

Frequently Asked Questions: Kindergarten

1. Which schools provide kindergarten?

All of our five elementary schools have kindergarten classrooms: Berney, Edison, Green Park, Prospect Point, and Sharpstein. Walla Walla Online also provides an alternative kindergarten option for families who would prefer a distance learning model.

2. How old does my child need to be to register for kindergarten?

Your child needs to be 5 years old no later than August 31. If your child does not meet the age requirement for kindergarten, you may want to consider our new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) option for students turning 4 years old no later than August 31. Learn more about Transitional Kindergarten [here](#).

3. If my child turns 5 just after August 31, can I still get them in school?

Younger students, who turn five between September 1 and September 30, may be tested for early entrance or apply for Transitional Kindergarten, but there's no guarantee of placement. Contact the Teaching & Learning Department at 509.526.6717 for more information.

4. How do I know if my child is ready to go to kindergarten?

Look carefully at your child's development. Is your child able to follow simple directions? Can they sit still long enough to listen to a story? Are they potty-trained? Do they get along with other children? Do they show an interest in learning? If you have any concerns, please talk to your physician.

5. Is the Dual Language program available to kindergartners?

Yes. The Dual Language kindergarten classrooms are located at Edison and Green Park. You can learn more the Dual Language program [here](#).

6. What kinds of things can I do to help prepare my child for school?

You can help your child prepare for school by reading to them, talking with them, exploring interests, and playing with them. Practice and play like they are at school, talk to them about how they are feeling and acknowledge their fears, develop a regular sleep schedule weeks before school starts, reassure them that school is a safe place and their teacher and other school adults will take care of them while they are at school.

7. What does a typical day look like?

A kindergartners day starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m. They interact with their teacher and classmates while learning about reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. They are given time to explore, create, pretend, and play throughout the day. Music, PE, and library are also included during the week as well as recess and lunch.

8. If I feel my child is not ready for kindergarten, do I need to enroll them?

Children can start kindergarten at age 5 but it isn't required. If you do not feel your child is ready to enroll, contact your school's principal to see what options are available.

9. When will we learn who my child's teacher will be?

Typically schools contact families in the late summer to let you know who your child's teacher will be for next year. You will likely receive information in the mail letting you know of all the important start of school information.

10. How can I be engaged with my child's school and teacher during the year?

Engaging in your child's education is important. If you want to volunteer, you can contact your school and teacher to find ways you can be involved. All of our elementary schools have a PTA group you can be active with as well. Other ways you can be engaged include: talking to your child about their day at school, asking them questions, checking their backpacks, attending conferences, reading to them, and talking to your teacher if you have questions/concerns.

11. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

You can get more information about kindergarten on the [district website](#). If you still have more questions, please contact your future school. They are happy to help you navigate this exciting transition.