Welcome to Kindergarten
Noblesville Schools

2021-2022
Dear Noblesville Schools Kindergarten Parent:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Noblesville Schools and to welcome you to the Noblesville Schools community. We’re excited to have you join our Miller family!

Kindergarten is such an important time for students to develop a lifelong love of learning, exploring, creating, and problem solving. We are eager to build a strong foundation for your child so they can experience success throughout their years in school. A vital part of their success will be your communication and counsel throughout the year as we foster a positive connection between school and your home to collectively support your child.

Our unique approach to teaching means our students at all grade levels take advantage of inquiry-based instructional techniques that promote deeper, more relevant learning. This teaching and learning approach will inspire your child academically and will help them develop important social and emotional skills they will use throughout their school years.

This handbook has been developed to provide information about kindergarten in Noblesville Schools to assist you in helping your child make a successful transition to the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact your school principal or me directly if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about your school experience. I look forward to working with you toward our shared goal of educational success.

I encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to make sure you’re aware of all of our school news and happenings. We have a lot to be proud of!

Best wishes on your exciting learning adventures ahead in kindergarten!

With warm regards,

Dr. Beth Niedermeyer
Superintendent of Noblesville Schools
Beth.Niedermeyer@nobl.k12.in.us
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Academic Program

Noblesville Schools values children’s exciting experiences as many enter school for the first time. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment to support all learners as they grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Components of the Kindergarten Program

• Preparation of children to become productive, responsible, compassionate adults
• Active learning—exploration, discovery, inquiry, interaction with others
• Developmentally appropriate and academically engaging activities
• Focus on literacy and numeracy
• Indiana Academic Standards
• Child-initiated and child-directed play supported by teachers
• Regular and varied assessment of student growth
• Varied instructional experiences, adjusted in content and complexity as students develop
• Appropriate use of technology tools, including iPads
• Frequent and informative communication with parents
• Partnerships with parents and community
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:35-7:50 AM</td>
<td>Morning Jobs/Announcements/Lunch/Attendance&lt;br&gt;Morning Activities: Independent Reading, Soft Starts, etc.</td>
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<td>7:50-8:10</td>
<td>Morning Routines: Community Circle, Agenda Review, Calendar</td>
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<td>8:10-9:40 AM</td>
<td>90 Minute Literacy Block&lt;br&gt;Reading Workshop, Read Aloud, Shared Reading, Word Study</td>
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<td>9:40-9:45 AM</td>
<td>Brain Interval/Music &amp; Movement</td>
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<td>9:45-10:45 AM</td>
<td>Writing Workshop</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 AM</td>
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<td>11:15-11:35 AM</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<td>11:35-11:45 AM</td>
<td>Chapter Book Read Aloud</td>
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<td>11:45-12:10 PM</td>
<td>Small Group Targeted Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10-1:00 PM</td>
<td>Related Arts/Special Class (Technology, Physical Education, Music, Art)</td>
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<td>1:00-1:45 PM</td>
<td>Math Workshop</td>
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<td>1:45-2:25 PM</td>
<td>Inquiry (Problem-based Learning Unit, Science, Social Studies)&lt;br&gt;Free Choice</td>
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<td>2:25-2:35 PM</td>
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Noblesville Kindergarten Skills

Your child will work on the following skills throughout kindergarten and will be expected to know them by the end of the year.

Language Arts

• Uses picture cues and illustrations to aid in comprehension and make predictions
• Identifies characters, setting and important events in a story
• Recognizes and names all capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet and consonant sounds
• Hears and manipulates the sounds of letters and letter combinations
• Recognizes that written letters and groups of letters are represented by sounds
• Correctly shapes capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet
• Writes using pictures, letters and words
• Writes for specific purposes and audiences
• Draws pictures to express ideas
• Shares information and ideas in complete, coherent sentences
• Identifies the front/back cover of a book and the title
• Follows words from left to right and top to bottom on a printed page
• Reads and writes own name

Additionally, kindergarten learners will:

• Continue to develop a passion for reading, writing and learning
• Be inquisitive learners who ask questions, make connections and seek answers
• Use creativity, imagination, play, reading, writing, etc., as avenues for making meaning in their lives
• Develop confidence in their abilities as learners
• Build independence, take risks and be responsible for their learning
• Listen to others and communicate thoughts/opinions in response
• Build stamina for reading and writing
• Use various strategies when reading and writing in order to solve problems
• Set personal reading and writing goals
Mathematics

- Write numbers from 0 to 20
- Count to 100 by ones and tens
- Recognize, represent, and name a number of objects up to 10
- Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20
- Compare sets of up to ten objects and determine if they are equivalent
- Compare sets of up to ten objects and identify which is more than or less
- Solve simple story problems
- Use the concepts of more, less, all, some, none, most and least
- Model addition situations by joining sets of objects (for any two sets with fewer than 10 objects when joined)
- Model subtraction by removing objects from sets from numbers less than 10
- Sort and classify objects and shapes
- Identify objects that do not belong in a particular group
- Copy and make simple patterns with numbers and shapes
- Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders and spheres)
- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes
- Use inside, outside, above (over), below (under) and between to describe position
- Make direct comparisons of length
- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Use precision
- Reason and explain
- Model and use tools

Social Skills/Citizenship/Work Habits

- Follow directions, rules and routines
- Show positive attitude toward learning
- Listen attentively without interrupting
- Talk at appropriate times
- Work independently and stay on task
- Organize self, materials and belongings
- Display self-control
- Respect adults, peers and school property
BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

We look forward to working with your child next year. The following is a list of things to practice with your child between now and the beginning of the school year to assist in their success:

