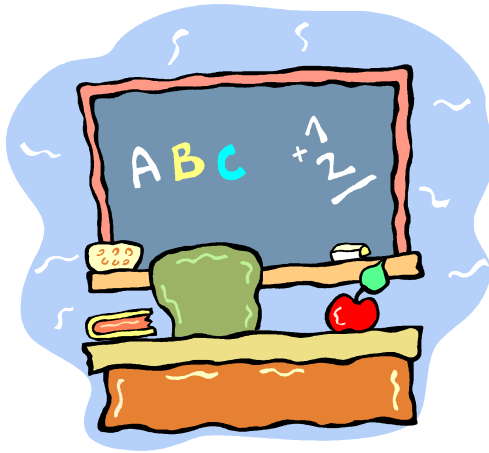




# Kindergarten Guide





## Hilliard City School District

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the families and students of the new kindergarten class. We are excited to have you join the Hilliard City School District family.

The kindergarten year is an important first step in your child's academic education. During the early school years, students begin learning many life skills that they will utilize throughout all their school years. Along with developing intellectually, emotionally and physically, your child will also continue to develop a love for learning.

It is important that both you and your child feel comfortable while they attend school. Our district is proud to have staff on board who care about their students and their families. Your child will be given a well-rounded education from teachers who enjoy the special challenges of this age group. In addition, your child will also receive special attention from the building principal, secretaries, media specialist, school nurse, and many other staff who are eager to help your child succeed.

You can help your child prepare for the start of their school years by reassuring them that school will be an exciting and positive part of their day. Explain to them that they will discover new friends, face new challenges, and benefit from many new opportunities. This school year will be an important phase in the life of your child. Consistent encouragement and support from you throughout the school year will help your child thrive as he or she discovers new independence.

I wish you and your child a very successful school year.

Sincerely,

*Dale McVey*

Dale A. McVey  
Superintendent



## Hilliard City School District

Welcome to Hilliard City Schools! We are excited to begin a very important journey with your child and look forward to working in partnership with you in your child's education. We have much to be proud of in our district and excitedly await your child's arrival!

The information included in this booklet is offered as a guide for your use in preparing to register your child for kindergarten. The three-step process for registering your child for school is outlined so that you can arrive on your scheduled registration date with the required items in hand. You will also find information regarding important immunization requirements for beginning school. Finally, we hope you will enjoy the tips provided to help you prepare your son or daughter for this next big milestone in their development!

You may wonder why we provide screening activities for incoming kindergarten students. State guidelines require that we plan an appropriate educational program for all of our students, and that we prepare for the development of the "whole child," physically, cognitively, and socially. The events that are part of kindergarten screening are not "pass/fail" tests. Rather, they are activities that provide us with insight into the overall development of your child and his/her readiness for school. These activities include assessments of academic readiness, vision, and speech, as well as a qualitative observation of a "play group." During this time we observe listening, attention, verbal, social, and work/play skills, and the ability to follow and process directions.

The Hilliard City School District staff looks forward to working with you and your child for years to come! Following registration, you will be assigned a screening date. At kindergarten screening, you will have the opportunity to learn more about our district from a building principal or district representative and have any questions or concerns addressed. If you have questions or concerns throughout the registration or screening process, please call upon your building principal or me and we will be happy to assist you!

Sincerely,

*Kim HaLLey*

Kim Halley, Director of Elementary Education

## **Mission Statement**

In concert with family and community, the Hilliard City School District will empower all graduates to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Vision**

The mission will be accomplished by:

- Setting and enforcing high, measurable standards of performance.
- Ensuring that all students exhibit appropriate knowledge of the basic skills.
- Encouraging and empowering students to be effective and informed problem solvers, critical thinkers, responsible decision-makers and communicators in the context of a diverse, changing global society.

# Elementary Buildings



Questions? Call the building. If you are unsure what building your child will attend, call 921-7000.

