



WELCOME TO
KINDERGARTEN!

A HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS
NORTHBROOK/GLENVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT 30

Willowbrook School
2500 Happy Hollow Road
Glenview, IL 60026
Dr. Scott Carlson, Principal

School District 30 Website: www.district30.org/
Willowbrook School Website: www.district30.org/willowbrook/
Willowbrook PTO Website: www.district30.org/willowbrook/PTO.cfm

To the Parents...

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN IN NORTHBROOK/GLENVIEW DISTRICT 30!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a journey. The first steps into formal schooling begin here, and we are committed to making those first steps as successful as possible for each child.

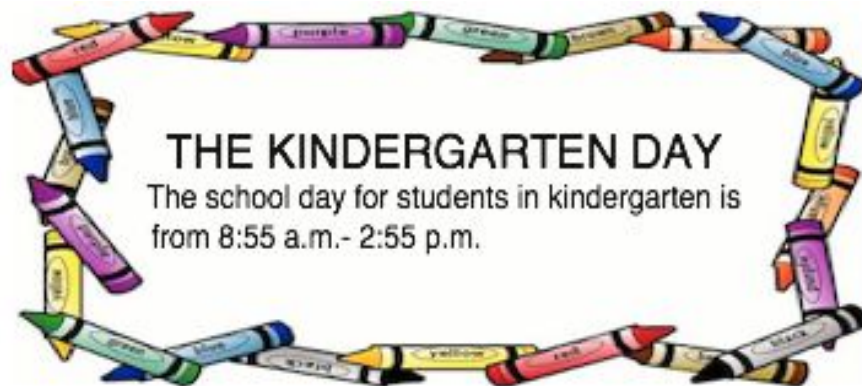
Kindergarten is the time to establish a foundation on which future learning is built. Your child will make new discoveries, form new friendships, explore new worlds, and build self-confidence.

We know these first steps might be a little scary for some children – and for some parents, too! The District 30 staff are prepared to take your child by the hand and provide as much (or as little) support and guidance as he or she might need.

We believe in the importance of a strong home-school partnership. Your involvement is critical to the success of your child's educational experience. You are valued partners and we look forward to working with you during your child's Kindergarten year, and throughout his or her educational journey in District 30. Please feel free to contact us whenever questions arise. We are all on this journey together!

PLAYFUL LEARNING

District 30 exists to create a community that craves learning, fosters resiliency, and cares deeply for every child. We honor childhood and foster intellectual, physical, and social-emotional growth. We teach with a variety of strategies that combine play and adult-guided instruction. An interdisciplinary approach is designed to challenge young minds, encourage independence, foster creativity, build classroom community, and support the development of a strong social-emotional foundation.



SUPPORT SERVICES

The following support services are available as needed to all children residing in the district:

- Academic Support & Special Education
- English Learners Services
- Speech and Language Development Services
- Psychological Assessment and Counseling Services
- Physical and Occupational Therapy Services
- School Health Services
- Pre-school Screening Services
- Home and Hospital Instruction Services

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Parents have a scheduled opportunity to discuss their child's progress at the October and February parent-teacher conferences. Additional conferences can be arranged at any time during the school year by contacting your child's teacher. Progress reports are also sent home to parents several times a year.

ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before September 1 of this year. A birth certificate is required for admission. For any exceptions to this rule, please contact the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at (847) 400-8987.

FEES AND SUPPLIES

A school fee is required at the beginning of the school year. This fee includes the cost of consumable materials, field trips, technology and any additional items that are needed in the classroom for the instructional program. You will also receive a list of individual student supplies that need to be purchased for your child.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

Although you have already completed an online pre-registration, you should have received a letter at the beginning of May marked REGISTRATION INFORMATION containing steps and information to complete your online registration. Please make sure to complete this registration promptly.

Important dates to remember:

- **May 1 - May 31, 2020:** The district will offer discounted online student registration through PowerSchool's Parent Portal.
- **August 1, 2020:** Families must register by the deadline of August 1 to receive classroom teacher assignments. The student registration process, including payment, must be completed for classroom teacher assignments to be generated.

- **August 3, 2020:** ePackets containing vital student information (e.g., supply list, important dates, PTO, and lunch) will be available on the district website and through PowerSchool's Parent Portal.
- **August 10, 2020:** Classroom teacher assignments will be posted to PowerSchool's Parent Portal.

KINDERGARTEN DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Kindergarten students should arrive no earlier than 8:40 a.m. and will be dismissed at approximately 2:55 p.m. for pick up. In our ongoing efforts to balance safety and efficiency, we ask families to place carpool signs in their windshield. Each family will receive 2 carpool signs on the first day of school.

Should a vehicle arrive in the carpool line without a sign, the driver will be asked to park and come into the office while staff checks the **Student Pick Up Authorization Form** which is included in your kindergarten information packet. Authorization must be in writing and must be from the student's parent/guardian.

All kindergarten students are to be dropped off and picked up at the back entrance (parking lot). Please remain inside your car and wait your turn while in the carpool line. Feel free to pull all the way up if you need additional time for your child to buckle. We understand some children are still building their fine motor skills and may need more practice with their seat belts. Please teach independence with this skill. **Please have children exit the car on the side closest to the curb.** Staff will be present to assist students in and out of cars.

If you wish to escort your child inside or need to talk to a staff member, please park in a designated parking space on Happy Hollow Road. Also, if you arrive after school begins, please park and escort your child to the school nurse's office for attendance. Do not park in the staff lot.

State law prohibits cell phone use in a school zone.

Observe courtesy with other drivers. The carpool lane receives priority for leaving the school. Cars entering or leaving the parking area should allow cars in the drop-off/pick-up lane to exit first. Please do not pass a stopped vehicle in the carpool line, unless directed to do so by a person in charge.

