

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Kindergarten

How do I know if my child is ready for Kindergarten?

Kindergarten students should be able to do the following things.

- ❖ Separate from his/her parent easily, without nervousness or crying.
- ❖ Speak using complete sentences.
- ❖ Follow directions without several repetitions of the questions and/or instructions.
- ❖ Share, take turns, and play cooperatively with other children.
- ❖ Attend to activities (such as puzzles and coloring) and stories for at least 10 minutes.

I have heard that Brentwood's Kindergarten curriculum is very academic. Why is this so?

It is a national trend for Kindergarten students to be taught standards in key areas of learning and development:

- ✓ Approaches to learning
- ✓ Cognition, math and science
- ✓ Creative expression
- ✓ Language and literacy
- ✓ Partnerships with family
- ✓ Personal and social development
- ✓ Physical health and motor development

My child's birthday falls close to the September 30th cut off date. Should I hold him/her out of school for another year?

The screening results will tell us more about your child's developmental level, so you should definitely have him/her screened. If it is recommended that you hold your child out of school another year, please consider doing so. No one wants to see your child struggle through his/her first year of school, and/or become so frustrated that he/she learns not to like school.

If you haven't already done so please call to schedule a kindergarten screening appointment at 412-881-7776.

What if the scores my child receives on the screening show that he/she is not ready, but the preschool my child attended says he/she is ready, or I feel my child is ready. Can we give Kindergarten a try?

You can always give it a try. Your child may do just fine, as you suspect. But please be prepared for the possibility that your child may not meet with success, and may need to repeat Kindergarten. There is no such thing as giving first grade a try. Your child has to be ready to meet the demands of reading, writing and math to be successful in first grade.

My child is reading and doing addition and subtraction already. Will the screening qualify a child for the Gifted program?

No. The screening will show us that your child is developmentally ready for

Kindergarten. It assesses the ability to learn. To qualify for the Gifted program your child must be tested by a licensed school psychologist using an individual intelligence test and achievement test. Parents can request this testing or it can be recommended by your child's teacher.

Will my child be screened for Speech and Language and/or Occupational Therapy services at the same time that he/she is given the screening?

The screening has sections which screen articulation, language and motor skills. Separate speech and language and/or fine and gross motor screenings are not done for the entire Kindergarten student body. Testing for these services is based upon parent or teacher recommendation or participation in early intervention programs prior to entering Kindergarten.

What will be my child's schedule for lunch now that Kindergarten will be in session for a full day?

Your child actually has several options for lunch in the Brentwood elementary schools. One option is to go home for the lunch/recess hour and return for afternoon classes. Those children who remain in school for lunch may bring a lunch from home, with the option of purchasing milk at school, or they can purchase a lunch in school. The elementary schools offer a daily hot lunch choice, or one of four bag lunch choices. (Milk is included in the purchase of the school lunch.) Free and reduced priced lunches are available for those families who apply and qualify. Application forms will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. The school district also has a School Breakfast Program in each building.

What materials will my child need for school?

The school district provides paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks for use in school. However, we suggest you have these materials available at home for your child to use. He/she will need them to complete homework assignments.

Many teachers provide your child with a pocket folder to transport papers to and from school on a daily basis. If your child's teacher does not provide a pocket folder, you may wish to purchase one for him/her to help with organizational skills.

Your child will need a backpack for school. We suggest you check to see if a pocket folder will fit neatly into the backpack before purchasing one. Also check to see if the closure on the backpack is kid friendly. Can your child open and close it himself/herself?

We also suggest checking to see if your child's shoes and coats are kid friendly before purchasing them. Is the coat zipper tricky? Do the shoes slip off or come untied too easily? Are the shoestrings too long or too short? Our school buildings have a lot of stairs, and untied or slip off shoes can actually be dangerous for small children, especially if the stairs need to be traveled quickly such as for a fire drill.

One last suggestion we have is to make sure you label your child's belongings, especially backpacks, lunch boxes and coats. You would be surprised how many Barbie, Scooby Doo, and Spiderman backpacks we have hanging on our hooks every year.