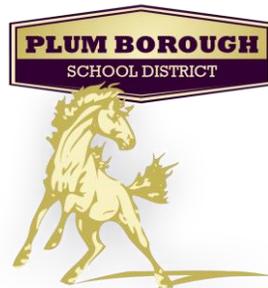




# Kindergarten Parent Handbook



Plum Borough School District



# Kindergarten Handbook for Parents



Center Elementary School  
412-795-4420

Holiday Park Elementary School  
412-795-4430

Pivik Elementary School  
412-795-4580

Regency Park Elementary School  
412-795-0660

Plum Borough School District Administration Building  
412-795-0100

[www.pbsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.pbsd.k12.pa.us)

## Kindergarten in the Plum Borough School District

Our kindergarten program provides developmentally appropriate experiences aimed at preparing the child for the task of interacting successfully in a school environment, and building a foundation for future academic skills. The kindergarten program is a full-day program in which students receive instruction in Literacy, Numeracy, General Education, Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and STEM. During their literacy block, children will learn to identify and name upper and lower case letters, develop phonemic awareness, identify sight words, write the alphabet, words, and sentences, and develop early reading skills. They will learn “color” words, numbers, basic counting and addition/subtraction skills. Our kindergarten program is designed to engage the students in active learning, problem-solving and many hands-on experiences. Finally, our kindergarten program is designed around PA Early Learning Standards which can be found at:

<http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedcontent/docs/pd/standards/kindergarten%202010.pdf>

### SCHOOL'S DAILY SCHEDULE

8:10 AM	Staff Arrival
8:40 AM	Student Arrival
9:00 AM	Classes Begin
3:30 PM	School Dismissal
4:00 PM	School Offices Close



\*Because there is no supervision, students are not permitted to enter the school building before 8:40 AM.

# Kindergarten Readiness Skills

Here are some of the skills that teachers will be looking for early in the kindergarten year. We believe that these skills lay a solid foundation for general school readiness and are necessary for your child to be successful.

We encourage you to keep this sheet as a daily reminder and help your child master these skills.

My child can:	
	Say his/her full name.
	Write his/her first name.
	Recite his/her address and phone number.
	Recite his/her birth date.
	Recognize and name colors.
	Practice counting to at least 10 (or higher)
	Recognize the shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
	Sit quietly and listen to a story, recall, and retell details of the story.
	Practice tying his/her shoes.
	Dress and take care of own bathroom needs.
	Recognize rhyming words
	Cut with scissors
	Hold pencil/crayon properly
	Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape
	Recognize some letters and some letter sounds

## Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

We know that kindergarten age children come to us with a variety of “schooling” experiences. Children react in different ways to the kindergarten experience. For some, this may be their first time in a formal school setting, and others have several years of preschool experience. Regardless of your child’s prior experience, your own confidence that your child is going to do well is very important. Stress to your child that school is an exciting and happy place. Here are some other things that parents can do to prepare children for kindergarten.

### **Parents can:**

- Talk positively about kindergarten
- Arrange for caregivers and/or carpools, if needed, and familiarize your child with them several weeks before school begins
- Help your child learn the name of his/her kindergarten teacher
- Practice walking to the bus stop/school and review safety rules
- Help your child practice writing his/her name
- Help your child get into a bedtime and daily routine in August
- Practice color recognition and letter/number awareness
- Read stories-go over pictures and story sequence. Children who are exposed to many kinds of stories make exciting, successful readers!
- Encourage age appropriate speech





## Some Priceless Pointers from the Teacher

- Please make certain your child is wearing a nametag during the first week of school.
- See that your child is sent to school on time, but not before school hours.
- Dress children in practical, washable clothing that will not limit their activities. Be sure that clothing and boots are large enough and easy to fasten.
- Mark your child's belongings with their full name.
- Teach your child how to put on and take off outdoor clothing and hang them up properly. Some clothing may require that you sew loops onto the coat or sweater so that they can be hung up easily.
- Plan with your child an alternate place to go in the case no one is at home after school, or if there is an emergency school closing during the day.
- When your child has been absent or tardy, please send in an excuse within three school days.
- Enclose any money or notes sent to school in an envelope including both the teacher's name and the child's name.
- Notify the school immediately upon changing address, phone number, or emergency care instructions.
- Inform the teacher and the school nurse of any special health conditions your child may have.
- Please read all notices carefully and respond promptly. Encourage this new responsibility of your child as "messenger" between home and school.
- Plan to attend parent-teacher conferences, parent-teacher organization meetings, and programs involving your child's school.
- Written permission is needed for your child to leave with anyone new, even a relative. Legal documents and/or written statements must be on file pertaining to child custody arrangements, etc.
- Students will receive a "My School Bucks" account in which you can either electronically deposit money or write a check for school lunches.
- Review your child's schoolwork daily and praise your child for a job well done.