ALTON DARBY ELEMENTARY	921-5000
AVERY ELEMENTARY	921-5100
BEACON ELEMENTARY	921-5200
BRITTON ELEMENTARY	921-5300
BROWN ELEMENTARY	921-5400
DARBY CREEK ELEMENTARY	921-5500
HILLIARD CROSSING ELEMENTARY	921-5600
HILLIARD HORIZON ELEMENTARY	921-5800
HOFFMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY	921-5700
J. W. REASON ELEMENTARY	921-5900
NORWICH ELEMENTARY	921-6000
RIDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY	921-6100
SCIOTO DARBY ELEMENTARY	921-6300
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY	921-6200

## 11/12 Kindergarten Bell Schedule (Subject to change for 12/13)

Alton Darby:	9:15-11:45 am & 1:10-3:40 pm
Britton:	9:10-11:40 am & 1:05-3:35 pm
Norwich:	Full day, every day, 9:20 am-3:45 pm
All other schools:	9:05-11:35 am & 1:00-3:30 pm

# Welcome to kindergarten countdown!

If your child will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, he/she is eligible to start kindergarten this year. Each child needs to be registered in his/her "home" school, based on current school boundaries. If you do not know which school is your home school, please call 921-7000.

Registering your child is a three step-process:

1. Pre-Registration Sign-Up
2. Registration appointment with the district Record Compliance Officer
3. Screening appointment for you and your child

All elementary schools have walk-in appointment scheduling for registration on an evening prior to kindergarten screening. It is necessary to attend this meeting in order to schedule a time for registration. After that date, if you miss the pre-registration, you will need to call your child's school to make an appointment for your child's registration. Only one parent is needed on the pre- registration evening to schedule an appointment and it is not necessary to bring in any paperwork at that time. Children do not need to attend this phase of the registration process. At this time, you will receive information that will detail what is needed in the next phase of the registration process.

When you receive this information, you will be assigned a kindergarten registration date and time. On the day of your registration appointment, one of the custodial parents or guardians must bring the required documentation (see next page) to the Central Office Annex (5323 Cemetery Rd., located behind the main Central Office building). When all necessary registration documents have been received, you will then make an appointment for kindergarten screening on your school's assigned day. Students will not be screened until all required documentation has been submitted. On screening day (at the Support Services Facility - 2140 Atlas St.) your child will be escorted to an area where vision, speech and school-readiness assessments are done. Please plan to spend about one hour completing the screening process.

**Your child will not be allowed to proceed with kindergarten screening without the following COMPLETED items:**

1. COMPLETE 4-PAGE STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE

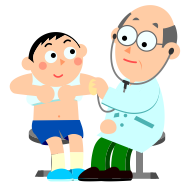
2. PROOF OF RESIDENCY

Proof of residency may be a current monthly mortgage statement or the declaration page of a current homeowner's insurance policy, if you own your home. If you are renting, proof of residency may be a lease agreement signed by the landlord/agent that lists the parent/guardian's name and the name of the student to be enrolled in our district.

3. BIRTH CERTIFICATE

4. OFFICIAL IMMUNIZATION RECORD FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR CLINIC

(Please bring what you have, even if the record is not complete.)



5. CUSTODY PAPERS (If applicable)

If you are unsure of what to bring, please call the Record Compliance Officer at (614) 921-7096.

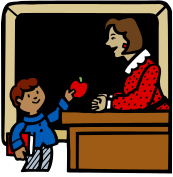
## What immunizations does my child need before entering kindergarten?

Parents must present a legible official immunization record from your physician or clinic at registration. Complete immunizations are required for school admittance. (Please bring what you have, even if the record is not complete.) Ohio law requires that pupils entering school must have the following immunizations:



- **5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus)**  
Note: 5 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT, or any combination, if the fourth dose was administered prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **4 Polio**  
Note: 4 doses of any combination of OPV or IPV, the final dose must be administered on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday regardless of the number of previous doses.
- **2 MMR (mumps, measles, and rubella)**  
Note: 2 doses of MMR. Dose 1 must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after dose 1.
- **3 Hepatitis B**  
Note: 3 doses of Hepatitis B. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first. Third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second. The last dose in the series (third or fourth dose), must not be administered before the age of 24 weeks.
- **2 Varicella (Chickenpox)**  
Note: 2 doses of varicella vaccine must be administered prior to entry. Dose 1 must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after dose 1.

