

# Vision

**Every student will thrive in school and graduate prepared for success**

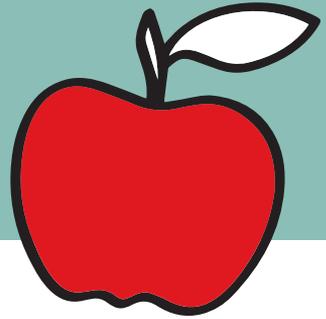
In our schools, each student:

Is challenged by a rigorous academic program

Enjoys school and learning

Feels a sense of belonging

Is capable and confident



Dear Kindergarten Families,

Starting kindergarten is a new, exciting step in your child's life. We want your child's first experience in our schools to be a positive one. We've designed this booklet to provide information to help you prepare for this important event. We hope you find it helpful.

Sincerely,  
Tigard-Tualatin Kindergarten Staff

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Children entering kindergarten come with a wide range of abilities. Helping children practice the following skills can improve their readiness for kindergarten learning.

## Skills that prepare children for kindergarten:

- ~ Being willing to try new activities
- ~ Playing games with other children
- ~ Following one and two-part directions
- ~ Adapting to a routine
- ~ Adjusting to being away from home and family
- ~ Taking care of his/her own personal needs such as putting on a coat or using the bathroom independently
- ~ Singing and remembering words to songs
- ~ Singing the ABC song
- ~ Counting to 10, possibly to 20
- ~ Having a beginning awareness of letter names
- ~ Building with blocks
- ~ Drawing simple pictures
- ~ An "I can do it" attitude



A great way to prepare for kindergarten is to regularly read to your child and talk about the stories you've read. Play word games. Ask your child to tell you what sound a word begins with. Look for numbers in your world. Tell stories to each other.

## Other things you can do to prepare your child for kindergarten include:

- Give your child a variety of experiences; take trips to the zoo, parks and special events.
- Give your child at-home responsibilities such as putting toys away or setting the table.
- Point out your child's school as you drive or walk past. Talk about it as an exciting new time in his/her life.

# Preparing for a great start

- ~ To ensure a healthy start, your child should have a complete physical before school starts including vision, dental and hearing tests.
- ~ Several weeks before school begins, start your child on a daily routine of regular sleep and wake-up times. Children this age need 10 to 11 hours of sleep to be at their best.
- ~ A good breakfast every morning will help your child be ready to learn.



## Registering for Kindergarten

- ~ To register for kindergarten, a child must be five years old by September 1. The following forms are required:

Birth certificate  
Immunization record

### You will also be asked to provide:

A completed Student Enrollment form  
Proof of address



## Immunization Requirements

<u>Required Immunizations</u>	<u>Number of Doses</u>
DTP/DT/DtaP	5
Polio	4
Measles	2
Mumps	1
Rubella	1
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis A	2
Varicella	1

# Developing skills needed for learning

**Here are some of the skills you can expect your student to learn in kindergarten**

## Reading

- Blending sounds to make words
- Upper and lower case letters
- Sight word vocabulary
- Use a variety of strategies to read
- Read stories with fluency
- Identify pictures by beginning sound
- Segment words orally into sounds



## Writing

- Phonetic spelling of words
- Write sentences that make sense
- Write a story with a beginning, middle and end

## Mathematics

- Count by 10's
- Write numbers to 20
- Recognize geometric shapes
- Recognize and create patterns
- Add pairs of numbers
- Subtract pairs of numbers

## Learning

- Listen
- Work independently and complete work in a reasonable amount of time
- Organize self and belongings
- Cooperate
- Return homework

Aa Bb Cc Dd

# Our Curriculum

## Language Arts

Our district's kindergarten reading and writing program is called Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt "Journeys." This program is research-based and covers the five "big ideas" in reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Students experience language and print by: listening to stories and poems, singing songs and chants, exploring sounds, learning phonics and by reading big books, literature and leveled readers. Students develop or extend writing by drawing, copying and learning to form letters and words.

## Math

Our district's math curriculum is Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt's Math Expressions. Children learn the patterns of mathematics using blocks, cubes, geoboards, tiles and a multitude of games. Most lessons are open-ended, allowing students to progress as far as they can. Graphing, counting, patterning, comparing and estimating are also among the math skills introduced.

