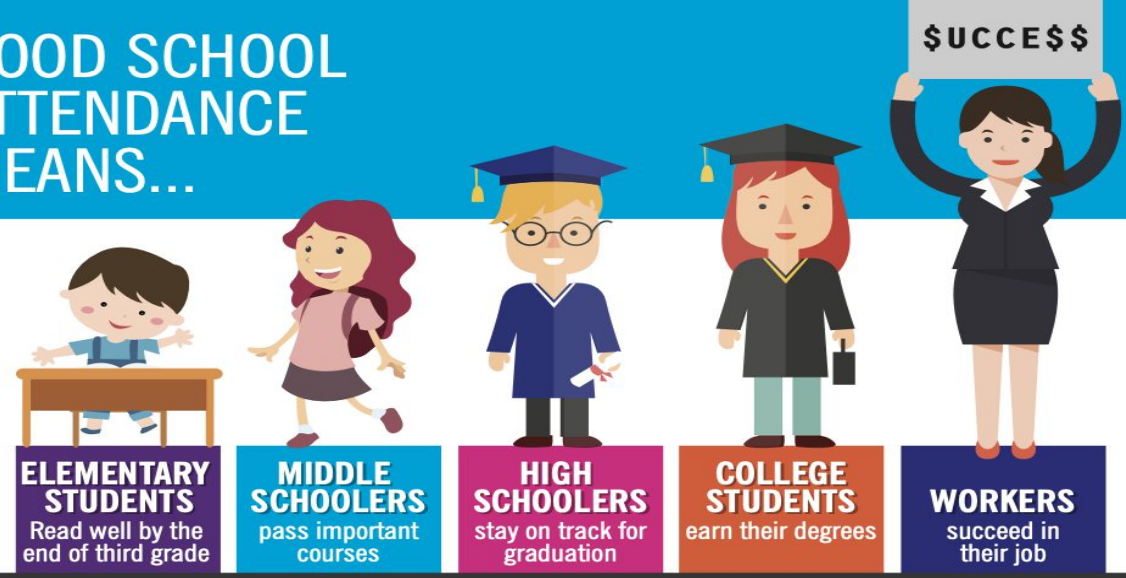
If a parent/guardian would like to pick up their child, and this is different from their regular daily transportation, you must submit a signed note to the office before 1:00 p.m. Please do not email to request a transportation change, as it may not be reviewed before dismissal.

All students with a written/signed note to the office before 1:00 p.m. will receive a "PARENT PICK UP" ticket, which they will use to exit via Door 1 (flagpole door) for curbside pick-up.

ATTENDANCE
in ISD 728

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Did you know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

What you can do

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- For additional information visit **www.attendanceworks.org**

Family Engagement Tools

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

District Connection

- Secure online access to your student's school information
  - Report Cards
  - Attendance
  - Transportation

Our District's technology won't benefit just students. You will be able to access your child's records through our easy-to-use **Infinite Campus Parent Portal.**

The Campus Parent Portal is a tool that provides real-time, secure online access to your student's school information, including online report cards.

SeeSaw

Classroom Connection

- Digital Learning Portfolio
  - Students can show what they know using a variety of tools (drawing, writing, voice recording, labeling, sorting, etc) and share with teacher to share with families
  - Build on 21st century skills - critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity
  - Main communication tool (newsletters and special announcements from the classroom teacher)

Student Drop Off Procedures

Our student drop-off procedure was set up to increase safety and to make it convenient for families, and improve the overall efficiency when dropping off students in the morning. It is vital that we are all following this process to maximize the effectiveness of student drop-off.



Drop-Off Process

- Enter via East Parking Lot, follow two lanes
- Two lanes merge into one at northeast side
- Continually pull forward along south side curb
- Have child ready to exit curbside to Door 1

Important Safety Notes

- Do not park along curb or in spots in front of Parker
- After child exits, leave immediately
- Do not park or drop off at crosswalk across from Parker
- Yield to buses and follow staff/patrol directions



isd728.org

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 728

Student Pick-Up Lane

Our Student Pick-Up procedure was set up to increase safety and to make it convenient for parents by reducing the number of parents and students walking through our parking lot or crosswalk during the busiest time of our day.

Key Procedures

Every Day Pick-Up students will receive an "EVERYDAY PICK UP" Badge that must be securely attached to the outside of the student's backpack and will exit via Door 1 for curbside pick-up.

Vehicles enter via our East Parking Lot and follow the two lanes around the perimeter of the parking lot. The two lanes will merge into one as you come to the northeast side (back) of our building.

