

A Note from the Director

Welcome to Jackson Public Schools Pre-K! It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to our Pre-Kindergarten Program this year. As I begin this new chapter as Director of Early Childhood Education, I've spent time thinking about what an honor it is to partner with families like yours as your child begins this exciting journey of discovery, growth, and lifelong learning. Thank you for entrusting us with one of life's greatest responsibilities, the education of your child.

At Jackson Public Schools, we believe every child deserves a strong foundation for future success. Our classrooms are designed to be engaging, nurturing spaces where your scholar is known, valued, and inspired to reach their fullest potential. Through purposeful play and meaningful instruction, our dedicated educators will support your child's growth in early literacy, math, STEM exploration, creativity, and social-emotional development, helping them build the skills they need to enter kindergarten confident and ready to thrive.

Thank you for trusting us with your child's early education. I look forward to getting to know our scholars and families this year, and to building a year filled with curiosity, confidence, and JPS Joy. If you have questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out. Here's to a wonderful start to the 2026-2027 school year!

Tiffany Cline, JPS Early Childhood Director

Places of the Quarter:

Discovering Jackson's Neighborhood Treasures

Emotions at Play with Pixar's Inside Out - MS Children's Museum

August 4 — September 26, 2026

Explore the important roles that emotions, memory, and imagination play in our everyday lives through hands-on activities inspired by the film.

Floating to Pre-K - Raines Elementary School

August 31, 2026 @ 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Join us for a Back to School event, connecting new and prospective Pre-K families with staff, resources, and key info to start the year strong.

Farish Street Book Fair - Farish Street Courtyard

August 22, 2026 @ 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Celebrate literacy and community, with free books for Jackson youth in partnership with Marshall's Bookstore, the oldest Black-owned bookstore in the nation.

Mississippi Book Festival - MS State Capitol

September 26, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Celebrate books and authors, featuring local booksellers, food trucks, and family-friendly activities for readers of all ages, and more.



JPS Resources Highlight

Exceptional Education Services: Supporting Your Child's Academic Journey

At Jackson Public Schools, we are committed to creating learning environments where all scholars, regardless of ability, feel seen, valued, and supported. Our Exceptional Education Services team provides comprehensive support for scholars with diverse learning needs, including:

- Developmental screenings
- Speech and language services
- Occupational and physical therapy
- Individualized education plans (IEPs)
- Parent support and resources

Early identification makes a difference. If you have questions about your child's development related to speech, motor skills, behavior, or learning, we encourage you to reach out early. Our team partners with families to ensure every scholar has access to the support they need to thrive.

Contact Exceptional Education Services:



Hope Pearson

Director of Coordinated Early Intervening Services

hpearson@jackson.k12.ms.us

(601) 960-8950

NEW PARENT RESOURCE

Text about the Resource Center at Raines

Location

Raines Elementary School

156 N Flag Chapel Rd, Jackson, MS 39209



Important Updates

Please note that the Early Childhood Office has relocated from **Van Winkle to the Office of Teaching and Learning at 624 South State Street**. Please direct all drop-offs and communications to this new location moving forward.

If you have any questions or need support throughout the year, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of our team:

- **Tiffany Cline, Director**
 - tccline@jackson.k12.ms.us | 601-960-8356
- **Kathleen Billiot, Early Childhood Instructional Coach**
 - kbilliot@jackson.k12.ms.us | 601-960-8756
- **Dr. Sonia Johnson, Early Childhood Instructional Coach**
 - sojohnson@jackson.k12.ms.us | 601-960-8309
- **Alyssia Aggreh-Caver, Early Childhood Instructional Coach**
 - aaggrehcaver@jackson.k12.ms.us | 601-960-8356
- **Dr. MaKeba Turner, Early Childhood Instructional Coach**
 - makturner@jackson.k12.ms.us | 601-960-8356

Family Literacy: Building Readers, Building Future

Research shows that children who are read to regularly enter kindergarten with stronger vocabulary, better listening skills, and a greater love of learning. Just 15-20 minutes of reading together each day creates lasting benefits.

