

Kinderzone Information for Kindergarten Families 2019–20



Dear Kindergarten Family,

Welcome to our school! We are very excited to meet your kindergarten student, and for you to be a part of our school community.

Starting kindergarten is an important time, and we are committed to supporting this transition in a way that builds upon your child's enthusiasm. Our district kindergarten team has been working hard to ensure our youngest learners have the best experience possible.

School starts on Wednesday, September 4 for all kindergarten students. Our school begins at 7:55AM, with kindergartners meeting their teacher in the cafeteria. Bus riders are escorted to the cafeteria. Dismissal is at 2:25PM (1:10 on Fridays) and students are either escorted to buses or waiting with their teacher in front of the school for parent/guardian pick-up. For safety reasons, kindergarten students do not use pause parking.

The first week of school will be "Kinderzone" time. Starting this year, we are introducing Kinderzone in all 4J elementary schools to better serve our students' needs.

During Kinderzone, the first three days of school, kindergarten students will interact with all of the kindergarten teachers and other school staff members. Teachers will observe, assess and get to know each child. Kindergartners *will not* be assigned a classroom teacher before school begins. After meeting students and visiting with parents, teachers will be better able to develop class lists based on students' academic and social needs. This will allow purposeful placement of your child in a kindergarten class for an optimal start.

Kindergarten class lists will be posted on the office windows on Friday, September 6 by 5:00 p.m.

This districtwide, consistent approach is more child-centered and will provide a gentle, welcoming start to the school year for our youngest students. We will have many small group activities, which make it easier for children to gain confidence. Your child will get to know our school staff and become familiar with the school's expectations, and teachers and staff will get to know your child better from the beginning. Our goal is to provide individual attention for every student, resulting in a happy and successful start to the school year and to their elementary school experience.

On time, all day: We ask for your help in making your child's first days go as smoothly as possible by having your child arrive on time, not taking them home early, and allowing them to fully experience the school day on their own. You are a valued part of the team and will have many opportunities to be involved in the classroom *after* the school year gets underway. It is important for your student to be at school on time and for the full day—every day, at every grade level—and it is especially critical to get a strong start with on-time attendance at the beginning of the year.

Again, we are very excited to have your student in kindergarten this year, and to have your family be a part of our school community. Additionally, you are invited to *[Insert school specific meeting for kindergarten students and their families]*. We look forward to welcoming your child to school on Wednesday, September 5.

Respectfully,

Allan Chinn, Principal