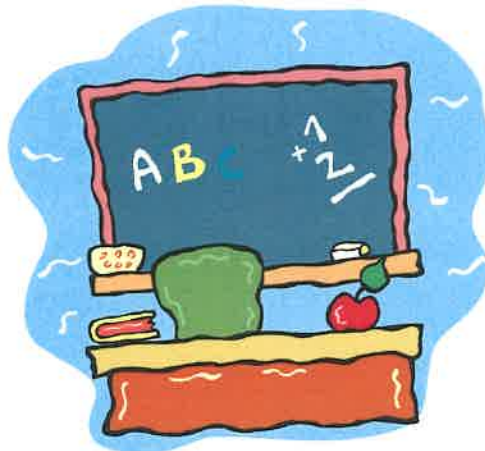


# Hilliard City Schools

## Getting Ready to Start Kindergarten

Revised 2021





## Hilliard City School District

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to your family as we prepare for your child's entrance into kindergarten. We are excited to meet with you and hope that you will soon feel part of the Hilliard City School District family.

This is such an exciting time for young children. Kindergarten is a very important year as students begin to learn new skills and build a foundation for future learning. It is our hope that your child will develop a love for learning, form relationships with peers and school staff, and gain much self-confidence during this first year of your child's education.

Our staff is excited to begin working with your child and will strive to ensure that he or she feels comfortable and ready to learn each and every day. Not only will your child have the support of a caring teacher, but will also receive special attention from the building principal, office secretaries, school nurse, and other important staff in the building. These staff members stand willing and ready to help provide assistance to your child so that the school day is happy and successful.

I would like to encourage you to partner with us by helping your child prepare for the start of the upcoming year. You can help your child by consistently ensuring him or her that school will be a fun and important part of their day. Remind them that they will make many new friends and experience many opportunities while learning. Encouragement and support from you during the upcoming months will help prepare your child for the start of their kindergarten year.

I look forward to forming a partnership with you and your family during the 2021-2022 school year that will begin the journey towards graduation as a member of the class of 2034.

In service to children,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. John Marschhausen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. John Marschhausen, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## Hilliard City School District

Dear Parents,

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.

The information included in this booklet is offered as a guide for your use. We hope you find the information helpful as you prepare your son or daughter for this next big milestone in their development.

State guidelines require that we plan an appropriate educational program for all of our students that focuses on the development of the whole child. The activities 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. Some activities will include assessments of academic readiness, and later assessments will include vision, hearing and speech.

The Hilliard City School District staff looks forward to working with you and your child for years to come! If you have questions or concerns throughout the registration or screening process, please call upon your building principal or me. We will be happy to assist you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Herb Higginbotham'.

Herb Higginbotham  
Director of Elementary Education

## **Mission Statement**

Hilliard City Schools will ensure that every student is Ready For Tomorrow.

## **Vision Statement**

Hilliard City Schools will Embrace, Empower, and Inspire students, families, and the community in an active partnership.

## Elementary Buildings

ALTON DARBY CREEK CAMPUS K-2	921-5000
ALTON DARBY CREEK CAMPUS 3-5	921-5500
AVERY ELEMENTARY	921-5100
BEACON ELEMENTARY	921-5200
BRITTON-NORWICH LEARNING CAMPUS K-2	921-5300
BRITTON-NORWICH LEARNING CAMPUS 3-5	921-6000
BROWN ELEMENTARY	921-5400
HILLIARD CROSSING ELEMENTARY	921-5600
HILLIARD HORIZON ELEMENTARY	921-5800
HOFFMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY	921-5700
J. W. REASON ELEMENTARY	921-5900
RIDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY	921-6100
SCIOTO DARBY ELEMENTARY	921-6300
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY	921-6200



## 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?

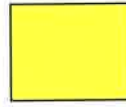
If not, here is what you can do:

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).







## Some Tips to Help Parents with Emergent Literacy Learners

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, relating the story matter to his/her own life, and beginning to look at print.

1. Read to your child daily.
  - a. Include stories that are of interest to your child.
  - b. Add nursery rhymes and other books that play with the sound of language.
  - c. Find characters that your child can relate to or those that help to see others from a new perspective.
  - d. Talk about the way books make us laugh, cry, and understand.
2. When reading, sit beside your child with the book between you so that you can both see the text and enjoy the pictures.
3. Look at the book cover. Point out the title, author, and illustrator.

4. Help your child develop a sense of story. Talk about the book as you read with your child. Some helpful questions:
  - a. What do you notice? What do you wonder?
  - b. What happened at the beginning, middle or end of the story?
  - c. What do you think will happen next?
  - d. Why do you think the character did that?
  - e. What would you have done if you were that character?
  - f. What was the best thing about the story?
5. Children in this emergent stage often memorize a particular phrase or story. This gives children an opportunity to attend to print.
  - a. Model finger pointing by pointing to words as you read, moving your finger left to right with the words.
  - b. Point out words or phrases that are repeated several times throughout the story.
6. Make sure your child sees you as a reader: reading a newspaper, enjoying a good novel, etc.
7. Encourage early story telling. 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.
8. Build early phonological awareness by noticing and playing with words, rhymes, and syllables.
9. Play games with letters, sounds, and words.
10. Notice the little steps your child is taking and celebrate them.

## 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.

## Students with Disabilities

A little over 14% of the Hilliard student population has been identified with a disability. These exceptional students have unique characteristics and needs, many of which can be 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 small group setting or resource classroom. Special education intervention specialists work cooperatively with classroom teachers and other school personnel to ensure a common understanding and response to all students with disabilities.

The full continuum of special education services is available in the Hilliard City School District. Services for children with learning needs are available in nearly all school buildings. Children with multiple areas of disability and/or social/emotional/behavioral needs may need to be served in a school other than the child's school of residence. All eligible children with disabilities receive instruction specifically designed to meet their unique educational needs.

## Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist is a guide. However, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Ask yourself these questions:

### Development Area: Physical Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing;
- ✓ draw and trace basic shapes;
- ✓ cut with scissors;
- ✓ bounce a ball or ride a tricycle?

### **TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD**

- Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, legos and blocks.
- Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.

### Development Area: Health and Safety Needs

Has your child...

- ✓ had required shots;
- ✓ had a dental exam;
- ✓ had a vision exam;
- ✓ learned own first and last name;
- ✓ learned first and last name of parent(s);
- ✓ learned to watch for cars when crossing the street;
- ✓ learned not talk to strangers;
- ✓ developed a set routine for going to bed;
- ✓ learned to follow rules for safety?

### **TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD**

- Help your child learn their full name, address and telephone number.
- Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.
- Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.

### Development Area: Personal Needs

Without your help, can your child...

- ✓ use the bathroom;
- ✓ wash hands;
- ✓ brush teeth;
- ✓ use tissue to blow nose;
- ✓ button and zip up shirts and pants;
- ✓ put on and take off coat;
- ✓ tie and/or Velcro shoes?

## TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD

- Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines.
- Allow your child to dress themselves.
- Practice putting shoes on.
- Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.

### Development Area: Social and Emotional Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ play well with other children;
- ✓ separate from a parent without being upset;
- ✓ share with other children;
- ✓ care about the feelings of others;
- ✓ follow routines;
- ✓ put toys away when asked?

## TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD

- Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.
- Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.
- Encourage your child to share.
- Praise your child when he/she does something well.
- Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.