

School Information

Hodgkins Elementary School

6516 S. Kane Avenue, Hodgkins

(708) 482-2740

Ideal Elementary School

9901 W. 58th Street, Countryside

(708) 482-2750

Seventh Avenue Elementary School

701 S. 7th Avenue, La Grange

(708) 482-2730

Spring Avenue Elementary School

1001 S. Spring Avenue, La Grange

(708) 482-2710

Administrative Office

701 S. 7th Avenue, La Grange

(708) 482-2700



School Principal

School Secretary

School Nurse

Teacher's Name

Half-Day Session 8:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Full-Day Session 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.

District 105



THE D105 DIFFERENCE

Kindergarten Handbook



Tips For A Successful Year

- Have reading and writing tools (paper, pencils, crayons, markers, etc.) at home and available for your child's use. In kindergarten, your child will be "writing" every day. This may be drawing detailed pictures, dictating a story to a teacher to write, and eventually sounding out and writing words on their own. Encourage this at home as well.
- Kindergarten is the only grade that has "Counting & Cardinality" math standards. This is the one year that your child needs to secure his/her number sense. This means that your child will be involved in MANY counting activities throughout the year. Your child should know that there is a numeral (5), the name of the number ("five") and a value (*****.)
- Kindergarten is a time to strengthen fine motor skills. Help your child to print his/her name correctly (first letter capital and other letters small), print letters and numbers correctly, and to use *play-dough*, stringing beads, scissors, and time on their stomachs when reading or watching a movie to build core strength.
- We will be involved in many "speaking and listening" activities in kindergarten. At home, it is important to engage in daily conversations with your child.



Tips For A Successful Year

- Kindergarten is an exciting year. Your child is going to grow and learn SO MUCH this year!
- Kindergartners need help and review with readiness skills (letter names, letter sounds, numbers, counting, sight words, shapes, letter and number formation) each and every day at home with you. This time (15 minutes) at home each day should be fun and engaging and a time that you both look forward to. You are your child's first and most important teacher. Your child's success this year in kindergarten depends on the time and energy that you put into helping your child at home. **It takes a team effort for success.... parent-student-teacher.**
- Kindergartners learn best by doing and experiencing with hands-on materials. Play is an integral part of a kindergarten day.
- Kindergartners enter kindergarten at various levels of readiness. Your child will receive instruction at an appropriate level so that he/she continues to grow throughout the year.
- Read with your child every day for approximately 10-15 minutes. Ask your child questions before, during, and after the story. When your child brings home a book that he/she can read, make a BIG deal out of this! Have your child point to and read the words and then tell you about the story.

Introduction

We would like to welcome you and your child to District 105. We are happy to have you as a part of our school family .

Starting school is a very important event in the life of every kindergartner and something each child looks forward to with enthusiasm and anticipation.

The information in this handbook will help your child have a successful year in kindergarten. We hope this book will be a useful reference for you throughout the year.

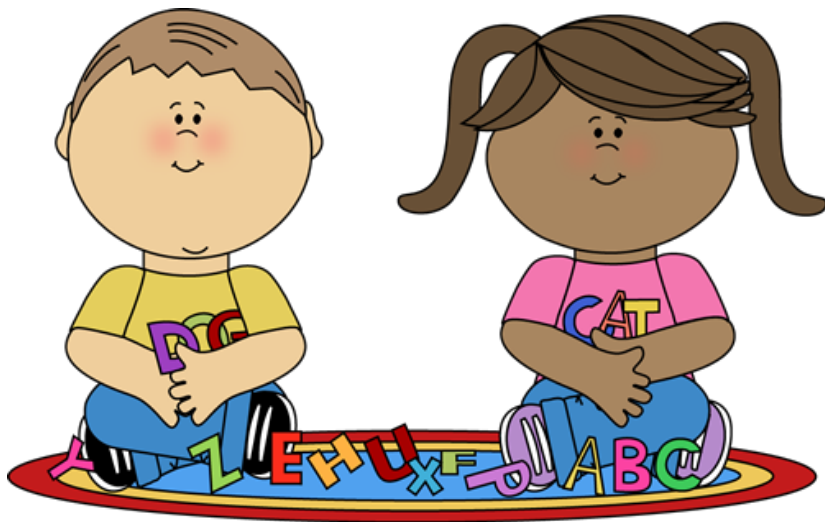
We encourage you to become familiar with your school, principal, and teachers. They will always be willing to answer any questions you may have.