Continually pull forward along the curb on the building's south side (front). Please display your car tag with your student's assigned number so staff members can see it.

Students must enter their vehicle in the doors closest to the curb.

For Safety & Efficiency, Please AVOID:

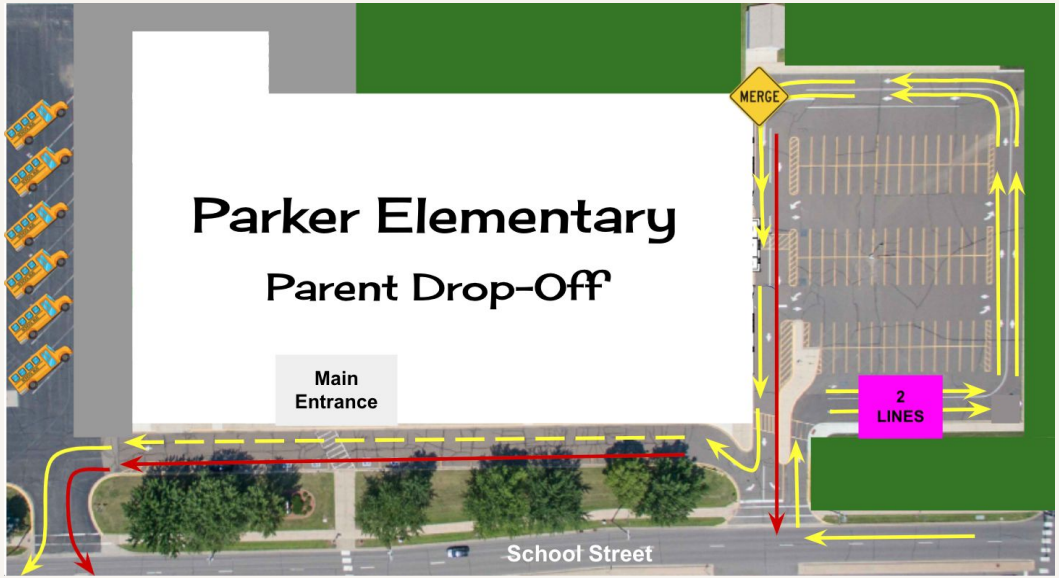
- directing your child to walk across School Street to be picked up in the neighborhood
- parking in the east lot and walking up to get your child
- double parking or parking in the driving lanes



Parker Elementary | isd728.org

Student Drop-off & Pick-up Procedures

Click HERE to watch the video





Health Office



Health Services

Requirements & Information

- Immunization records
- Documentation for health conditions such as seizures, diabetes, asthma, and/or allergies (Action plans on ISD728 Website)
- Documentation for medications

If your student has any food allergies, please contact the health office **and** food services.

Contact Our Health Office



Nicole Montgomery
Licensed School Nurse



Kris Stevens
Health Clerk

Questions and or other health-**related** conditions, reach out to **Nicole** or **Kris** in the health office.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME

FEVER	Temperature of 100.4° or higher, including a fever with a new rash.
VOMITING	Vomiting more than twice within the last 24 hours.
DIARRHEA	Diarrhea that causes accidents, is bloody, or results in greater than two bowel movements above what the child normally experiences in a 24-hour period.
RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS	Symptoms are worsening or not improving and not better explained by another cause such as seasonal allergies.
SKIN SORES	Skin sores that are draining fluid on an uncovered part of the body and are unable to be covered with a bandage.
HOSPITAL/ EMERGENCY	Hospital stay and/or emergency room visit.

If a student leaves school from the health office, and fits the criteria above, their attendance will be ILL for the following day.

If symptoms continue attendance will need to be reported.

PAC (Parent Advisory Committee)



Ways to Stay Connected

Read the Parker PAWS Newsletter!



Every Friday, our school's weekly newsletter is emailed to all families. Includes special announcements from Principal Loveland, Office Staff, and PAC!

Visit the Parker Website



Secure online access to school information.
https://pes.isd728.org/

Attend PAC Meetings



- Monthly meetings - 2nd Thursday of the month
- Meet at Parker from 6-7pm
- Learn about volunteer opportunities







Transportation











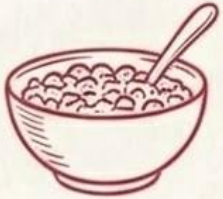


Transportation

ISD 728 contracts with **Vision of Elk River** to provide transportation services for ISD 728 students. They are committed to providing the highest degree of safe and efficient transportation to and from each of our schools.

