



# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

## SAVE THE DATE

- August 7 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher
  - 5:00PM-6:00PM Last Names: A-L
  - 6:30PM-7:30PM Last Names: M-Z
- August 11-14 Kindergarten Staggered Start
- August 15 All Kindergarten students report to class
- August 15 at 8:45AM New Hawks Social for parents in the cafeteria

## Kindergarten Readiness

Hickory Creek Elementary does not screen incoming kindergarten students. Our kindergarten classrooms are blended in ability. During staggered start, our kindergarten teachers screen for student readiness and begin to identify small groups for targeted instruction.

Many parents ask what their child needs to know before starting Kindergarten. What can parents do to help? The following skills, behaviors, and tasks will make for a successful transition.

### Social and Listening

- Interacts well with other children and adults
- Takes turns, shares, and plays well with other children
- Talks with others to solve disagreement and works things out
- Follows simple 2-3 step directions
- Answers simple who, what, when, where questions
- Demonstrates self-control (raises hand, waits turn to speak, listens to a story)
- Handles their emotions appropriately

### Literacy

- Recognizes name in print
- Writes first name correctly
- Recognizes letters and some sounds
- Holds a book correctly and can turn pages
- Shows interest in reading or being read to
- Can tell if 2 words rhyme such as cat and bat
- Begins to draw pictures to express ideas and tell stories

### Math

- Identifies numbers 0-10 and attempts to write them
- Can point and count up to 10 digits

- Identifies basic 2D shapes
- Understands which number is more or less (numbers up to 10)
- Can sort a group of items by color, shape, or size

### Other Skills

- Knows full name and names of parents
- Can tell own age and birthday
- Can put on, button or zip down clothing, jacket, and backpack
- Can use the restroom, wash hands, and blow nose independently
- Asks for help when needed
- Adjusts to new situations without parents being there
- Responds appropriately to redirection, own feelings and feelings of others
- Uses pencils, crayons, and scissors appropriately

## Top 10 Things to Know

1. ANYONE who enters our building must apply and receive “volunteer clearance” through the SJCS D’s Raptor system. Go to <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/> and register. Any person not cleared in the system will not be allowed to enter the building\*.

*\*A driver’s license and volunteer clearance is needed to enter our building.*

2. Stay informed via our weekly newsletter (sent through email every Friday), and by visiting our school website.

3. If you are not receiving communication from the school or your child’s teacher, please contact the school to verify that all contact information is correct in our system.

4. Report Cards are only distributed online through our Home Access Center (HAC). Please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/> to get signed up. Paper copies are available upon request. Student progress in grades 3-5 is visible to parents on HAC.

5. Check your child’s planner and backpack daily.

6. Join PTO, attend PTO functions, and become involved with our School Advisory Council (SAC).

7. Volunteering in your child’s classroom will be encouraged. We have many opportunities for parents to serve. Please make prearrangements with your child’s teacher for volunteer opportunities. Access will not be granted if you are not a cleared volunteer (please see item 1). In addition, access may be denied if the teacher is not aware of your attendance. When volunteering in your child’s classroom we ask that younger siblings not attend your scheduled volunteer time.

8. Edible birthday treats are allowed; however, treats must be pre-packaged. Please contact the teacher PRIOR to bringing treats. The teacher will communicate allergies in the classroom that may need an accommodation.

9. Please make appointments when wanting to conference with the teacher.

10. Please reach out to your child’s teacher or administration on how we can make this transition a smooth one for you and your child.

**What is Kindergarten Staggered Start?** Staggered Start provides an opportunity for the kindergarten teacher to work with a very small group of students each day. The teacher will teach rituals and routines and ensure students are comfortable with their environment before introducing them to the entire class. The teacher will also complete preliminary diagnostics and screenings to check for kindergarten readiness.

**How does Staggered Start work?** Kindergarten families will sign up at the Kindergarten Meet Your Teacher event for one day during the first week of school. The student only attends one day (their scheduled day) and then all kindergarten students attend on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**When will our family be assigned our Staggered Start date?** For families to have the flexibility of the date for their student, families will sign up at the Kindergarten Meet Your Teacher event. The kindergarten team and/or administration will not assign a date.

**How will I know my child's teacher?** Teachers will contact families via email and/or a phone call on or before August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**How will I know my child's bus information?** Once transportation has assigned routes families will be notified via email and/or the information will be on Bus Planner. For guidance on how to create an account, please visit:  
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/busplanner/>.

**How can I volunteer?** There are many ways to volunteer on our campus. Your student's teacher will have opportunities for volunteering. In addition, you can volunteer via PTO or the School Advisory Committee (SAC). All volunteers MUST be cleared through [School Access](#).

## Action Items:

- Sign up for HAC: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>
- Complete School Access: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>
  - **Without school access you cannot access our campus**. This includes walking into our building, lunch with your student, school events during school hours, field studies, assemblies, etc.
- Create a Bus Planner account:  
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/busplanner/>.
- Review the kindergarten supply list. Supply lists can be found on our website: <https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/elementor-4212/>.

*To have the most updated information, please visit our website frequently: <https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>. We publish our newsletter every Friday at 6PM beginning the week of August 4<sup>th</sup>. This will include important dates and lunch information.*