Social Emotional Expectations

What Will My Child Bring Home From Kindergarten?

- Some days it will be something in their head...
- Some days it will be something in their hands...
- Some days it will be something in their heart...



- Kindergartners need to sleep approximately 10-12 hours a night. This will really help your child to learn and be successful at school.
- *The American Academy of Pediatrics* recommends limiting screen time (TV, iPad, computer, Smartphone, video games) to 1-2 hours a day. Following this guideline will help your child be more successful in kindergarten.
- It is important that your child eats a well-balanced meal prior to arriving at school. It is hard to focus and learn when hungry.
- Kindergartners crave routine. This is especially important at bedtime at home and we will follow daily routines at school as well.
- Kindergartners do well with consistency and clear expectations. We have rules that we have created together as a class and that your child has agreed to follow. It is important that your child knows your family rules and expectations at home as well.
- When asking your child about kindergarten, ask specific questions rather than asking "How was your day?" Ask: What book did you read today? What friend did you talk to/play with? What center/work station did you work at? What was your favorite thing you did today?
- **Encourage your child to practice using self-help skills and to be independent.** Your kindergartner should be able to pack his/her own backpack, zip his/her coat, and dress independently. Also, he/she should be able to open their own snack/lunch containers/packages.

School-Home Communication

1. We are committed to keeping you informed. We will be using the **Seesaw platform (Online communication and student portfolio)**. More information to come in the beginning of the school year.
2. Two **Parent/Teacher conferences** will be scheduled for the year. Your child will also receive three report cards.
3. Please call the school office when your child is going to be absent by 9:00 a.m.



Letter From The Superintendent

Dear Parents:

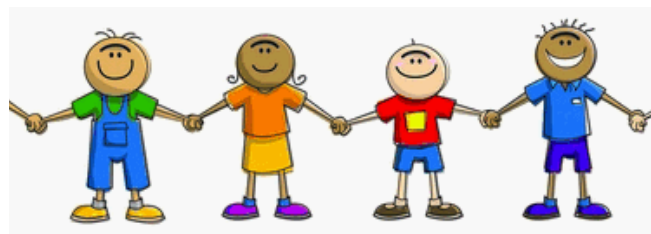
We are very pleased to offer this kindergarten handbook. It is filled with information we believe will be useful as you prepare your child for entering school.

You will find ideas on how to help your child succeed in school, information about how young children grow, and information on our curriculum. We know the success of children in school is largely dependent on the start they get at home and in their primary years. As parents, you can and should play a major role in your child's education and growth. We hope this handbook will help you in your task.

Please feel free to communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis and to become active in the education process. District 105 is privileged to know and work with you and your child. We look forward to a long and fulfilling relationship.

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Brian Ganan



Kindergarten Entrance Requirements

1. Must be five years old on or before September 1.
2. Physical exam and immunizations. Students are not able to start Kindergarten without these. Don't wait! You can start getting these done now. Turn them in to your school's nursing office as soon as they are completed. A dental examination and vision examination are also required by the dates below.

Current Physical Examination:

- *Physical must have documentation of all up-to-date Immunizations. Parents, make sure to fill out the Health History section on the top of the back page.
- *BMI (body mass index), Diabetes Screening, and Lead Risk Questionnaire sections must be completed by the doctor's office (check these before you leave the medical office).

Vision Examination due by 10/15 of the year your student attends kindergarten

Dental Examination due by 5/15 of the year your student attends kindergarten



Kindergarten Screening

Screening is required of all incoming District 105 kindergartners.

