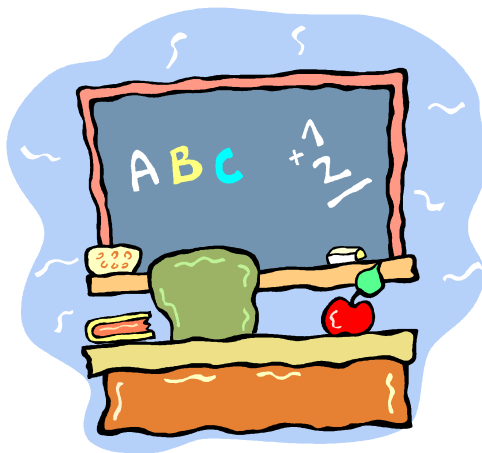


Hilliard City Schools

Getting Ready to Start Kindergarten

Revised 2023





Hilliard City School District

Dear Kindergarten Families,

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 self-confidence during this first year of their education.

Our staff is excited to begin working with your child and will strive to ensure that each student feels comfortable and ready to learn each and every day. Not only will they have the support of a caring teacher, but will also have an entire community of support from your principal, office secretaries, school nurse, and other important support staff. There are many caring adults ready to provide assistance to make sure the school day is happy and successful.

I hope you will partner with us and help your student prepare for the start of the 2023/24 school year. You can help by consistently assuring them 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 getting to know our new families as your student's journey takes them towards graduation as a member of the class of 2036.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Stewart', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Stewart
Hilliard Schools 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 child 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 their 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, reading "Herb Higginbotham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Herb" and last name "Higginbotham" clearly distinguishable.

Herb Higginbotham
Director of Elementary Education

Mission Statement

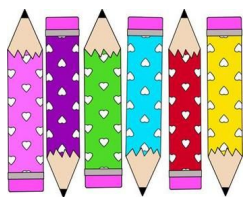
Hilliard City Schools will ensure that every student is Ready For Tomorrow.

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. Following are skills you can work on with your child:

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?

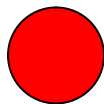
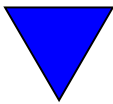
If not, here is what you can do:

1. Have your child cut out pictures in magazines of things your child is interested in.
2. Draw simple objects with some detail (including self, family, house and pets).
3. 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 15% 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.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

To prepare for kindergarten, 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 to participate in school. This list can serve as a guide as you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to Kindergarten.

Can your child separate from primary caregiver without anxiety?

Use self-control?

- Keeping hands to self
- Sharing and taking turns
- Cooperating and playing with other children
- Using classroom supplies appropriately

Demonstrate self-help skills?

- Using the restroom independently
- Putting on and zipping own coat
- Tying shoes

Express self-awareness in a variety of ways?

- Knowing first and last name
- Writing first name
- Naming the letters in first name
- Knowing name of primary caregiver(s)

Cooperate with adults and authority figures?

- Following directions
- Communicating needs effectively

Use classroom tools and toys efficiently?

- Cutting with scissors
- Holding and using a pencil, crayon or marker
- Building with blocks or Legos