

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

2017 - 2018



**A Guide for
Kindergarten Parents**

**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Toni Jones, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend kindergarten in the Fairfield Public Schools beginning on Thursday, August 31, 2017. Our staff is looking forward to welcoming your child as a kindergarten student and also welcoming you as part of our school community.

This handbook contains information that will help you and your child prepare for kindergarten. Please refer to page 1 for the specific dates for parent orientation and student visitation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the principal of your elementary school or Michael Cummings, Director of Elementary Education, at 203-255-8372.

Sincerely,

Toni Jones

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2017 – 2018 KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

Parents are invited to attend a school orientation where you will learn more about your child’s school and the kindergarten program. See below for dates and times.

Your child is invited to visit a kindergarten classroom to become acquainted with the staff and the school environment. During this visit, the staff will have the opportunity to observe every child as they participate in story time, free play and an art activity. See below for dates and times.

SCHOOLS	PARENT ORIENTATION <small>(will be held at the school)</small>	STUDENT VISITATION <small>(will be held at the school)</small>
Burr	May 17, 2017 (A – M) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. May 17, 2017 (N – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 17, 2017 (A – M) 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. May 17, 2017 (N – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dwight	May 10, 2017 (A – L) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. May 10, 2017 (M – Z) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	May 10, 2017 (A – L) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. May 10, 2017 (M – Z) 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Holland Hill	May 9, 2017 (A – Z) 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	May 9, 2017 (A – Z) 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Jennings	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. April 27, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. April 27, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
McKinley	April 19, 2017 (A – L) 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. April 26, 2017 (M – Z) 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	April 19, 2017 (A – L) 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. April 26, 2017 (M – Z) 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Mill Hill	May 24, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 31, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 24, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 31, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
North Stratfield	May 3, 2017 (A – Z) 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	May 3, 2017 (A – Z) 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Osborn Hill	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. April 27, 2017 (M – Z) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. April 27, 2017 (M – Z) 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Riverfield	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. April 26, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	April 26, 2017 (A – L) 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. April 26, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sherman	May 3, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 10, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	May 3, 2017 (A – L) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. May 10, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Stratfield	May 19, 2017 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. May 19, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	May 19, 2017 (A – L) 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. May 19, 2017 (M – Z) 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Fairfield Public Schools offers full day kindergarten for all students. If your child needs a transition to a full day program, please speak with the school principal to make these arrangements. The full day kindergarten schedule consists of five full days of school (8:55 AM - 3:30 PM except Holland Hill, 8:10 AM - 2:45 PM) Monday – Friday starting on the first day of school, Thursday, August 31, 2017. Enrollment in the full day class is projected to range from 17 to 23 students. A full-time teacher is assigned to each class as well as paraprofessional support. A formal kindergarten report card of student progress and achievement is issued three times a year, in December, March and June. This report card is a comprehensive evaluation of how well your child progressed through the skills and concepts at this level.

SCHOOL - HOME COMMUNICATION

Infinite Campus is a web-based student information system that gives parents and guardians access to important school and student information and enhances communication between faculty, parents and students. It is extremely important for parents/guardians to log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and check the appropriate boxes (e-mail, text, voice) under the “emergency” column. Checking the appropriate boxes is the only way to ensure receipt of all the notifications. If you have problems entering your activation code, received at your Registration meeting, email: reghelp@fairfieldschools.org. **Information regarding bus route and assigned teacher will be communicated from Infinite Campus approximately one week prior to the start of school.**

Meaningful, timely communication between the parents/guardians of kindergarten students and their child's kindergarten teacher is a very important part of Fairfield's kindergarten philosophy. This communication may take one of several forms including informative notices and newsletters, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and student report cards. Parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year, in the fall and early spring. Teachers are also available for conferences by mutual arrangement as necessary.

Please read and respond to the notices you receive from school. Often these communications ask for your involvement in some aspect of the kindergarten program. Your willingness to be involved sends a powerful positive message to your child. Your participation in your child's education is very important. Kindergarten in Fairfield is designed for student success, and we want you to be an informed partner in your child's achievement.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Children who live a distance of three-fourths of a mile or more from school will be eligible for bus transportation. If you are uncertain if your address qualifies for transportation, you may call the Transportation Office at 203-255-8385. **NOTE – Kindergarten students are not discharged from the bus unless an adult is present or with a sibling at the bus stop to meet the child. Students will be returned to school if an adult is not present.**

HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN!

- ☺ Teach your child his/her full name, address (including town and state) and telephone number.
- ☺ Help your child to assume responsibility for dressing himself/herself as best as possible. Label all outerwear.
- ☺ Teach your child the proper use of bathroom facilities.
- ☺ Encourage clear and proper speech.
- ☺ Help your child to be a good listener and to respond at appropriate times.
- ☺ Listen to your child and show genuine interest in what your child has to say.
- ☺ Ask questions to prompt your child to think such as “Why do you think so?” or “What do you think that means?”
- ☺ Teach your child to develop an appreciation and respect for the rights and property of others.
- ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children to learn sharing and taking turns.
- ☺ Read to your child. Choose material appropriate to your child's level of development, interest and maturity.
- ☺ Limit the amount and monitor the quality of television your child watches.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

The kindergarten curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and safety, music, art, physical education and library media. Instruction by specialists takes place once a week in art and twice a week in music and physical education. A lunch period, recess and quiet time are provided daily.

The kindergarten program emphasizes physical, social, emotional and academic development. Each child will progress based on his/her individual developmental needs.