Each kindergarten teacher screens his/her incoming class on an individual basis at pre-scheduled assigned times.

An appointment letter is sent to parents in the summer.

Appointments will be scheduled on one of the two days prior to the first day of kindergarten. The screening takes place in each child's school.

This is a warm introduction to the kindergarten classrooms for both the children and their parents.



Kindergarten Philosophy

Your child is about to start a magical year...kindergarten! You will be amazed at all your child will learn during this year!

Our kindergarten program is planned to meet the social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of your child. We realize that all children are different and come to us with varying needs and abilities.

We hope to encourage in each child the ability to play and work cooperatively in various group situations, to gain independence, to develop good work habits, and to express themselves creatively. We will use a balanced approach in providing instruction which reflects current research.

Kindergarten Schedule:

Morning - 8:30 - 11:45

Arrival Routines
Morning Meeting
Literacy
Physical Education
Math
Active Discovery Centers
Half Day Dismissal

Afternoon - 11:45 - 3:00

Lunch
Science/Social Studies/Art/Music
Science/Social Studies - 3 times a week
Art - 1 time a week
Music - 1 time a week
Library/Technology
Literacy
Math
Active Discovery Centers

HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL:

Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in kindergarten so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help him/her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Used with permission of Attendance Works (attendance works.org)

Health and Safety

(Note these guidelines are in place during normal school year. Any updates around COVID-19 will be communicated before the start of school)

In general, children are too sick to come to school when:

- They may be contagious
- Their symptoms are serious enough to prevent them from focusing on the tasks they need to do at school

Use this checklist to determine whether to keep your child home from school:

Does your child have a **fever** of 100 or higher?

(Do not give medication to reduce the fever and send child to school. Child can return to school when temperature is below 100 without needing medication to keep temperature below 100).

Has your child had **vomiting** in the past 24 hours?

Has your child had **diarrhea** in the past 24 hours?

Does your child have a **rash** that has not been checked by a health care provider? (Child may attend with health care provider note stating he/she is cleared for school or has a chronic rash condition)

Is your child constantly rubbing/itching his/her **eyes**? Are they red, crusted shut in the morning, or discharging green or yellow material (Child may attend with health care provider note stating he/she is cleared for school or has a chronic eye condition)

Does your child have **severe** coughing, cold symptoms, sore throat, earache, headache, or stomach ache that will make it difficult for him/her to participate in the school day?

Does your child have **head lice and/or nits**?

(Child may attend after treatment and when all lice and nits have been removed from the hair and child has been checked and cleared by the school nurse).



When your child prints his/her name, please see that he/she uses the capital and small letters as shown:

Marggie



1. When a student is absent a parent must phone the school during the morning of the absence by 9:00 a.m. After three days of absence, the principal may request a written excuse from a health care provider.
2. Registered nurses are available in District Schools to provide direct care for injuries and illnesses; to assist students with chronic conditions; to protect and promote healthy and optimal development; and to support academic success.
3. Make sure you have updated family and emergency contact information in the school office at all times in case your student becomes ill or injured at school and needs to go home. Make sure to update this any time phone numbers change throughout the year.
4. District 105 has purchased student accident insurance which covers students for injuries incurred while participating in school sponsored and supervised activities, including all sports. You may request this form from the school nursing office.
5. Medications needed during the school day are limited to those that are necessary for the student to access the educational program, and if not taken, could jeopardize the student's health and/or education. A medication authorization form completed by the doctor and parent/guardian is required before any medication (prescribed or over the counter) may be given. These forms are available in the offices. In general, students are not allowed to carry medication on their person. The only exceptions are medications used to treat asthma and epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g. Epi-Pens). These medications may be carried and self-administrated by students after required doctor and parent authorization forms are on file in the office. The same policy applies to food supplements.

Teach and Reinforce Illness Prevention Habits:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, by using the inside bend of the elbow or a tissue.