

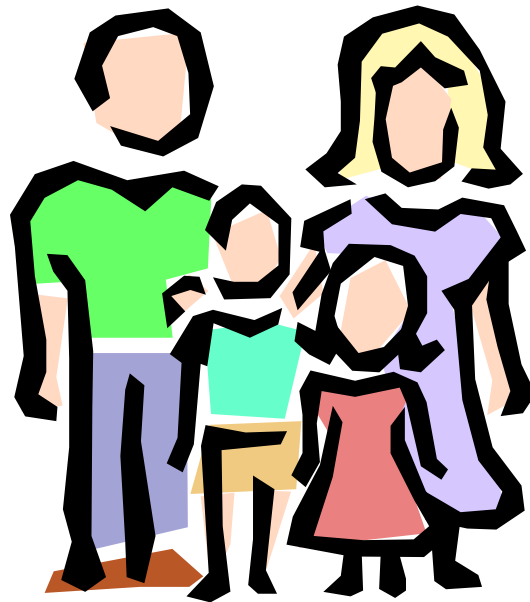


**Moving Up
to
Kindergarten
in Readington Township**



We hope you and your child are excited about starting Kindergarten in Readington Township!

This guide is designed to answer some basic questions about your child's day-to-day life in school. We hope you find it helpful .





Q When does school start? How do I find out about the holidays and days off?

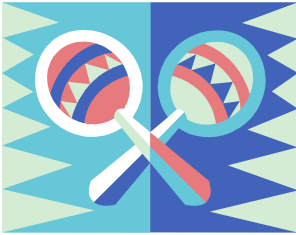
A School starts on Thursday, September 3, 2020. The school district calendar is sent to every parent, but you can also find a current version on the school district website, www.readington.k12.nj.us. Each school also maintains a monthly calendar of its own events.

Regular Day	School Starts	School Dismissal
Grades K,1,2, 3	8:30AM	3:20PM
Preschool AM	9:00AM	11:30AM
Preschool PM	12:50PM	3:20PM
PreSchool Ext. Day	9:00AM	3:20PM

Q How long is the day for a kindergarten student? What are the start and stop hours?

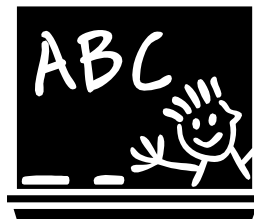
A School begins for all students at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3:20pm.





Q What is the daily routine?

A Kindergarten students spend most of the day in their classroom. They do leave the classroom for "special" instruction time. The typical "specials" for a kindergartner are physical education, art, music, computers and library. Each "special" will be assigned on a certain day of the week. So, for instance, your child's class may be assigned to have physical education on Tuesday. That means every Tuesday will be your child's physical education day. **Students must wear or bring sneakers for Physical Education.**



Q I am worried about my child getting lost at the beginning of school. Will my child be expected to find his/her own classroom on the first day?



A Just for starters, kindergartners don't walk alone! Let's talk about the first week of school. During Open House, your child will receive a special, color-coded badge to wear to school during the first week. The school will be heavily staffed with teachers. These adults will greet children exiting the bus.

Kindergartners will receive special assistance in arriving at their classrooms. Every "trip" through the school that a kindergartner takes will be a guided one. No kindergarten student will be expected to independently find his or her way until he or she is comfortable.

Q Is there a snack-time during their day? Does the school provide the snack?

A There is a snack-time every day. The students need to bring in their own daily snack and drink. The snack should be something the child can eat independently, such as pretzels, cheese sticks or fruit. A drink, such as a plastic bottle of water, milk or a juice box is also recommended. A small bag that fits in their backpack usually works well for carrying the snack. The snack container should also always include a napkin. Snack can also be put in your child's lunch time bag. You should let your child know which is for lunch and which is for snack. **Please be on the alert if your child's classroom is not free. A Genesis notification will be sent in August.**



Q Can my child purchase lunch?

A Yes

A private company, under contract with the Board of Education, operates the lunch program for the district. At the beginning of each school year, information about lunch prices and standard menu choices will be sent home. Your child may choose milk or bottled water when lunch is purchased. Menus are available on the school website at the beginning of each month and we ask that parents review the menu choices with their child. If your child comes to school without lunch or without lunch money, he or she will be given a plain bagel bag.

Lunches can be paid for with cash at the checkout line, or cash/check may be sent in on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Checks should be made payable to the Readington Board of Education and sent to your child's classroom teacher. The classroom teacher will forward your check or money to the appropriate school personnel. In addition, a secure online prepayment service is available to deposit money into your child's account at any time. This service provides you with the ability to view your child's account balance through a website called MyNutriKids.com



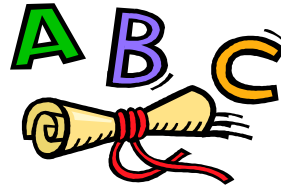
Q What about the bathroom? Are the children expected to be totally independent?