- Go on adventures around your neighborhood or town and discuss what you see, hear and do
- Have conversations with each other to expand vocabulary
- Enjoy dinner together and talk about your day
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks and follow rules
- Share with others
- Separate from parents without becoming upset
- Practice fine motor skills: cut with scissors, tie shoes, button and/or zip coats, shirts, pants, etc.
- Listen to stories without interrupting and be familiar with books
- Identify rhyming words, beginning sound of some words and some alphabet letters
- Sort similar objects by color, size and shape
- Count to twenty
- Write their name
- Manage bathroom needs (be sure they are potty trained)
- Have your child problem solve issues/conflicts with peers
- Practice waiting on others to go and/or finish
- Give opportunities to play with others and problem solve conflicts

Mark your child's name clearly in each article of outdoor clothing, as well as all items brought to school. Be sure your child recognizes this marking and learns to identify them.

Your child should have a school bag or backpack to carry papers and library books safely to and from school. The bag needs to be large enough to contain a good size library book and 9” x 12” art paper. Important information will be sent home in backpacks. Parents need to check backpacks daily, cleaning out backpacks regularly.

Note: Every effort is taken to keep the child’s clothing clean, but accidents do happen! Let your child wear clothing which can take a smear of glue or a splash of paint, allowing your child to work with ease.
**Things Parents Can Do to Help Children Succeed**  
(Information adapted from Indiana’s Academic Standards Guide)

**Build relationships with your child’s teachers.** Find out what each teacher expects of your child and how you can help meet those expectations.

**Read.** Reading is the foundation for all learning. Expose your child to a wide variety of reading materials (newspapers, magazines, books, websites) and be ready to discuss what was learned. Helping your child develop strong reading habits and skills is one of the most important contributions you can make to your child’s education.

**Practice writing at home.** Letters, journal entries, e-mail messages (grammatically correct) and grocery lists are all writing opportunities. Show that writing is an effective form of communication and that you write for a variety of purposes. Leave notes for your child and ask your child to respond back to you!

**Make math part of everyday life.** Cooking, gardening, paying bills, balancing a checkbook and even shopping are all good ways to learn about math in the real world. When your child gives you an answer, encourage an explanation of how your child solved the math.

**Ask your child to explain his or her thinking.** Ask lots of questions. Have your child explain their reasoning, how they came up with the answer and why they chose one way over another.

**Use the community as a classroom.** Feed your child’s curiosity about the world 365 days a year. Take your child to museums, local government buildings, state parks and workplaces. Encourage your young adult to volunteer in a field or area of interest in order to show how learning connects to the real world. These activities will reinforce what is learned in the classroom.

**Spend time at school.** The best way to know what goes on in your child’s school is to spend time there. If you’re a working parent this isn’t easy, and you may not be able to do it very often. But “once in awhile” is better than “never.”
**Conferences and Progress Reports**

Conferences provide the best opportunity for you to follow your child’s progress in kindergarten as well as assist the teacher in understanding your child. Arrangements will be made for individual parent teacher conferences.

- Individual parent conferences will be scheduled in the fall during the school year
- Additional and periodic personal conferences may be arranged with the teacher by appointment
- You will receive progress reports four times during the school year

**Special Days**

Holiday and birthday celebrations follow procedures established by the Noblesville Schools Wellness Policy and administrative guidelines, which can be found on our website noblesvilleschools.org or in the elementary student handbook.

**Communications**

Communications between the school and home are important and assist with a more successful school experience. You will receive communications from your child’s teacher, the school, the district and your parent teacher organization (PTO) in a variety of formats. Please watch for newsletters, emails and papers in your child’s folder. You can also find information at noblesvilleschools.org.

Additionally, connect with Noblesville Schools on social media through Twitter (@nobschools) and Facebook (facebook.com/noblesvilleschools) for updates on school news and happenings.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher and/or the building principal.
**School Libraries**

Kindergarten learners will visit their school library media center with their classroom teacher at least once a week. Learners choose books to take home and share with their families. Our library policies reflect the greater goal of encouraging a love of reading. Noblesville Schools has a wonderful partnership with the Hamilton East Public Library. Learners can access the public library’s collection of digital resources for kids with their student identification number.

**Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

Parents/guardians are invited to join the parent teacher organization (PTO) of the school their child attends. PTOs provide classroom support, playground equipment, recognition activities, technology purchases and much more. Please watch for information from your school regarding when PTO meetings take place.

**Transportation**

Noblesville Schools will provide round trip transportation for kindergarten students who live in areas that are presently served by school buses. Good safety habits should be observed by drivers at all times. Since the carpool driver may be held legally responsible in case of an accident, it is advised that adequate liability insurance be carried by all drivers. Promptness in arriving and departing is important.

Parents will be informed of bus routes, stops and times the week prior to the start of school. Questions should be directed to the Transportation Department at (317) 773-7203.
Volunteering/Family Involvement

Parents/guardians are welcome to volunteer in their child’s kindergarten classroom provided they have an approved volunteer background check and have consulted the teacher via e-mail or phone as to the most beneficial time and duration for volunteering. Volunteer background check information can be found on our website in the Student Services area.

Please wait until after the first month to volunteer, so your child can become adjusted to their new environment.

Family involvement is crucial to your child’s success. Anything you do either in or outside of the Noblesville classroom will greatly enhance student experiences.

Consider the following possibilities:

- Assist in the classroom
- Share your expertise with the class
- Chaperone study trips
- Prepare materials for instructional use
- Read to students
- Help with projects
- Serve as an interpreter for non-English speaking students and their families
- Donate materials
- Serve on a school or district committee
- Read newsletters
- Check for updates from the teacher