FIRST STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION

Some families choose to register for busing service. Parents will receive a mailing from First Student Transportation during the summer months with bus information. Please call First Student at 847-724-7200 with any questions.

THE WESCOTT KINDERGARTEN SHUTTLE

A shuttle bus will be available each day between Wescott and Willowbrook School for our Kindergarten students who live in the Wescott attendance area. This shuttle is free of charge. Should you decide to take advantage of this service you will need to sign up your child by filling out a form available in this summer's epacket.

TOP 10 LIST OF HELPFUL HINTS

1. **Read**: Set aside a time to read to and with your child daily. The repetition is helpful to their literacy development. Let them see you as a reader, too.
2. **Promote Independence**: Encourage independence and responsibility in your child. Use chores that your child can manage and feel good about doing to build their sense of efficacy, competence and capability. Provide clothing (e.g., jackets, shoes) that your child can manage independently or with very little adult support.
3. **Prioritize Attendance and Punctuality**: Encourage regular attendance and please be on time. This establishes a set of routines and expectations around school attendance.
4. **Encourage a Healthy Outlook on Change**: Talk about attending kindergarten at Willowbrook. Take time to play at the playground over the summer and set up playdates with new classmates. Talk positively about new experiences and trying new things. Try not to share anxiety you might have with your child. Give your child plenty of affection and attention during the transition.
5. **Talk To and With Your Child**: Engage your child in conversation and avoid multitasking when talking with your child. Ask and promote questions. Encourage your child to build on their ideas and tell more about topics of interest. Research shows that a rich vocabulary is a leading indicator of school success. Show sincere interest in the things your child brings home from school (or that you see on Twitter and Seesaw). Use these products as a springboard for discussion about the learning and thinking your child did during their day. Often these artifacts, which might seem simplistic or basic, reflect high level thinking and discussion. Encourage your child to express feelings through words.
6. **Establish Predictable Routines**: Help your child begin to organize their things and time. Create reliable routines that your child can follow for bedtime, managing materials and a morning schedule. These will become the building blocks of future routines.
7. **Get Involved and Communicate with Us**: Join the PTO and try to take part in school activities. Let your child's teacher know if there are significant changes in your child's life. Be aware that children look to adults to model responses, so if your child seems upset, model calm.
8. **Under-schedule**: Help manage your child's schedule so there is plenty of time for free play, down time, time to process. Seek a balance of structured and unstructured time.

9. **Limits = Love:** Set and consistently reinforce limits for your child.
10. **Enjoy:** Enjoy these years with your child. Let them see your delight in their growth.

HEALTH INFORMATION

The Kindergarten Program attempts to supplement the home by encouraging healthy habits. However, the majority of the responsibility must rest with the parents.

1. Cleanliness
2. Regular and appropriate rest
3. Adequate diet
4. Immunization against polio, DTP (Diphtheria-Varicella, Tetanus, Pertussis), Hepatitis B, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), and Chickenpox (or proof of immunity)
5. Outdoor play and exercise

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED

In accordance with Illinois statutes, (1) health examinations, (2) dental and (3) eye examinations are required of all students entering kindergarten. **The Illinois Health Examination form (this includes immunizations record & physical exam) must be submitted to the school health office before the first day.** Students may be excluded from school if this requirement is not met. Forms for all three examinations can be obtained from the district website (www.district30.org).

MEDICATION POLICY

In accordance with policy adopted by the District 30 Board of Education and guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education, parents are required to follow procedures for a student to receive medication while in school:

1. Appropriate forms must be obtained from your school health office, which include:
 - a. A parental request form to consider administering medication to a student;
 - b. A request form including required information to be completed by the physician.
2. Medication forms must be renewed each year. Dosage changes must be verified by the child's physician.
3. All medication is dispensed through the health office. There are exceptions under the law for asthma inhalers and Epinephrine.

If your child has a significant medical condition (e.g., food allergies, asthma, or seizures), please notify the health office. We will need to establish a Health Care Plan for managing this medical condition while at school.

OPTIONAL STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE AVAILABLE

District 30 does not carry accident insurance on its students. The district annually designates a company to offer student accident insurance coverage, and any contract is between the parents/guardians and the company. The following is a link to the student accident insurance information and application: <http://www.k12specialmarkets.com/>

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINDERGARTEN CHILD

Kindergarten children fall within a range of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional characteristics. They are all proceeding through the developmental stages of early childhood; yet each is advancing toward the goal of maturity at his or her own rate and manner. It is common for children to have variations within themselves and develop unevenly across skill areas.

The first 4 or 5 years of a child's life are a period of rapid growth in physical and cognitive characteristics, and the period of greatest susceptibility to environmental influence. In general, the Kindergarten child:

- Has fairly good muscular coordination and control
- Tires easily
- Is susceptible to communicable diseases
- Is still using some infantile speech patterns
- Is eager to learn
- Is curious about many things, but information is often inaccurate or incomplete
- Finds the concepts of time, space, and distance vague
- Has an increasing, yet limited, attention span
- Has a vivid imagination
- Has increasing language ability and a vocabulary of well over 2,000 words
- Needs a broader and more challenging environment than the home
- Likes to be first: bigger than, better than
- Likes to do things independently
- Begins to make stronger friendships, but is still mainly self-centered
- Is capable of understanding the rights and feelings of others
- Alternates "showing off" behavior with shyness and self-consciousness
- Is easily stimulated; tries to conform and wants to do what is expected
- Gains a feeling of security from definite routine and consistent direction
- Has a strong emotional link with home; needs to experience success