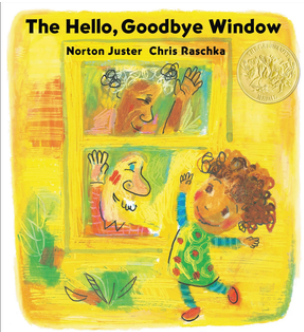
This Quarter's Recommended Reads



Pigeon HAS to Go to School
by Mo Willems



Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten
by Joseph Slate



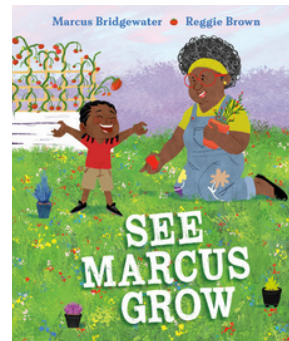
The Hello Goodbye Window
by Norton Juster



How to Babysit a Grandma
by Jean Reagan



Be Who You Are
by Todd Parr



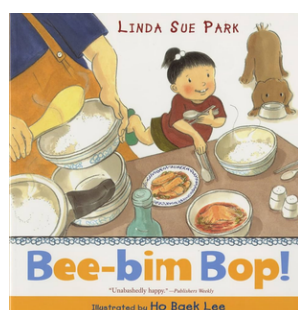
See Marcus Grow
by Marcus Bridgewater



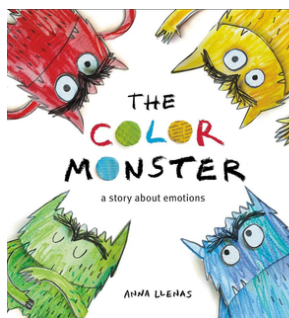
The Day the Crayons Make Friends
by Drew Daywalt



Duck Duck Taco Truck
by Laura Lavoie & Teresa Martinez



Bee-Bim Bop!
by Linda Sue Park



The Color Monster
by Anna Llenas

Tips for Reading Together:

- Let your scholar hold the book and turn the pages
- Ask questions: "What do you think will happen next?"
- Point to words as you read to build print awareness
- Reread favorite books—repetition builds confidence and comprehension
- Connect stories to your own family's traditions and experiences



Visit your neighborhood library to borrow these books for free!
Check jackson.lib.ms.us for your nearest branch.



Celebrando la Herencia Hispana: Hispanic Heritage Family Section

Un Mensaje para Familias Hispanas / A Message for Hispanic Families

We celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our Hispanic and Latino families. Your traditions, languages, and values strengthen our Pre-K community and enrich the learning experiences of all scholars.

El Poder del Bilingüismo / The Power of Bilingualism

Speaking Spanish at home is a gift you give your child! Research shows that bilingual children often have stronger problem-solving skills, better attention and focus, greater cultural awareness and identity, and enhanced career opportunities in the future. Keep speaking Spanish with your scholar. It supports their brain development and maintains important family and cultural connections.

Vocabulario de Enero / January Vocabulary

Practice these words in both English and Spanish:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Read / Leer | • School / Escuela |
| • Count / Contar | • Teacher / Maestro (male), Maestra (female) |
| • Homework / Tarea | • Friend / Amigo (male), Amiga (female) |
| • Thank you / Gracias | • Classmate / Compañero (male), Compañera (female) |
| • Good morning / ¡Buenos días | |
| • Book / Libro | |



Actividad/Activity:

Each day, practice one word in both languages. Use it in sentences throughout the day to reinforce learning.

Recursos Comunitarios / Community Resources

JPS Pre-K Enrollment Information:

Para información sobre inscripción en Pre-K o recursos bilingües, llame al (601) 960-4002. Todos los servicios están disponibles en español.

Translation Services:

JPS ofrece servicios de interpretación y traducción para todas las familias. No dude en pedir apoyo en español.



Healthy Recipes

Back-to-School Apple Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 1 apple (any variety)
- 2–3 tablespoons peanut butter (or sunflower seed butter for nut-free classrooms)
- 2 tablespoons granola

Optional: raisins, mini chocolate chips, or sliced strawberries

Kid-Friendly Steps

1. Wash the apple and have an adult slice it into rounds, removing the core.
2. Spread peanut butter on one apple slice.
3. Sprinkle granola (and any optional toppings) over the peanut butter.
4. Top with another apple slice to make a sandwich.
5. Enjoy immediately!



JPS HINDS
PRE-K
COLLABORATIVE