**TB Testing:** Students born in another country or any student who has traveled out of the country for more than 90 days are required to have a Tuberculin skin test. The test that must be used in the U.S. is the Mantoux Test 5 TU PPD. Written proof of this test and the results are required for school attendance.



## Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Children develop at different rates. During the first year of school, you may help your child to learn the following skills:

### Can your child write his or her first name?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Write your child's name in **large** letters. Say each letter aloud as you write it so that they can associate the name of the letter with the shape of the letter.
2. Label your child's door so that he/she can see his/her name in print.
3. Have your child practice writing his or her name using a variety of tools such as a Magna Doodle, crayons, pencils and markers. Also, have your child practice writing his or her name in different items around the house such as pudding, rice, sand and whipping cream.

### Can your child recognize the numbers 1-10?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Read and enjoy counting books.
2. Point out numbers in the environment.



## **Can your child count to 10 orally or count objects to 10?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Have your child count his/her own snacks, such as pretzels.
2. Have him/her count each item as he/she picks up 10 things to put away in his/her room or in the house.



## **Can your child recognize the eight primary colors?**

If not, here is what you can do:

1. When your child is coloring, ask what colors were used.
2. Have him draw objects on his paper and ask him to color them certain colors.
3. Have her sort objects based on colors such as clothes.
4. Have him sort food based on colors such as "Fruit Loops".



## **Can your child color within the lines and cut on the lines?**

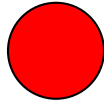
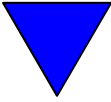
If not, here is what you can do:

1. Have your child help you cut out coupons.
2. Have your child cut out pictures in magazines of things your child is interested in.
3. Draw simple objects with some detail (including self, family, house and pets).
4. Explore coloring with markers, crayons, chalk and other items.

## Can your child recognize the 3 basic shapes- circle, triangle and square?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Point out objects that have the 3 basic shapes in your house and in the environment. Have your child name them.
2. Read and enjoy shape books.



## Can your child name the letters in the alphabet?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Read and enjoy alphabet books before bedtime. Make this a routine.
2. Help your child recognize letters of the alphabet in everyday life (i.e. restaurants, signs and buildings).



## Does your child open up a book from the front?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Point out the front of the book and the back of the book as you read to your child daily. Let him/her know that the front of the book is where the story begins and the back of the book is where the story ends.



## Some Tips to Help Parents with Beginning Readers

The greatest benefits of reading are obtained when the child is an active participant, engaging in discussion about stories, talking about meanings of words, predicting outcomes, and relating the story matter to his/her own life.

1. Read to your child daily.
2. Talk about the book as you read with your child and after you have finished.
3. Look at the book cover. Point out the title, author, and illustrator.
4. Point out words or phrases that are repeated several times throughout the story.

5. When your child draws a picture, encourage him/her to tell you about it. Then write down what your child says as he/she says it. Let your child see you write down what is said. Read it back. Point to the words as you read them.
  
6. Remember the focus is always on the meaning of the story. If your child reads something that doesn't make sense, often he or she will go back and try again. If this doesn't happen, stop and ask, "Does that make sense?" The important part is to allow children to self-correct first.
  
7. If your child comes to a word he or she doesn't know and asks for help, you could ask these questions:

Does the picture give you a clue?

What word would make sense here?

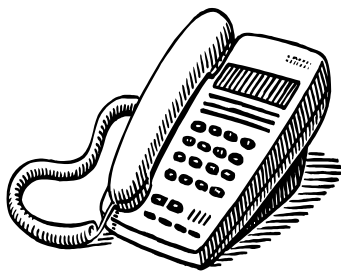
With what letter does the word begin/end?

If these strategies fail and your child wants you to say the word, go ahead and do so.

8. It is not necessary to correct every mistake. If a child makes a mistake, but the story or sentence still makes sense, let it go.
  
