
Welcome to Kindergarten!

2024-25

Welcome & Introductions

❖ Office Staff

- Ms. Traci Dyer, Principal
- TBD, School Nurse
 - <https://www.cgschools.org/nurses-page/>
- Mrs. Vickie Sinisi (Full-time Secretary)
- Mrs. Monica Fox (Part-time)

❖ Teachers

- Mrs. Linda Sue Sweeney
- Mrs. Geralyn Terzo
- TBD (Mrs. Pines resigned)
- Danielle Guerriero
- Desirae Piccolli

CG & NE VIPs

- ❖ Dr. Peter Turnamian, Superintendent
- ❖ Mrs. Jessica Pignatello, Director Special Services
- ❖ Mrs. Kristin Massotto, Supervisor of Elementary Education
- ❖ Ms. Gillian LaGorce, NE Guidance Counselor
- ❖ Mrs. Amy Fairclough, FSA President (current)
- ❖ Mrs. Alyson Howe, FSA President 2024 - 2026

North End School Basic Facts

- ❖ Office Hours are Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ Voicemail is in operation 24 hours a day and on weekends!
- ❖ If you call the office during those hours and no one answers, don't be alarmed! Leave a message and we will get back to you.
- ❖ Crossing Guards work 7:30 – 8:30; 2:30 – 3:30

Safety & Security

- ❖ All exterior doors remain locked at all times
- ❖ Entering NE School
 - Ring bell: State name/purpose for visit
 - Provide picture identification
 - Sign in using computer in vestibule (You will need a state issued ID for this process.)
 - Sign out via computer station when leaving
 - Volunteers must complete fingerprinting process/background check (submit form found on the FF to Ms. Dyer).

Safety & Security Continued...

- ❖ Emergency Drills are practiced each month to include:
 - Fire Drills
 - Evacuation Drills
 - Lockdown Drills
- ❖ Collaboration with CGPD
 - Participate and provide feedback during drills
 - Daily “Walk-n-Talks”
 - Work with Superintendent and BOE to continuously improve safety & security practices
- ❖ There is a plan in place! Assisted by Superintendent’s Office

Friday Folder & Genesis Parent Portal

❖ School Messenger

- ❖ The Friday Folder contains weekly updates to parents of upcoming events
- ❖ What can the Friday Folder do for thee? Check it out and see!
- ❖ [Friday Folder - Cedar Grove Schools](#)
- ❖ Genesis Parent Portal - <https://tinyurl.com/yyvguxw2>
 - You have a login/password to access site so that you can...
 - E-forms (permission slips, acceptable use, reserving time slots for parent conferences (November))
 - Update contact information
 - Access child's report cards
- ❖ NE FSA Weekly Blasts through Directory Spot

Helpful Hints for Parents

- ❖ District Website: <https://www.cgschools.org/>
- ❖ NE School [North End School](#)
- ❖ Links to a variety of helpful tools
 - School Messenger (e-blasts & phone messages)
 - Nurse's Page <https://tinyurl.com/y54z678p>
 - Parent/Student Handbook
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1apRBo7Nuog3cjlG-8qREgp8AZg236AO8/view>
 - FSA Website <http://northendfsa.com/>

Our FSA Keeps You Informed

- ❖ [Friday Folder - Cedar Grove Schools](#)
- ❖ NE FSA Facebook Page [North End School FSA](#)
- ❖ NE FSA Calendar <http://northendfsa.com/calendar/>
- ❖ NE FSA Directory <https://tinyurl.com/mrx8xvxl>
- ❖ E-mail the FSA: northendfsa@gmail.com
 - Alyson Howe, President - northendfsa@gmail.com
 - Jennifer Forschino, Vice President - northendfsavp@gmail.com
 - Jackie Pinho, Treasurer - northendfsatreasurer@gmail.com
 - Kelly McFadzean, Corresponding Secretary - northendfsacs@gmail.com
 - Kristin O'Riley, Recording Secretary - northendfsars@gmail.com

A Day in the Life of Kindergarten

Daily Schedule

- ❖ Parking lot is off limits during the school day, unless you are picking up a child or simply dropping something off. If you have an appointment or are visiting for any other reason, you must park on an access street.
- ❖ Students are granted access to the building at 8:10 (unless registered/signed into “AlphaBEST.”)
- ❖ Kindergarten students will enter directly through the main office entrance. Students arriving after 8:20 will need to go to the office for a tardy slip prior to going to class
- ❖ Attendance is important even in kindergarten!
 - If your child will be absent, call our office and leave a message (otherwise, we will call you!)
 - You can make arrangements for homework, but always remember...the instructional time is lost
- ❖ Students are dismissed to you at the end of the day via the same way they entered

Academic Schedule

- ❖ Links to Curriculum on the Cedar Grove School District Website
- ❖ NJ Student Learning Standards
 - [*New Jersey Student Learning Standards*](#)
 - English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, Specials (Art, Music, Guidance Counseling, PE) Computers & World Language

Lunch & Recess Information

- ❖ Students may go home during the lunch/recess hour
 - If you plan to take your child home, please send a note to your child's teacher (pick-up/drop off @ office)
- ❖ Supervision during lunch & recess is provided by lunch aides and some classroom teachers, not your child's teacher
- ❖ Help your child prepare for lunch time by practicing opening items or set a timer to show "slower" eaters how much time they will have, etc. (30 minutes)

Is your child ready?

Some of the information that follows pertains to a full day of school. Please keep this in mind as you review these slides.

TOP READINESS SKILLS

Kindergarten teachers look for...

