

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK



GERMANTOWN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Kindergarten is a natural bridge between home and school. Its primary purpose is to provide many enriching opportunities to maximize each child's development intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively.

This booklet has been prepared in an attempt to answer your questions concerning kindergarten. Please read this booklet carefully, and then put it in a place for easy reference in the future. It will clarify many things for you during the coming year.

Working together, we will help your child enjoy a productive and rewarding initial experience with school.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRANCE

Who may register?

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1 of the current year may enter.

What are the requirements for registration?

1. Must show proof of residency
2. Certified birth certificate or affidavit of birth date from the health department or courthouse
3. Physical examination by a licensed physician completed before the first day of school, as well as a dental and eye exam.
4. You must show evidence of immunity against: Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Poliomyelitis
Any child who has had a primary series of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus in the past shall require a booster dose of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus if he is under 6 years of age and has not had a booster since 3 years of age.

HELP YOUR CHILD GET OFF TO A GOOD START

Your child should:

- get plenty of sleep. Ten to twelve hours is recommended for children of this age.
- have a good, healthy diet, including breakfast.
- get up in plenty of time for school, so he/she does not have to hurry and is wide awake when school starts.
- get to school at the proper time, not too early (before there is adequate supervision), and not too late.

YOUR CHILD WILL FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN SCHOOL IF HE/SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF BASIC PERSONAL NEEDS

For example:

- tying shoes, putting on and taking off outer clothes without help including zipping
- knowing first and last name, parent's names, address, telephone number, and birthday
- using the bathroom properly and washing hands
- keeping track of personal property (please put name on your child's belongings.)

TRANSPORTATION

Teach your child to:

1. Be on time at the designated bus stop. (5 minutes early)
2. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Not move toward the bus until it has been brought to a complete stop.
4. Not leave his/her seat while the bus is in motion.
5. Keep his/her hands and head inside the bus at all times.
6. Not bring dolls, cars, and other toys on the bus. If items are requested by a teacher, they should remain in your child's book bag until he/she enters the classroom.
7. Not ask the driver to stop at a place other than the regular bus stop.
8. Observe safety precautions when getting off the bus. Where it is necessary to cross the highway, wait for signal from the bus driver permitting your child to cross.

Bus routes and bus stops are determined by the Administration in accordance with Board of Education policy.

Your student is to ride his/her assigned bus and **may not** ride a different bus to a different location.

If your child has a medical problem (allergies, etc.) please inform the driver and school.

If your child is to go home by different means than he/she ordinarily does, a note must be sent indicating how he/she is to go home. Children get confused and this can be a frightening thing. **We will send them by the usual means unless we have a note.**

If you are picking your child up at 3:05, please be on time. You will wait in the car rider line in front of the Middle School until the buses have been dismissed. At that point, you will be directed to drive around to door #7 on the east side of the building. If someone else (grandparent, neighbor, sitter, etc.) is going to pick your child up, we also need a note from you. We can not release your child to anyone without your permission.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

CLASS TIME 8:30 – 3:05 (subject to change)

Children should not arrive before the scheduled time. Teachers will be ready to greet the children at 8:15 A.M. Please do not bring your child before this time.

REPORTING ABSENCES - Please call 383-2121, option 1 **before 7:30 a.m.**

While you may inform the teacher, **THE OFFICE MUST BE NOTIFIED.**

We ask that you call the office on those days that your child will be absent from school.

You must give a reason for your child's absence. If reporting an absence due to illness, please include your child's symptoms. If we are not informed of the absence by you, **we are required by law**, to make a reasonable attempt to notify you of your child's absence by calling you at home or work. In other words, if parents do not call the school notifying us of children's absences, we are required to call you.

HEALTH - The school should be informed if any child has allergies, is on medication, or has any other health problems. All children must have proper immunizations and physicals or they have to be excluded from school.

CLOTHING - Comfortable play clothes are suitable for kindergarten. Please label all clothing that will be removed during the day (coats, hats, gloves, etc.) Please buy snow boots large enough so your child can slip them on and off easily. The children will have gym every day. Extra gym shoes are not required. However, because the children will be running in the gym and on the playground, **please send them to school in tennis shoes each day.** For your child's safety, please, no cowboy boots, sandals, slip-ons or dress shoes.

BLUE FOLDERS - The school will provide each child with a blue "take home" folder. This helps the students to organize their papers and make sure information gets back and forth to home and school. Please check your child's folder **everyday** and remove worksheets and informative notes that the teacher and school office will be sending home throughout the year. Please review work papers with your child.

BOOK BAGS - Please have your child bring a book bag every day. Be sure to include his/her blue folder in the book bag everyday too.