A Yes. Students must be able to clean and dress themselves. If they have an accident, they are expected to be able to change their clothes independently.

Kindergartners don't have to worry about "finding" the bathroom. Each kindergarten classroom has its own self-contained restroom facility. Whole class bathroom breaks in the hall bathrooms are also utilized.

Please think about your own child's independence level. If your child is not able to button pants easily, or pull up tights easily, consider avoiding that type of clothing for school days. Elastic waist pants make bathroom visits much simpler for some children.

Last, realize that the kindergarten teachers are attuned to the needs of children of this age. They are all very careful to make sure that each child understands where facilities are and knows how to ask if they need assistance.



Q Are there any suggestions about the type of clothing my child should wear?



A In general, make sure that your child is wearing comfortable clothes that they can independently manage. **PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN ALL COATS, SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS.** In addition, you might find it helpful to dress your child in layered clothing. As with any large building, some areas are warmer and others are cooler. Layers will allow your child to be comfortable in whatever room they are in. Layers will also allow your child to avoid overheating during an active winter gym class.

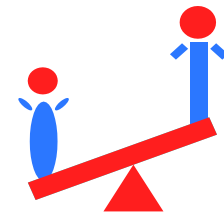


Each school also has a special "Spirit Day" periodically throughout the year. The children enjoy dressing in their school colors for those days. Three Bridges School uses blue and red as their colors. We also have special theme days.

Shoes should be supportive so that your child can run, play and climb. We use stairs. Remember - no flip flops, open toe shoes or clogs allowed.

Q Do the kindergarten students have a recess?

A Yes, each day the children play for 30 minutes. We go outside when the weather permits. If it is below freezing (even with windchill) or raining, recess is indoors. After recess, children will have rest/quiet time.



Q When will I find out my child's bus schedule?

A Bus information will be posted to Genesis (student information system) in mid-August. This information will tell you what time the bus will pick up your child, what time the child will be dropped off after school, exactly where the bus stop location will be and what their bus number will be. Parents are asked to have their children at the bus stop in the morning at least 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. If you miss the bus, you will have to drive your child to school and drop them off at the Parent Drop Off in the front of the building at 8:25a.m. Students should not enter the building alone before that time. Staff members will assist the children at the curbside at 8:25a.m.



Q What is the bus routine like, and what is my child expected to be able to do?

A First, realize that the bus drivers in Readington Township are very personable. They know that kindergarten students do not have bus-riding expertise yet, and they are very willing to help each child. Each bus seat is equipped with a lap belt. Drivers will assign seats to the children a week or so into the year. Kindergarten children are typically seated in the front of the bus. This allows the driver easy access to those children since they are new to the experience.

Children all have responsibilities while they are passengers on the bus. They need to listen to the driver, stay seated and remain relatively quiet. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the buses. You can help your child adapt by explaining these rules to them before they become passengers.

In addition, a parent handbook that includes bus information can be found on our District website at www.readington.k12.nj.us. All kindergarten students have an orientation which includes a bus ride before school begins in September.



Q Are there any supplies I need to get for my child?

A The most important supply that your child needs to have is a backpack. A regular full-size backpack is recommended. Backpacks with wheels are not permitted. The backpack will be used every day. If the backpack is too small, your child will have a hard time fitting those art masterpieces in the backpack! Additionally, your child will need a small lunch box for snack.

Another item your child will need early in the school year is an art smock. You can purchase a smock, or you can make one. The best and most common smock is an old oxford shirt handed down from your closet!

The kindergarten teachers will also post on their website a supply list. Some common items that you will need include a box of crayons, glue sticks, pencils and markers. In addition, you will need to provide a two-pocket folder that will travel back and forth in the backpack. It will carry paperwork between home and school. We call this "backpack mail"!

Q Do kindergarten children get homework?

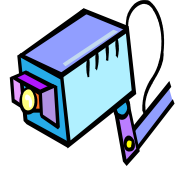
A Yes, there is a consistent, predictable routine. Mondays and Wednesdays are Math. Tuesdays and Thursdays are book bags and a worksheet to practice phonics skills. Each week skills are assigned on RAZKids and iXL Math. It is all posted on the overview page of the Kindergarten website.



Q Is there a medical presence in the school?