9. It does not matter if your child memorizes a particular phrase or story. That is an early stage in this process.



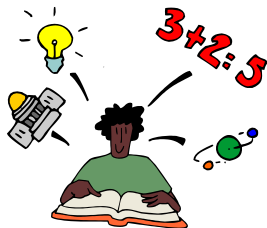
10. Encourage your child to point under the word with his or her finger as he or she reads.
11. Some helpful questions:
  - What happened at the beginning, middle or end of the story?
  - What do you think will happen next?
  - Why do you think the character did that?
  - What would you have done if you were that character?
  - What was the best thing about the story?
12. Make sure your child sees you as a reader
  - reading a newspaper, enjoying a good novel, etc.
13. Give books as presents so that they become pleasurable and special.
14. When reading with your child, always sit beside him with the book between you so that you can both see the text and enjoy the pictures.



## Can your child say their phone number?

If not, here is what you can do:

1. Using your phone number, make up a rhyme that your child can remember. Practice it daily.  
"Let's have some fun - 771  
And watch what I do - 4482!"
2. Have your child practice her phone number on a play telephone.



## Identification of Young Exceptional Children: Gifted Identification

Young children's skills and talents develop rapidly after they enter school. During kindergarten and first grade, teachers take time to become familiar with each child's learning style, interests, temperament, and capabilities. Teachers are especially alert for characteristics that suggest that a child has advanced cognitive or intellectual development.

During these first two years of school, teachers and parents work together to make note of exceptional ability as it is demonstrated both at school and at home. If multiple characteristics of giftedness appear to be enduring, a referral for case study may be forwarded to the district's Gifted Services department. Students are monitored throughout their school years for evidence of giftedness.

Children's learning and developmental characteristics vary widely. If you believe your child may possess the types of characteristics listed below, please talk with his/her kindergarten teacher after school starts.

Gifted children frequently exhibit many of these characteristics at an **intense** level:

**Thinking differently**-works and thinks very quickly, gets frustrated when others don't keep up or understand. Thinking and reasoning may be similar to children 2-4 years older, while emotional development is more typical of his/her age. Memory is very strong.

**Very advanced language development**-often starts speaking in sentences by 18 months, uses complex sentences, understands and enjoys humor in language, uses a very large vocabulary and displays a depth of understanding, especially in areas of strong interest.

**Sensitivity**-has intense emotional reactions to things others take in stride, deeper experience of joy, sadness, and other intense emotions; usually empathetic to feelings of others; keenly sensitive to natural world and beauty.

**Intensity and energy**-very high energy level, seems always "on"; may have trouble sleeping and/or not need as much sleep as other children.

**Seeks mental stimulation**-seeks out others to talk about ideas; asks many questions about topics that may be of little interest to other children this age.

**Prone to perfectionism**-knows what high level performance looks like and wants to duplicate it, gets frustrated when can't; self-critical.

**Identifies with older peers and adults**-comfortable talking with those who have similar interests and understandings (often older peers or adults); may have difficulty finding close friends who are the same age.

**Intense powers of concentration**-especially on tasks of high interest; may have difficulty changing from one activity to another.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Nearly 12% of the Hilliard student population has been identified with a disability. These exceptional students have unique characteristics and needs, many of which are best met by the classroom teacher who differentiates instruction for them with support from a special education intervention specialist. Some exceptional students require more intensive services in a resource room setting. Special education intervention specialists work cooperatively with classroom teachers and other school personnel to ensure a common understanding and response to all of our students with disabilities.

The full continuum of special education services is available in the Hilliard City School District. Programs serving children with learning needs are available in nearly all buildings. Children with multiple areas of disability and/or social/emotional/behavioral needs are served only in select buildings. All eligible children receive special instruction specifically designed to meet their unique educational needs.



## Home Language Survey

As required by Federal Law, this form must be completed for all students at the time of registration. If English is not your child's primary language, please make note of this on the Home Language Survey (page 4 of the registration form). Support may be available for your child to help with the transition from his/her primary language to English.

## Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Early entrance to kindergarten may be permitted if the student meets the Board adopted requirements. If your child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday falls between October 1st and December 31st of the year requested and you feel early entrance is warranted, ask for further details and an Early Entrance application.