



OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE





WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is an important year for your child; they will begin their journey through school and grow both socially and academically. Their ability to think, and reason will be developed through literacy and mathematics. Opportunities will be provided to build confidence and expand their communication skills. They will explore and learn to be creative in science and social studies. For additional information, please visit District Departments at sd308.org.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Boulder Hill	(630) 636-2900
Churchill	(630) 636-3800
Fox Chase	(630) 636-3000
Grande Park	(630) 551-9700
Homestead	(630) 636-3100
Hunt Club	(630) 636-2800
Lakewood Creek	(630) 636-3200
Long Beach	(630) 636-3300
Old Post	(630) 636-3400
Prairie Point	(630) 636-3600
Southbury	(630) 551-9800
The Wheatlands	(630) 636-3500
Wolf's Crossing	(630) 636-3700



■ GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten Step Up is a one-week program designed to help students transition from early childhood to kindergarten. Throughout the week students will begin to learn kindergarten routines, become familiar with expectations, and establish some of the basic classroom readiness skills that will make the start of kindergarten a little easier. This program does not focus on academic readiness but rather exposes students to activities that require turn taking, coping with change and disappointment, sharing, transitions, and following classroom directions. If you would like for your child to participate in this one-week session, please complete the survey.

Kindergarten Step Up Parent Survey

The information you provide, along with teacher input, will be used to determine student participation. You will be notified if your child is selected to attend this class.



Our district offers full day and half day kindergarten programming at each of our elementary schools. Teachers report academic achievement using a trimester schedule.

HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN

- Morning schedule ONLY
- Blended programming with full day students during first half of day
- Primary focus: Math/Literacy
- Social Studies/Science content areas provided through Literacy

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN (in addition to half day description above)

- Follows elementary school schedule
- Physical Education, Art, Music, and Library
- 50 minutes for lunch/recess
- Social Studies/Science



KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

*For links to the current Illinois State Board of Education
State Standards by subject, please visit isbe.net.*

LEARNING STANDARDS

Academic standards help ensure all students are prepared for success in college and the workforce. They help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents and teachers, build your child's knowledge and skills, and help set high goals for all students. We are committed to helping your child grow and learn in a stimulating, nurturing and positive environment.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS

English-Language Arts (ELA) is composed of: reading, writing, listening, speaking and vocabulary. Our ELA curriculum is aligned to the English-Language Arts Learning Standards.

Some of the skills that will be focused on throughout the kindergarten year:

- Name upper- and lower-case letters, match letters to sounds and print letters
- Know and apply grade-level phonics to decode words and read words that appear frequently in text
- Use a variety of strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Ask and answer questions and details in text that are read to students
- Identify the main idea of a text read aloud
- Identify characters, settings, and major events in stories
- Retell and discuss familiar stories using details from text
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to describe an event, including his/her reaction to what happened
- Take part in classroom conversations and follow rules for discussion (listen to others/take turns)

MATH

The Illinois Math Learning Standards are “designed to help students acquire a deep, conceptual understanding of core math content through focus, coherence, and rigor. Students are taught a deeper, richer understanding of fewer concepts. Coherence ensures math connections are made between grade levels and builds logical progression. Rigor promotes the equal balance of conceptual understanding, application, and procedural skill and fluency.”

Some of the skills that will be focused on throughout the kindergarten year:

- Count objects for quantity
- Compare two groups of objects to tell which group has more (if either)
- Compare two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Add with a sum of 10 or less, subtract from a number of 10 or less, and solve addition/subtraction word problems
- Add/subtract small numbers quickly and accurately
- Correctly name shapes regardless of orientation or size





SCIENCE

The Illinois Science Standards are designed to help students acquire a deep understanding of core science and engineering content and ideas as well as experience applying that knowledge in any context.

Students will engage in asking questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and communicating information to explore the following:

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- Investigate the effects of different strengths/directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.
- Analyze the design of a solution to change the speed or direction of an object.
- Make observations to determine the effects of the sunlight on the Earth.

LIFE SCIENCE

- Describe what plants and animals need to survive.
- Create models to represent the relationship between the needs of plants/animals and the places they live.
- Describe how plants and animals change their environment to meet their needs.

EARTH SCIENCE

- Make observations of local weather conditions.
- Ask questions to gather information about weather forecasting to prepare for and respond to severe weather.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum is designed to develop a child's awareness of their place and relationship to the world around them. Children explore their sense of self and how they relate to people and places in their life.

Some topics students will explore through an inquiry process:

HISTORY

- Change over time
- Historical figures
- National holidays

CIVICS

- Rules and responsibilities
- Leaders of different communities

GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS

- Weather and climate
- People, places and jobs

ECONOMICS

- Choices made because of scarcity

SPECIAL EDUCATION

In partnership with our families and communities, our district will educate all students to reach their highest potential. SD 308 offers students ages 3 through 22 a variety of services in both academic and social-emotional learning. Each school provides resource support and related services for eligible students. If you have concerns, please discuss with your child's teacher.

ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORT

The English Learners (EL) Department supports the district's mission in assuring equal educational access for EL students. We recognize as a school community that we share the responsibility of ensuring that EL students receive grade level content while developing their linguistic and academic skills to become productive members of society.