A Yes, there is a full-time nurse in the school. She will be communicating with all incoming families regarding medical forms, medical conditions such as allergies, medicine policies at the school and a variety of other health issues. She is very accessible to students and to parents.

Q Are there security measures in place? I worry about my child wandering out of school or a stranger wandering in.



A We all worry about safety. Here are a couple of points to remember. First, let's talk about access to the school. While school is in session, the doors to the school are locked to prevent outside access. Monitored security cameras provide exterior views. To gain admittance, a visitor must ring the doorbell at the front door and state the reason for their visit. Once your meeting or appointment is verified and the staff member is ready, visitors will be buzzed into the vestibule where the office staff will ask for id and issue a badge that must be worn at all times. The front office will buzz the second set of doors open for the visitor to meet the staff member with whom you are meeting.

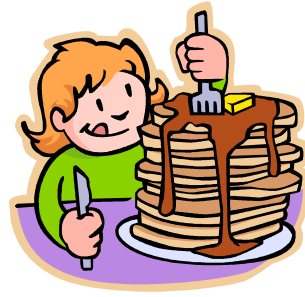
Second, kindergarten children do not move around the school alone. They are escorted to their destinations within the building or travel with a buddy.

Third, security training is part of their learning experience. All students are trained in the proper procedures for a "lockdown" drill. "Lockdowns" occur in the unlikely event that school security is ever breached.



Q What about fire safety?

A Learning about fire safety is part of the early education for a kindergarten student. They are trained in the proper procedures, and they practice those during the fire drills that occur during the school year. In October, during Fire Safety Week, kindergarten children are invited to participate in a field trip to the local fire house as part of their safety education.

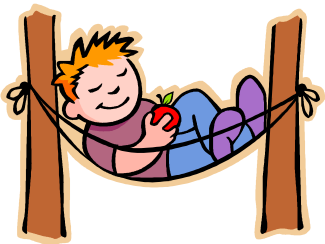


Q Is there anything I can do over the summer to help get my child ready for school?

A There are some things you can do to help your child adjust. The biggest change for some children revolves around their schedule. Getting your child used to eating a nutritious breakfast at that early hour will also help your child to feel energetic and ready to learn when school starts.

In addition, start teaching your child to be independent at mealtime. Skills needed in the lunch room include opening straws and containers, wiping his/her own mouth, cleaning up small spills. Teach your child to speak up if they need help. An adult is always nearby.

If your child is used to taking a nap in the afternoon, there will be a designated time after recess for rest/quiet time.



Q What kinds of information will I receive from the school?

A There are many pieces of information that are issued by the teacher, the school, and the school district. You will receive information over the summer to help you plan for the beginning of school. A very comprehensive handbook can be found on the school website, as well as quite a bit of classroom specific information. *Genesis Blast* will be the main transport vehicle for all of this communication. Please make sure that your email address is listed on your child's *Genesis* account.

Q Are there opportunities for parents to be involved in the school?

A In a word, **Yes!** There are many different ways you can be involved.

First, let's talk about classroom support. During the year, there will be times that parents are invited to provide classroom assistance. Sometimes parents can read a story to the class. Other times, parents can come in to help implement "centers", which are small-group learning activities. At the beginning of the school year, there will be a Back-to-School Night held in the evening. At that time, sign-up sheets will be available so that you can express your interest in different types of volunteer activities.

Second, there are numerous volunteer activities that go beyond the individual classroom. Most of these are coordinated by the Home School Association (HSA). Lots of information about the HSA will be available at Back-to-School Night.

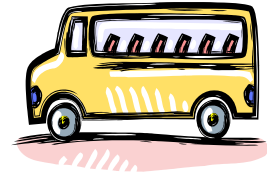
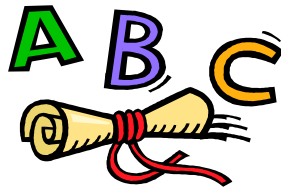
The volunteer opportunities are varied. For instance, the HSA produces many programs for the children. Some are cultural assemblies, others are mini-courses after school, and some are fun evening events. The HSA also leads the charge on fundraising for the school.

Make sure you bring your calendar to Back-to-School Night! You can be as involved as you want to be!

Q Will my child have a chance to meet his/her teacher and visit the school prior to school starting in September?

A Yes! Right before school begins kindergartners will be invited to the school for a Kindergarten Open House. At this time, the student will have a chance to meet his/her teacher. They will have the opportunity to look around the classroom, talk to their teacher and meet other students in the class. They will also have an opportunity to take a practice bus ride.





*If you have more questions,
please contact Three Bridges
School at 908-782-2141.*

*Welcome to the wonderful world
of Kindergarten!*



