



HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The following are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about our Kindergarten program. Parents who would like additional information are encouraged to contact Ben Schersten, Buker School Principal (978-468-5324), Jennifer Clifford, Cutler School Principal (978-468-5330), or Carolyn Shediak, Winthrop School Principal (978-468-5340).

Is transportation provided?

Yes, transportation is provided for those students who live a half mile or beyond the school. Bus stops are established with input from the schools and the bus company. The bus routes and stops are published on the District website (www.hwschools.net), as well as the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, prior to the start of school. Any questions regarding transportation should be directed to transportation@hwschools.net.

An adult must accompany a kindergarten student to and from the bus stop. The bus driver will not release a kindergarten student without an adult present. Any kindergarten student who has not been met at the bus stop will be returned to his/her school and a parent or guardian will be contacted.

How will my child be assigned to a school?

School assignments will be determined by current placement of elementary siblings, equitable class sizes, as well as neighborhood location.

When will I receive my child's school assignment?

Parents will be informed of kindergarten school assignments in early August.

What are the hours of the kindergarten school day?

Kindergarten students follow the same schedule as our students in grades 1-5.

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:25am-2:57pm
- Wednesday: 8:25am-12:45pm

What if my child does not have medical forms required?

According to state regulations, kindergarten students who do not have up-to-date physical examinations and immunization records may not attend school. All current medical forms are expected at the time of registration.

When can we visit the school?

Incoming kindergarten students and parents will be invited to their assigned school at the end of August.

What supplies will my child need?

Classroom supply lists are posted on school websites at the end of the school year and throughout the summer.

How should my child dress for school?

Children should dress in comfortable clothing that is appropriate for indoor and outdoor play.

How will I communicate with the school?

Each school has its own website that will provide you with important and timely information throughout the year. Individual school websites can be accessed through the District website (www.hwschools.net).

Teachers will provide parents with the most effective way to communicate with the classroom. This will often be by email, phone call or note. Teacher contact information is located on the school website.

What do I do if my child will be absent from school?

Each school has a Safe Arrival line that is monitored by the nurse.

If your child is going to be absent or tardy, leave a message on the Safe Arrival line.

How do I communicate my child's after school plans?

At the beginning of the year you will establish your child's afternoon dismissal plans with the classroom teacher. If you need to make a change to the established routine, send a note to the teacher with your child.

How do I pay for school lunches?

The cost for a school lunch is \$3.25, and milk or juice can be purchased separately for \$0.65. Incoming kindergarten students will be assigned a four digit PIN number for the MySchoolBucks Lunch Management System. Catherine Donovan, Director of Food Services, will provide families with PIN numbers and directions for enrolling in the program before the start of the school year.

Who are "The Friends"?

The Friends groups at each of the schools are the parent volunteer organizations. The Friends coordinate cultural enrichment, fundraising, and social activities for children and their families. The Friends hold a business meeting once a month and all parents are welcome to attend.

How will we know about school events?

Classroom teachers provide regular communication through newsletters, blog posts, or websites. In addition, each school maintains a website that includes timely information for parents.

How can I find out about volunteer opportunities at school?

Parent volunteers are an important part of our school communities. Each school coordinates parent volunteer opportunities and you will be informed of such throughout the year.