Typically this would have been presented in June at our Kindergarten Orientation. Although school starts in just a few weeks, we thought we should share this information as food for thought.

As you reflect on your own child, perhaps you want to focus on some of these things at home.

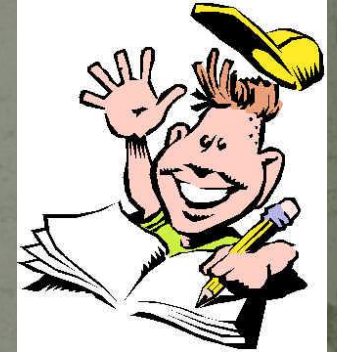


Kindergarten students are expected (or might need) to...

- get coats on and off and be able to hang them up on a hook
- follow simple two-step instructions such as take off your coat and take out your homework.
- go to the bathroom by themselves and wash their hands.
- blow their nose and cover their mouth when they cough.
- fasten and unfasten simple buttons and snaps (think restroom, Mom!).
- eat neatly and clean up snack/lunch items (when applicable).
- open up a juice box/pouch and/or insert straw.
- unpack and pack up items in their backpack...and carry it!
- take care of a basket of supplies and their cubbies, when applicable (organization skills).

Does your child have...

- ❖ an enthusiasm for learning?
- ❖ solid oral language skills?
- ❖ the ability to listen and follow directions?
- ❖ a desire to be independent?
- ❖ the ability to play well with others?
- ❖ strong fine-motor skills?
- ❖ basic letter and number recognition?



ENTHUSIASM TOWARD LEARNING

- ❖ Does your child approach learning enthusiastically?
 - ❖ Is your child eager to explore and discover?
 - ❖ Does your child ask questions, take initiative, and persist when tasks are difficult?
-

SOLID ORAL-LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ❖ Children need wide background knowledge about their world and the words to go with this knowledge.
 - ❖ Visit new places and give him/her words and descriptions for what he/ she is seeing. These experiences have a huge impact on learning. (if at the zoo, describe the animals in great detail).
-

THE ABILITY TO LISTEN

- ❖ Children's literature is a rich resource for expanding language. Parents should read to kids every day and limit TV, computer time and video games.
 - ❖ Reading fosters vocabulary and comprehension.
 - ❖ Reading helps children to develop the attention skills necessary in a kindergarten classroom. "Listening and following directions" are key components for your child's success at school.
-

THE DESIRE TO BE INDEPENDENT

- ❖ Encouraging self-help skills is an important step to preparing your child for kindergarten.
 - ❖ Remember, there are at least 20 children in your student's class. At home, it might be quicker for parents to do "it", but independence is critical for helping your child adjust to school.
-

Help Your Child Become INDEPENDENT

- ❖ Some children are so dependent on their parents that they expect the teacher to do things for them.
 - ❖ Some skills a Kindergarten child is ready for, so let them do it! (i.e. wiping nose, hanging up coat, etc.)
 - ❖ Tying shoes is a developmental skill that often doesn't come until the first grade. It is suggested to send your child with slip-on shoes or sneakers with velcro until your child can manage...safety is key!
-

THE ABILITY TO PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS

- ❖ Your child will need your assistance refining essential social skills such as sharing (well, not during a global pandemic, but you get the idea), compromising, taking turns, and problem solving.
- ❖ Children are naturally egocentric at this age, and we don't expect them to share everything. But by the time they reach kindergarten, they should be able to express their feelings in words and begin to understand that two people can use the same thing at the same time...again, maybe not when following restrictions related to a global pandemic.
- ❖ During play dates or family functions, help your child to problem-solve and work things out amicably when conflict occurs.

STRONG FINE-MOTOR SKILLS

- ❖ Your child's hands must be strong enough to master coloring, cutting, pasting, and holding a pencil – fine motor tasks that kids use every day in kindergarten.
- ❖ By week one, we're already writing letters, numbers, and his/her name. If you're child can't hold a pencil, let's start working on that now.
- ❖ Children are also expected to write their names on their papers and projects. We encourage teaching children to write their names with an **uppercase letter followed by lower case letters**. (If your child can't do that, it will come!)

BASIC LETTER and NUMBER RECOGNITION

- ❖ Kindergarten teachers believe that it is their responsibility to teach kids letter sounds and how to write, but they do hope incoming students can recognize most letters by sight.
 - ❖ They also hope children can count to 10 and identify numbers to 10, and know some shapes and colors.
 - ❖ Anything else your child knows is a BONUS!
-

FAMILY OUTINGS

- ❖ Teachers would encourage spontaneous learning during family outings.
- ❖ Play guessing games like, “I spy with my little eye something with the number 3 or something orange.”
- ❖ Show your children that letters and numbers are all around us. Say, “That sign spells Target.” Let’s spell it together (T-A-R-G-E-T).
- ❖ Point out objects or signs that contain the letters in your child’s name.
- ❖ Children can learn so much during play and outings and do not need to be drilled with flash cards or phonics drills.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, always keep the focus on fun! Relax, and enjoy your children. Read, play, and go places. ..

and talk the whole time you're doing it!

Problems, concerns, questions...

- ❖ The best person to contact first is your child's teacher or specialist. E-mail, phone messages, etc. are great ways to communicate.
- ❖ If your problem, concern, or question is not handled, feel free to contact Ms. Dyer.
 - Phone message (973-256-1454)
 - Email (dyer.traci@cgschools.org)
 - All messages are typically returned within 24 hours, your patience is appreciated
 - Appointment (arrange through our office staff)