If your child will be riding a bus, **Vision will send you the route information by mid-August.**









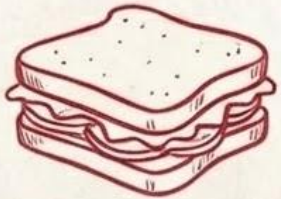




Breakfast & Lunch











Meals



Our food service provider, **Southwest Foodservice Excellence**, provides federally-approved nutritious meals each school day.

Our healthy school menus include food produced locally in Minnesota. Meals are divided into:

- grain
- meat
- fruit
- vegetables
- milk

Even with free meals, the district is **required to track meals served to each child and families that qualify for benefits.**



Community Education & EdVenture Club



Community Education

As part of ISD 728 for more than 40 years, **Community Education** promotes citizen involvement and lifelong learning through classes, programs and services.

Community Education offers a variety of youth enrichment, academic, arts, sports, fitness, safety and aquatic classes for your soon-to-be kindergartner or your whole family.



Visit **www.728communityed.org** for a list of classes and offerings!

EdVenture Club



ISD728 Enrichment Childcare

Thanks to our award winning **Community Education** department, your family can take advantage of **EdVenture Club**, our district's before and after-school child care program. **EdVenture Club** combines fun **enrichment activities** with extended hours for your convenience right at your child's school!

- **Morning Program:** 6:00 am- Start of School
- **Afternoon Program:** End of School- 6:00 pm
- **Non-School Days:** grades K-5
- **EdVenture Club Summer:** grades K-5, June-Aug.
- **Inclement Weather Care:** grades K-5, on days school is canceled by ISD728)

Special Services



Preparing for Kindergarten



Helpful Tips for Home

★ **Practice Communicating Needs**

- Being an effective communicator will help your child in the classroom and when making friends.

★ **Practice Listening to Adult Directions**

- Rules are not made to ruin all the fun, they are there to keep kids safe and to help them learn.

★ **Develop Empathy**

- Help your child to create an understanding of their feelings and the feelings of others.

Preparing for the First Day

★ **Get Into a Routine**

- Sleep is so important (10-13 is recommended per AASM)
- Mornings and evenings

Practice What To Do When Your Child Gets Sad, Mad, Worried or Frustrated

★ Not just for the kids!

Talk positively about school

★ Try your best to keep it together on that first day!

★ Your kindergartener will likely come home exhausted the first several weeks- this is normal!



Skills you can practice at home to support your child's transition to kindergarten

Cognitive Skills

- Repeating simple rhymes or songs
- Identifying name
- Expressing needs
- Recognizing some letters of the alphabet
- Recognizing numerals 0-10
- Counting out loud to 20
- Identifying 8 basic colors
- Understanding terms such as: big and little and up and down

Motor Skills

- Alternating feet walking down stairs
- Running, jumping and hopping
- Throwing and catching a ball
- Drawing/coloring, beyond a simple scribble
- Using scissors, pencils, crayons, and glue carefully
- Copying a square, circle, triangle and rectangle
- Cutting out simple shapes
- Zipping jacket, buttoning buttons

Social & Emotional Skills

- Participating with others, sharing, playing and can take turns
- Taking care of toilet needs independently
- Demonstrating self-help skills (buttons and zippers)
- Dressing for outside
- Paying attention to a short story
- Remembering 3 step directions
- Paying attention to a short story
- Separating appropriately from caregiver
- Keeping hands, arms, and feet to self while playing with others
- Waiting appropriately for
- Using materials and toys respectfully, purposefully and appropriately
- Staying on task with a short activity

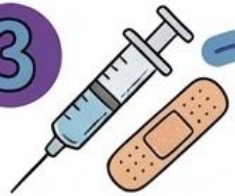
Kindergarten Checklist

Here's a checklist/timeline for your family to follow to ensure your child is ready for their first day of school:

1. 

Register your child using the online registration application available now at www.isd728.org/Kindergarten

2. 
Complete early childhood screening

3. 
Have your child immunized and turn in the paperwork

4. 
In July, fill out the transportation form

5. 

In August, fill out extended day information

6. 

On August 21st at 3pm, check Parent Portal for your child's teacher assignment

7. 

Attend Open House on August 25

8. 

First day of school is September 1st

Quick Link References

- Absence Reporting
- Early Childhood Screening
- EdVenture Club - Child Care
- Kindergarten Registration
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- ISD 728 Elementary Student Handbook
- Parker Student Handbook
- Parker Student Drop-off & Pick-up Video
- Parker Website
- Transportation





www.isd728.org/PES