## Music

Music specialists and classroom teachers use songs and rhythms to expand stories, enhance physical coordination, bring students together for a single focus and ---just for fun. School programs and assemblies give students the opportunity to listen and perform.

## Physical Development

Kindergarten physical education classes emphasize large muscle development. Students run, jump, balance and play with large balls and equipment. New games help them practice the skills they have learned. Classes are taught by P.E. specialists or classroom teachers either in the gym or outdoors.

Small muscles are developed through activities such as painting, puzzles, cutting, drawing and working with clay.

## Library / Technology / Social Studies and Science

are also part of the kindergarten curriculum.

## **PAX Good Behavior Game**

Teaches students the skills to engage in more learning and teaches peace in our classroom, school, and community. The PAX Game and 'kernels' strategies are well researched and effective practices that help students improve and increase attention, retention and self-control skills while developing self-awareness, empathy, and resilience.

Teachers will be introducing new kernels each week, which will prepare them to play the PAX Good Behavior Game later in the year. We believe your children will love the simple and powerful positive learning that happens with the PAX Good Behavior Game.

## **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Social and emotional learning is a process in which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. We have a variety of programs and strategies that address the social and emotional needs of our students. Tigard-Tualatin School District adopted curriculum is Second Steps for K-5. The concepts taught in this curriculum are developmentally appropriate and provide students and teachers the skills and language necessary to successfully navigate their feelings and social interactions throughout the day.



# Kindergarten Schedule

## Kindergarten is full-day, every day!

Kindergarten classes in Tigard-Tualatin are full-day, every day. Students in full-day programs develop impressive reading, math and critical thinking skills--giving them a strong start to their school careers. Kindergartners attend school during the same hours as other elementary students and walk or ride the school bus with the rest of their elementary classmates.

## Two-Way Immersion (TWI) Kindergarten:

Two schools, Bridgeport and Metzger, also offer full-day Two-Way Immersion (Spanish/English) kindergarten programs. Families choose to enroll their student in this program. The goal for TWI students is to speak, read and write in both English and Spanish by 5th grade. More information is available at Metzger and Bridgeport.

## Medical Information

- ~ A good diet, adequate exercise and plenty of sleep are keys to good health. Seeking medical help for any hearing or vision problems is also important.
- ~ Children who are ill should stay home from school until they are healthy and able to participate in the total school program.
- ~ The following information has been prepared by our district nurses:

## Is my child sick?

## Should I send my child to school?

### Stomachache, vomiting, diarrhea

Consult your health care provider if your child has a stomachache that lasts longer than four hours or is serious enough to limit activity. If vomiting occurs, keep your child home until he or she can keep down food for 12 hours. A child with diarrhea must be kept home until he or she has been diarrhea-free for 24 hours. Call your doctor if improvement does not occur within 24 hours.

## Pain

- **Toothache:** Contact the dentist
- **Earache:** Contact a medical care provider immediately
- **Headache:** A child whose only complaint is a headache does not need to be kept home. If a bad headache follows a fall or blow to the head, contact your health care provider.
- **Joint Pain:** Consult your health care provider if pain causes a severe limp or inability to walk.

## Fever

A fever is a warning that all is not right with the body. The best way to check for a fever is with a thermometer. No child with a fever over 100 degrees should be sent to school. When no thermometer is available, check your child's forehead with the back of your hand. If it is hot, keep your child home and call your doctor.

## Cold, cough or sore throat

A child with a "heavy" cold and a hacking cough belongs at home, even if there is no fever. If your child complains of a sore throat and has no other symptoms, he or she may go to school. If white spots and/or a red throat and swollen glands can be seen in the back of the throat or if the fever is present, keep the child home and call your doctor.

## Rash

A rash may be the first sign of one of many childhood illnesses, including chicken pox. A rash, or "spots" may cover the entire body or may appear in only one area. Do not send a child with a rash to school until your doctor says it is safe to do so.