Contact the teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We are working together in the best interests of your child.

# Transportation

The Plum Borough School District provides bus transportation for students. Bus and bus stop assignments will be made public in late August. Check the District website for this information at:

[www.pbsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.pbsd.k12.pa.us)

As a service to parents, the district provides bus service to some Day Care Centers under certain conditions:

1. Transportation for daycare facility will be set before August 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Requests are only for everyday service throughout the entire school year.
3. August 1<sup>st</sup> will be the deadline for all special and daycare requests to be completed on the appropriate transportation form available at the daycare center or in the elementary schools.
4. Transportation requests to or from a daycare center outside of the established attendance zone of a given public school will not be granted nor will buses deviate from their established routes to accommodate such transportation.

The school district reserves the right to discontinue this type of service, and will notify the parents of the affected students in advance of any such discontinuation. For more information, contact the bus garage at 412-795-3600.



## Reporting to the Parents

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in November. The purpose of a conference is to provide opportunities:

- To contribute to the better understanding of your child's progress and to examine ideas, suggestions, questions and information in a cooperative way
- To promote parent/teacher collaboration
- Additional parent/teacher conferences can be scheduled at any time



## Report Cards

Your child will receive a report card every nine weeks beginning with the first parent/teacher conference. The report card has been designed to give you some idea of the progress that your child has made during each report period.

# The Child is the Core of Our Kindergarten Program

The Following Characteristics Are Typical  
of Kindergarten Age Children:

## **Emotionally**, the kindergarten child

- Needs a sense of belonging
- Responds to praise, encouragement, and consistent directions
- Searches for trust, fairness, and definite standards
- Gains a sense of security from definite routine
- Needs to live in a reasonably predictable world
- Has strong emotional link with home
- Is prone to show fear of the new and unusual

## **Socially**, the kindergarten child

- Needs adult to help in learning to share
- Works best with constant approval
- Chooses friends by acceptable behavior
- Is self-centered
- Is a great talker
- Is learning to listen purposefully and without interruption

## **Mentally**, the kindergarten child

- Learns by doing, experiencing, observing, questioning, limiting, examining, exploring, and investigating
- Has a short attention span
- Likes to be read to
- Is growing in ability to think things through

## **Physically**, the kindergarten child

- Skips
- Hops on right foot, left foot, both feet-five times
- Balances on left foot, right foot-for ten seconds
- Bounces and catches a ball

# Immunizations

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that all children (kindergarten- 12) receive the following immunizations before being admitted to school.

For more info go to [www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov)

## All Students in Grades K-12 need:

- 4 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td - diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis (1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4<sup>th</sup> dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 2 doses of MMR - measles/mumps/rubella
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Varicella - chickenpox (or evidence of immunity through a written statement from physician/designee indicating month and year of disease or serologic proof of immunity)

## All Students in Grades 7-12 also need:

- 1 dose of DTaP - diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis (to enter 7th grade)
- 2 doses of MCV - meningococcal conjugate vaccine
  - 1st dose to enter 7th grade (11-15 years old)
  - 2nd dose to enter 12th grade (on or after the 16th birthday)

Anyone whose child does not have all of the above vaccines by the first day of school must contact the school nurse to discuss their individual situation.



\*\*Certain communicable diseases may necessitate the child remaining out of school until judged noninfectious by the child's physician or school nurse.

# Unity

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher-the tools she used  
Were books, music, and art.  
The other, a parent worked with guiding hand,  
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch  
That was careful, deft and sure  
While the parent labored by her side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had molded into the child  
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed  
If each had worked alone  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher, the home.

-Author Unknown