The following programs for English Language Learners are offered:

- Dual Language
- Sheltered English Instruction
- English as a Second Language



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Our district participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs. Our goal is to nurture students' well-being by appreciating healthy school meals, choosing nutritious foods, and adopting a healthy lifestyle. To accomplish that, we provide menus that meet or exceed federal standards, innovative dining environments, and wellness education.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) allows students whose families meet certain income requirements to receive all school meals at a free or reduced price. Nutritious meals help students succeed in school on a daily basis. We want to make sure parents have a quick and simple way to access these benefits; to complete an online application, visit www.sd308.org/NationalSchoolLunchProgram.

We contract with Aramark K-12 Education for the management of our food service program.

PUSHCOIN

All schools operate a cashless system for school lunches called PushCoin. Parents can fund student lunch accounts online at any time using an electronic check or credit card. Students pay by scanning their school ID. The payment system will automatically deduct the lunch from the student's lunch account and record what was purchased. Parents can login at any time to see balances, fund the account, or see what their child has purchased. The PushCoin system eliminates the need to handle cash and helps greatly with lunchroom efficiency.

Please note: PushCoin is administered by a third party and Aramark Food Service does not have access to your online account.



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

If your child has a health concern, allergies or a chronic illness, a health care plan will be created to ensure all students are safe at school. Please be sure all emergency contacts are local and available to pick up your child within an hour if they become ill at school. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call your school's health office.

ANNUAL HEALTH HISTORY

All parents must complete the online annual health history form.

EXAMINATIONS

Three (3) examinations are required for Kindergarten and should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably all three (3) at time of registration.

- Physical Examination
 - Must be dated within one (1) year of the first day of school.
 - Must be turned in by the first day of school.
- Eye Examination
 - Must be dated within one (1) year of the first day of school.
 - Requested to be turned in by the first day of school.
- Dental Examination
 - Must be dated within the last 18 months of submission.
 - Must be turned in by February of the attending school year.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The immunization record must be submitted as soon as possible. It must be on file with the child's school or the child will face exclusion from school until the record is received.

- Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus: 4 or more doses of DTP/DtaP with the last dose qualifying as a booster and received on or after the 4th birthday
- Polio: 4 or more doses of IPV with the last dose qualifying as a booster and received on or after the 4th birthday
- Measles: 2 doses - the first dose received on or after the 1st birthday; second dose no less than 28 days later (usually given as MMR)
- Mumps: 2 doses - received on or after the 1st birthday (usually given as MMR)
- Rubella: 2 doses - received on or after the 1st birthday (usually given as MMR)
- Hepatitis B: No requirements
- Haemophilus Influenza B: Hib immunization not required after 5th birthday
- Chicken Pox: Varicella immunization is required prior to entrance to kindergarten - 1 dose on or after the 1st birthday, 2nd dose must be given a minimum of 28 days after the first dose or physician's statement verifying disease history, or laboratory evidence of varicella immunity.





KINDERGARTEN TRANSPORTATION

*If you have any questions regarding transportation, contact the
Transportation Center at 630-636-2999 between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm.*

Kindergarten students who reside 1.5 miles or more from their home school are assigned neighborhood bus stops like all district elementary students. In cases where there may be only one student in the area, door-to-door service may be available.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF INFORMATION

- AM and PM bus stops will be centrally located based on the student's address (Half-day students may be dropped off at home address or at centrally located bus stop).
- Authorized adult must be present at the drop-off location to receive your Kindergarten student.
- Complete a "Student Release Authorization" form to include authorized adults that can receive your student.
- We do not call and drivers are not allowed to let you know they have arrived.
- If an adult is not present, the student will be kept on the bus and returned to school.
- A bus driver will be contact you a few days before the first day of school to confirm your student's information and provide approximate pick-up/drop-off times and location.
- Student should be at ready (shoes, coat and backpack on) and at the bus stop five minutes prior to the pick-up time.

ALTERNATE PICK-UP, DROP-OFF OR DAYCARE LOCATION

- District Transportation Services allows a separate address for pick-up/drop-off within the same boundary as your child's school (MUST be within same boundary to receive transportation).
- For example, if a student attends Old Post, they may be transported to an alternate location that is also within the Old Post boundary. An "Alternate Pick-up/Drop-off Location" application must be completed and submitted to the Transportation Department 14 days prior to the first day of school or three business days prior to the effective day of the change during the school year.

INFORMATION CHANGES AND IDENTIFICATION

In the event of an address change, or if the student was originally Parent Pick-up, it can take up to (5) business days to place your student on a route. Please contact your child's school with any address or phone number changes. Parents need to have an identification label attached to the inside of their child's backpack with the first and last name of the student.

BUS SAFETY RULES

Please reference these Bus Safety Rules with your child.

- Stay seated at all times
- Talk quietly to your neighbor, remember your inside voice
- Keep your hands and your feet to yourself
- No eating or drinking on the bus
- The school bus driver and monitor will always help you
- Listen to the school bus driver and monitor





■ MY SCHOOL INFORMATION

My School's Name

Principal's Name

School's Phone Number



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sd308.org

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CENTER

(630) 636-3080