### School-Based Health Centers at Tigard & Tualatin High Schools

**As a student in the Tigard-Tualatin School District, your child is eligible to receive services at the School Based Health Center. Immunizations, health screenings and physicals are among the many services the center provides. The center accepts health insurance, the Oregon Health Plan and has sliding scale fees for families without insurance.**

To make an appointment at Tigard High, call **503 431-5775**

To make an appointment at Tualatin High, call **503 941-3180**

# Transportation

## Getting to and From School



**1.** Transportation is provided for all elementary students living outside their schools' one-mile walking radius. Stops are usually at the end of the street and at least .2 of a mile apart. Kindergarten bus stops are the same as those for other elementary students.

**2.** Bus route information will be available on the district website, [ttsdschools.org](http://ttsdschools.org) and at the school before school starts. The listed times are offered as guidelines for the convenience of the family and should not be considered absolute.

**3.** Students should arrive at their bus stops a few minutes early to be certain of catching their buses. Kindergarteners will be wearing name tags (provided by the school) to make sure they are delivered to the right stop.

**4.** Students who have more than one place where they are picked up or dropped off during the week, must go to the nearest bus stop that is already in place.

**5.** Because we are not allowed to back-up our buses on roads, we are unable to drive into cul-de-sacs, dead-end streets or private roads. For students who live on those kinds of streets, a bus stop will be located on the nearest through street.

**6.** Kindergarteners taking the bus will NOT be dropped off at their bus stop after school unless there is an authorized adult or older sibling there to greet them. If your student is going to daycare after school the daycare provider must be at the stop to greet the child.

**7.** It is occasionally necessary to adjust bus schedules when new streets are opened, bus overcrowding occurs or new housing developments are opened. If transportation changes are made during the school

year, please make sure your student's name tag reflects the updated changes.

8. It is not unusual for a bus to be late on its daily route. Sometimes a substitute driver may be assigned to the route and because the substitute is unfamiliar with the route, a schedule delay may result. Delays also result when field trips or other activities cause the regular schedule to start late or there are problems with weather or heavy traffic.
9. Our goal is to provide a bus program with safe and accommodating service. Should problems occur, please contact your school first. In cases where you need to call the bus company, Student Transportation of America's phone number is 503 372-5704.
10. If parents wish to take their students home from school, arrangements should be made before the bus leaves the building. Parents should never stop the bus along the highway at an undesignated stop to remove their students. Whenever an elementary student is to leave the bus at any point other than school or his/her home stop, parents should give the school written authorization.
11. Please teach your children safe walking and riding practices and make they are at the bus stops on time. Bus routes are designed to serve both sides of four-lane streets. If it is necessary for children to cross the road, students should cross in front of the bus or as instructed by the driver.
12. If walking or biking to school, kindergarteners will need to be accompanied by an adult, and students will only be released to an authorized adult.

**Students cannot bring balloons, animals, firearms, weapons or other potentially hazardous materials on the bus.**

13. Parents and everyone who drives should remember that all vehicles traveling in either direction on a two or three lane road are required to stop when the red lights on a bus are flashing.
14. For a list of the Oregon State Board of Education's School Bus Regulations, please read Section 16 (Bus Transportation) of the Tigard-Tualatin School District's Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

# Parents are our Partners

## Parents can support good attendance and learning

We depend on parents to encourage good attendance and support their students' learning. Please make school and regular attendance a priority, every day, for your child. We are responsible for teaching your child, but we can't do our job if your child is not in school. Learning builds day-by-day. A child who misses a day of school, misses a day of learning.

## Parent Participation

Our schools and our kindergarten classrooms welcome parent volunteers. Our experience tells us that children do better in school when their parents are involved. You can learn about school and classroom volunteer opportunities from your child's teacher, school newsletter, back-to-school night, conferences and by participating in your schools parent organization.

## Communication

Our schools publish regular newsletters and notes. Your child's teacher will keep you informed about specific things happening in the classroom and will call and write to you about your child. Please feel free to write or call the teacher at school, or make an appointment for a conference before or after class sessions.

There are four grading periods during the school year. Parents will receive reports of their child's progress each quarter. Kindergarten parents can also see how well their child is doing when they participate in parent conferences.