BIRTHDAYS - Each child's birthday will be recognized the day it occurs. Because we have students with severe nut allergies, **we no longer allow edible birthday treats.** You are welcome to send a non-food item for a class treat. For example, pencils, stickers, etc. If your child is having a birthday party at home, do not send the invitations with him/her to pass out at school. Some children are left out and feelings are so easily hurt.

SNACKS - We will have a snack every afternoon. Please send a **HEALTHY** snack with your child every day. Chips and candy are not allowed. **Please note that some classrooms will be nut-free; you will be notified by your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.**

VISITORS - If you wish to visit a kindergarten class, you are welcome. However, please let the teacher know what day to expect you. This is to be sure the class is not at music class, on a field trip, etc. **All visitors must sign in through the office and obtain a visitor pass before visiting your child's classroom.**

VOLUNTEERS - During the school year, the teachers will be asking for parents to help with computers, special art projects, field trips and other activities. If you are available to volunteer, it will be very much appreciated!

PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES - Throughout the school year you will receive several progress reports to inform you as to what skills your child has mastered and what skills need additional time and work.

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled in November. However, if at any time you have a question or concern, feel free to contact your child's teacher.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

The Kindergarten program centers on a block schedule. The block schedule consists of a math, literacy and specials block. Students will be introduced to a workshop model consisting of readers, writers and language workshop. The workshop model focuses on individual needs and allows more opportunities to teach comprehension and build language skills.

Students will be introduced to letters through the Frog Street Press Program. This program brings the letters of the alphabet alive with individual characters to represent all alphabet letters. Each letter friend helps connect the letter to the sound it makes. Children relate well to this approach and motivation is high.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

READING READINESS

1. Can say alphabet in order
2. Recognizes and matches capital and lower case letters
3. Identifies beginning sounds in words
4. Reads basic sight and short vowel words

MATH READINESS

1. Identifies and names eight basic colors
2. Identifies and names geometric shapes: circle, square, triangle, and rectangle
3. Understands basic concept terms: large, small, tall, short, long, alike, different, more, less, equal
4. Identifies and names numbers 0 - 20
5. Counts sets with 0 - 20 objects and matches to correct number
6. Counts out loud to 100
7. Identifies and names ordinal numbers 1st - 5th

LANGUAGE SKILLS

1. Communicates using complete sentences
2. Pronounces familiar words correctly
3. Speaks clearly and distinctly
4. Participates in oral activities
5. Shares experiences
6. Is able to speak on appropriate topic
7. Listens when others speak
8. Tells birth date, telephone number and address

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (cont.)

FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

1. Identifies body parts
2. Throws and catches a ball
3. Skips, gallops, runs, hops, jumps, walks on balance beam
4. Holds pencil, crayon and scissors correctly
5. Cuts with scissors
6. Performs dressing skills: zipping, buttoning, tying
7. Prints first and last name correctly (first letter capital, others lower case)
8. Prints capital and lower cases letters using correct Palmer method of manuscript
9. Writes numbers 0 - 20
10. Writes left to right and top to bottom

WORK HABITS AND SOCIAL SKILLS

1. Listens and follows directions
2. Is not easily distracted
3. Works, plays and shares with others
4. Shows self confidence
5. Completes tasks in reasonable time
6. Does work carefully and neatly
7. Displays self-control
8. Follows classroom and school rules

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Children will be provided with opportunities to learn about weather, seasons, holidays, plants, animals, health and nutrition, family and home, school and community, our country and the world we live in, careers, safety and computer awareness. These areas are introduced through art, poetry, stories, music, videos, field trips, guest speakers and computer programs.

MUSIC

Children participate in musical activities such as listening, singing, movement and rhythmical instruments. They are also given an introduction to the key board by the school music instructor.

ART

Children will be given opportunities to express themselves through art media and to improve their fine motor development through cutting, coloring, gluing and painting.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Development of self-image by:

1. building self-confidence
2. encouraging independence and responsibility
3. developing a positive attitude towards school

Social development by:

1. learning to share attention and take turns
2. learning to be kind, considerate, tolerant and supportive of others
3. developing respect for authority, property, and the rights of others
4. learning to adapt to new situations

Development of good work habits by:

1. listening and following directions
2. learning to be organized and responsible
3. lengthening attention span
4. channeling over-assertiveness
5. showing self control in speech and actions
6. completing tasks in reasonable time

Language development by:

1. learning that listening involves hearing and thinking
2. increasing competency in self-expression
3. developing love of books and language
4. learning to sort events in a sequential order

Increase creativity by:

1. providing recognition of the uniqueness of the individual
2. allowing the child to use his/her imagination freely in an atmosphere of acceptance

Physical development by:

1. providing opportunities for development of maximum potentials of the child with special emphasis on motor skills
2. encouraging pride in proper care of self and body