ART

- Learns to handle art tools such as scissors, markers and paint brushes.
- Explores the 7 Elements of Art: colors, lines, shapes, values, texture, space and three-dimensional form.
- Uses a variety of media including clay, paint, cut and torn paper, crayons, markers and crafts.
- Begins to express individuality in art and appreciates the art of others.

HEALTH

- Understands the importance of good personal practices (hygiene, rest, exercise, nutrition).
- Learns simple self-awareness skills.
- Identifies and observes safety rules at home, school, play and in the community.
- Learns about germs and how to stay healthy.
- Learns how being a healthy person affects your body and its growth.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Develops a joy for literacy and talking about reading and writing.
- Participates in reading familiar text.
- Recognizes that letters represent sounds in words.
- Recognizes and uses sound/symbol correspondence.
- Demonstrates comprehension of texts read aloud.
- With prompting and support, reads, listens to and comprehends a variety of texts/genres.
- Retells a story including the main characters, setting, main ideas and sequence of events using pictures and words.
- Illustrates/writes a stories with a beginning, middle and end.
- Illustrates/writes in a variety of genres.
- Dramatizes a story through role-playing, finger plays and puppetry.
- Understands how books and print work.
- Identifies many upper and lower case letters.

LIBRARY MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

- Students will utilize the Library Learning Commons to select and borrow reading material based on personal interests and abilities, navigating both the physical and virtual environment.
- Students will begin learning foundational inquiry skills and, with guidance, will solve a simple research problem using a defined process.
- Students will generate original ideas and products based on new learning, communicate information in a variety of ways and create products using different media in order to express ideas effectively and creatively.
- Students will navigate our district's network and virtual Library Learning Commons with assistance, demonstrating responsible and acceptance use of digital technology.
- Students will use software applications to produce information and use interactive online learning applications to obtain and deepen knowledge.

MATHEMATICS

- Constructs shapes and solids using a variety of materials.
- Adds and subtracts within 5.
- Develops vocabulary associated with time-hour, parts of the day, seasons and calendar.
- Writes and matches numerals to set of objects, 0-30.
- Sorts, names and trades objects.
- Estimates, counts, compares and orders sets and pictures of objects.
- Estimates and counts to 30 with and without objects.

MUSIC

- Experiences their singing voice to match tones and performs a variety of songs.
- Experiences the pulse/beat through moving and body percussion.
- Differentiates between higher and lower sounds, fast and slow tempi, upward and downward contour and soft and loud sounds through moving, speaking, singing and instruments.
- Creates dramatizations, sound accompaniments and movement improvisations for stories, rhyme, and poetry.

PENMANSHIP

- Holds a pencil correctly when printing.
- Prints own full name in proper form.
- Writes correctly from memory numerals 0-9.
- Copies letters correctly from a model.
- Prints letters of the alphabet.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Students will demonstrate motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts as they apply to learning and performance of physical activities.
- Students will exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
- Students will use physical activity as a positive opportunity for social and group interaction.
- Students will be challenged through physical activity.

SCIENCE

- Describes the properties of the natural and man-made materials used to build shelters.
- Describes and records daily weather data and graphs this data monthly.
- Use the senses and simple measuring tools for measuring and making observations.
- Observes and describes characteristics that distinguish living from nonliving things.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Students will define “family”, understand family relationships and understand the characteristics of their own family.
- Students will recognize the similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- Students will explain the importance of school.
- Students will state the importance of rules in their families, with their friends and at school.
- Students will respect different forms of celebration of various holidays.

Check Out Our Summer Camp Opportunities For Students Entering Kindergarten In September!

Session I – July 3 – July 14

Session II – July 17 – July 28

PreK - 2 Summer Adventures Camp
At McKinley Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Safety Town
At Stratfield Elementary School, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
July 10 - 14, July 17 - 21, July 24 - 28

Registration starts February 1, 2017

More information and registration forms can be found online at www.fairfieldschools.org

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Burr	1960 Burr Street	Jason Bluestein	255-7385
Dwight	1600 Redding Road	Mimi Maniscalco	255-8312
Holland Hill	105 Meadowcroft Road	Laura Cretella	255-8314
Jennings	31 Palm Drive	Anthony Vuolo	255-8316
McKinley	60 Thompson Street	Leslie Pearson	255-8318
Mill Hill	635 Mill Hill Terrace	Kevin Chase	255-8320
North Stratfield	190 Putting Green Road	Deborah Jackson	255-8322
Osborn Hill	760 Stillson Road	Frank Arnone	255-8340
Riverfield	1625 Mill Plain Road	Brenda Anziano	255-8328
Sherman	250 Fern Street	Eileen Roxbee	255-8330
Stratfield	1407 Melville Avenue	Elizabeth McGoey	255-8332

MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chairman, Philip Dwyer * Vice-Chairman, Anthony Calabrese * Secretary, Jessica Gerber

Donna Karnal * Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly * Eileen Liu-McCormack

John Llewellyn * Marc Patten * Trisha Pytko

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Toni Jones	Superintendent of Schools	255-8371
Karen Parks	Interim Deputy Superintendent	255-8372
James Coyne	Interim Deputy Superintendent	255-8372
Ann Leffert	Director of Human Resources	255-8462
Thomas Cullen	Director of Operations	255-8373
Michael Cummings	Director of Elementary Education	255-8372
Dr. Margaret Boice	Director of Secondary Education	255-8390
Andrea Leonardi	Director of Special Education & Special Programs	255-8379
Doreen Munsell	Director of Finance & Business Services	255-8383

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
Fairfield, CT 06825



Additional information is available at: fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources