

Welcome Class of 2031!

Kindergarten Orientation Information for Parents

Cumru Elementary School

2018 - 2019 School Year



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Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your kindergartner to the Cumru Family! This document contains helpful information as you make the transition into your child's elementary years. In the document you will find the following:

- Being prepared for kindergarten
- Kindergarten Readiness questions
- Questions asked by parents last year

You will continue to ensure a smooth transition for your child by attending the Kindergarten Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, August 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with your child. At that time, children will meet their assigned teacher and spend a few minutes in their classroom. While the students are in their classrooms, you will be in the cafeteria listening to a short presentation by Dr. Kaskey. After enjoying a small snack, students will board school buses and take a ride with around the school district. As students transition to the buses, you will transition to your child's classroom to meet their teacher and review important information. You will learn about the curriculum, expectations, and "nuts and bolts" details like snacks, field trips, and special activities.

The orientation process has been crafted to address your concerns, answer questions, and support you and your child in their transition to kindergarten. If questions remain, communication is key! Please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns. Communication between home and school is critical for a positive experience throughout the elementary years.



Being Prepared for Kindergarten

Here are some ideas that will help you and your child to be prepared for kindergarten:

- Purchase a school bag that is large enough for folders, papers, classroom books, and large sized library books.
- Put your child's name on ALL belongings!
- Plan on a school wardrobe that will enable your child to get the most out of their day! Comfortable clothing that allows for movement and sometimes messy activities is best. Sneakers are recommended for each day. Be aware of the school dress code that is defined in the student handbook.
- A breakfast and lunch is offered to all students. Monthly menus are accessible on the Governor Mifflin website. Please review the menu with your child. If you do not have Internet access, you may request a menu from the main office.
 - Children with food allergies can be accommodated. If your child has a food allergy please notify your teacher, the school nurse, and/or the main office. You will be asked to submit a "Medical Plan of Care for School Food Service" form that is signed by a physician/medical authority.

- The Cafeteria Point-of-Sale (POS) system allows us to provide debit accounts for purchases. Parents enjoy the convenience of prepaying for their child’s purchases at whatever amount they choose.
 - Envelopes for making deposits will be made available to you and your child. When your child’s account is below \$5, another envelope is sent home. To review what your child has purchased in the last 30 days you can go to: www.parentonline.net.
- Free and Reduced Lunch - We encourage all interested parents to complete an application. Where and how to apply?
 - Governor Mifflin School District Home Page: <http://www.governormifflinsd.org/>
 - Place cursor on “Departments”
 - Go down menu and click on “Food Services”
 - Scroll down to “Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Programs
 - Click on “[Click here for a 2017-2018 Free and Reduced Application](#)”

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

You know your child best. Think about what he's like when he plays with others, and when he's alone in his room. Then ask yourself the following:

- a. Can my child listen to instructions and then follow them? Children need these skills to function in class, to keep up with the teacher and with their peers.
- b. Is he able to put on his coat and go to the bathroom by himself? Children need to be somewhat self-sufficient by school age.
- c. Can he recite the alphabet and count? Most kindergarten teachers assume that children have at least a rudimentary familiarity with the ABCs and numbers though these subjects will be covered as part of the kindergarten curriculum.
- d. Can he hold a pencil? Cut with scissors? He will need these fine motor skills to begin working on writing the alphabet and to keep up with classroom projects.
- e. Does he show an interest in books? Does he try to "read" a book by telling a story based on the pictures? This is a sign that his language development is on a par with other kindergartners and that he's ready to start learning how to read.
- f. Is he curious and receptive to learning new things? If a child's curiosity is stronger than his fear of the unfamiliar, he will do well in school.
- g. Does he get along well with other kids? Does he share and know how to take turns? He'll be interacting with other children all day, so your child's social skills are particularly important for success in school.
- h. Can he work together with others as part of a group? The ability to put his needs second, to compromise and join in a consensus with other children, is also part of emotional competence.

If you answered "yes" to most of these questions and "sometimes" to the rest, your child is ready for kindergarten. If not, your child might well benefit from another year of preschool, or from one of the transitional or pre-K classes being offered throughout the community.

https://www.babycenter.com/0_kindergarten-readiness-is-your-child-ready-for-school_67232.bc



Parent Questions

- What day is the first day of school for kindergarten students next year (18-19)?

We will once again operate on a staggered start for the first three days of the school this year. 33.3% of our incoming kindergarten students will come on Monday, August 27th, another 33.3% will come on Tuesday the 28th, and the final 33.3% will come to school on Wednesday, August 29th. All (100%) of kindergarten students will come to school on Thursday, August 30th.

- Can we get a calendar for the school year?

The GMSD Calendar is located on the website: “2018-19 YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE”
https://www.governormiffflinsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/DWCcalendar18_19.pdf

- When do we find out our child’s teacher assignment?

Prior to our Kindergarten Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, if you have fully completed the required online Infosnap” documentation, you will be able to see the name of your child’s teacher.

<https://secure.infosnap.com/family/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2ffamily%2fdirectaction.aspx>

- What age/grades are at this school building?

Head Start (through age 5), Pre-K Counts (age 4), Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Grade



- Do you offer any before or after school childcare or programs for Kindergarten students?

There are currently no before or after school programs provided by the school district. You can obtain information from the local YMCA, which is located on school property. The YMCA does offer before and after school programs for a fee. In addition, there are local child care centers that offer similar programs (i.e. Tiny Treasures in Shillington and Flying Hills.)

- Will parents receive the logistics for car drop off, car pick up, and walkers?

Yes - You will receive drop off and pick up information via Infosnap.

- How is bullying handled?

Anti-bullying strategies and supports are taught in the Guidance Curriculum. Please refer to bullying section in the 2018-19 Cumru Student-Parent Handbook when published on the GMSD Website (late July or early August).

- What can I do when I have concerns about my child or something else at school?

Call the teacher, the Guidance Counselor, or the Principal - 610-775-5081. Your child's teacher should be the first phone call due to their firsthand knowledge of your student.

- **How do I volunteer for field trips, class functions, and school events?**

Parent volunteers must get the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (Act 34) and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151). School volunteers who have been a PA resident for ten years or longer, are required to sign a Volunteer Affirmation Form. If you have not been a PA resident for 10 years, you must complete the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Check (Act 114). There will be no cost to you for these clearances if you submit them to the school district. ***School volunteer clearances are good for five (5) years.***

The URL for clearances is the following:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/searchresults/index.htm?q=volunteer+clearances>

- **Are there in class opportunities to do science experiments in Kindergarten?**

Students are given multiple opportunities to participate in science experiences throughout the school year in conjunction with the Language Arts program and the themes covered within the curriculum.

- **If a child packs a "cold" lunch, is there a place to store the lunch?**

There is no option to store a cold lunch for students, please provide the necessary ice packs to keep the contents cold. In addition, there is no option to heat food.

- **What is Kickstart to Kindergarten?**

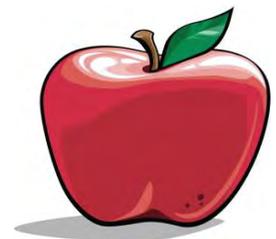
Kickstart to Kindergarten sessions (or zones) are offered to all incoming kindergarten students. The cost is \$35 per zone. Each zone has a different theme. Students should register for the zone at the building where they are registered for kindergarten.

Registration Link:

<https://www.governormifflinsd.org/summer/kickstart-to-kindergarten/>

August 7th, 8th, and 9th (Beach Theme) - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

August 14th, 15th, and 16th (Camping Theme) - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.



- **Is it true that bus drivers will not drop off a Kindergarten student after school if no one is at the stop to receive the child?**

Yes - This is done for the safety of the child.