

Kindergarten

at Walla Walla Public Schools

Welcome to Walla Walla Public Schools and the numerous adventures that lie ahead. As you begin your experience in public education, rest assured our team of professional educators will strive to make learning exciting and school a fun place to be. Exposure to a rich and varied curriculum encourages all students to reach their potential as they become competent, creative, and contributing citizens of a rapidly changing world.

To enter kindergarten in Walla Walla Public Schools, children must be five years old on or before August 31. Although Walla Walla Public Schools does not encourage early entry for the vast majority of students, parents whose child's birthday falls between September 1 and October 31 may request an early entrance testing application from the district Curriculum Department, 364 South Park Street, 526-6735.

Nuts and bolts of Kindergarten Registration

When

Kindergarten registration traditionally takes place in each school two weeks prior to Spring Break.

What to bring

- your child's birth certificate or other proof of birthdate
- immunization records
- your child's Social Security number

Immunizations

Washington state law requires full immunization of all students enrolled in the school district! On or before the first day of attendance, all students must present or have on file the following immunizations:

1. *On or after child's fourth birthday*
 - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis - 5 doses
 - Polio - 4 doses
2. *On or after twelve months of age*
 - MMR - 2 doses given at least 28 days apart
 - Varicella - 2 doses given with the MMR vaccines
3. *Before first day*
 - Series of 3 Hepatitis B Immunizations

If your child has health care needs that require advance planning, be sure to share that information with the school nurse when you register.

Curriculum

Mathematics

The goal of the mathematics curriculum is to enable children to use math to solve problems. The foundation of math skills begins in kindergarten. These skills are acquired through spontaneous play, organized projects, lessons and situations in daily life.

In kindergarten, students are introduced to the concepts of computation using addition and subtraction, geometry by identifying the basic figures and recognizing geometric figures in the real world, measurement, number sense, probability and statistics, and problem solving.

Science

Students use learning stations to explore various objects and their properties. They observe and interact with magnetic and non-magnetic elements, objects that can be sifted and separated, and ladybugs. Mathematics is integrated throughout instruction.

Social Studies

In social studies, students understand self, family, and groups. In geography, students understand relationships among people, places, and environments. In civics, students learn about citizenship; and in economics, students learn that individuals and households have different roles, relationships, and responsibilities.

Visual Arts

The goal of the visual arts program is for students to apply artistic skills and knowledge to communicate ideas, emotions, and information. The elements of color, line, texture, shape, lightness or darkness of color, and space are covered.

Health

The areas of instruction may include staying fit and healthy, medicine and drugs, wellness, street safety, poisons, fire prevention, fire escape (stop, drop, and roll), dangerous objects, and vehicle safety for passengers.

Parent's Role

As Partners in Learning, both parents and school staff members have challenging, but rewarding jobs. By the end of this important first year, it is our goal to broaden each child's interests and set forth a successful journey. There's no substitute for the parent's role in this process. Support and attention are important.

Please consider the following tips when working with your child:

- Show curiosity and interest in your child's learning.
- Display a positive attitude toward your child's school and teacher(s).
- Read to your child
- Feed your child three balanced meals daily.
- Make sure your child gets eight to 10 hours of sleep on school nights.
- Be involved in school.
- Encourage daily exercise.
- Let us know when your child will miss school.
- Talk about using the bathroom properly.
- Have paper and other writing tools readily available.
- Teach your child to become an observer (clouds, bugs, people, etc.)

Safety First

Your child is now on his/her own, perhaps for the first time. Please review the following before your child comes to school:

- Your child's first and last names, address and telephone number
- Your child's transportation plan (report any changes to school/teacher)
- Your school's regulations for walking to and from school
- The safest place to cross the street
- What the traffic light means
- Who the safety patrol/crossing guards are and what they do
- Where to walk if there is no sidewalk

- What to do if your child gets lost
- The best route to school
- Not to ride with or talk to strangers
- Not to walk between parked cars or busses

Frequently asked questions

Question

- Should I bring my child with me to registration?

Answer

By all means, bring your child if he/she wants to come to registration. It's a good preview of school life.

Question

- How will I find out what's going on in my child's classroom?

Answer

There are two primary ways to learn about classroom activities. One is through your child and the other is through the school. First, ask your child to share information about daily activities and look for work he/she brings home to share with you. For more information, see the section in this booklet titled 'Parent's Role.' The second way is to attend Open House and Parent Conferences. These valuable information opportunities can help reduce confusion and assist you in supporting your child's success. We also encourage parents to volunteer in the classroom.

Question

- Is my child ready for kindergarten?

Answer

There are no easy answers to this question. Most children will not have all the skills or characteristics we would like to see when they enter kindergarten, but we recognize this and teach accordingly. For a child to achieve maximum success in school, it is important that there is a balance among these four categories:

- *social*
- *emotional*
- *intellectual/academic*
- *physical*