

Welcome to Kindergarten



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

and

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & STUDENT LEARNING

Centennial Elementary Schools

Butler Creek

2789 S.W. Butler Road, Gresham OR 97080
503-762-6100 **Attendance:** 503-762-6111

Meadows

18009 S. E. Brooklyn Street, Portland OR 97236
503-762-3208 **Attendance:** 503-762-7241

Oliver

15840 S. E. Taylor Street, Portland OR 97233
503-762-3207 **Attendance:** 503-762-7339

Parklane

15811 S.E. Main Street, Portland OR 97233
503-762-3205 **Attendance:** 503-762-7284

Patrick Lynch

1546 S. E. 169 Place, Portland OR 97233
503-762-3203 **Attendance:** 503-762-7273

Pleasant Valley

17625 S. E. Foster Road, Gresham OR 97080
503-762-3209 **Attendance:** 503-762-7292

Powell Butte

3615 S. E. 174 Avenue, Portland OR 97236
503-762-3204 **Attendance:** 503-762-3204

Centennial Virtual Academy

Attendance: 503-762-3214

Centennial District Office

18135 S. E. Brooklyn, Portland OR 97236
503-762-7990

Register on line beginning May 13, 2021

csd28j.org/Page/830

Dear Parent

I am delighted to welcome you and your child to the Centennial family!

Kindergarten is extremely important for children! Kindergarten students learn basic skills that provide the essential foundation for their academic future. Kindergarten students learn to interact with other children as they explore the world around them and learn more about themselves. Kindergarten students learn good work habits and attitudes that they will need throughout their lives. The school district is committed to providing a safe school environment where children can learn, grow and thrive.

As your child begins school, please remember that you are the first and most important teacher your child will ever have. In addition to the many things that you will teach your child, your help is essential if your child is to be successful at school. Research has clearly established that when parents are involved in their children's education, they perform much better.

At home, you will help your child if you read to them regularly. As your child learns to read, have your child read to you frequently. Monitor your child's progress by reviewing work that is sent home. Communicate regularly with your child's teacher. Attend parent-teacher conferences regularly to learn about your child's progress.

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success.

Respectfully,

James Owens

Mr. James Owens
Superintendent of Schools
Effective July 1, 2021



Teaching the Whole Child

The kindergarten experience will enhance the development and growth of your child by providing an environment that is rich in activities appropriate for a range of developmental stages.

Success in these activities will foster a positive self-esteem and enthusiasm for learning.

Introducing: Centennial Virtual Academy

Centennial Virtual Academy (CVA) is an online program that serves students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The Academy is designed to support families who prefer that their children learn from home with guidance and support provided by Centennial teachers. Our teachers will meet with you and your student(s) on a regular basis to help you create a schedule that works for you and offer guidance for navigating the online platform and curriculum. We also provide regular optional opportunities for students to connect with peers online for community building, enrichment activities, academic support, clubs, and more.

Variety

Daily activities are varied to meet the different needs of all children and to provide a balanced day of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social experiences.

Through kindergarten experiences, children learn to:

- Work and play with other children.
- Develop skills in handling different materials.
- Follow directions.
- Express themselves creatively.
- Find satisfaction in their achievements.
- Be responsible for completing their work and putting things away.
- Listen to others.
- Speak more effectively.





What we learn in Kindergarten

Children learn by exploration, discovery and participation in activities that encourage growth in:

1. **READING:** Children listen to and interact with fiction and non-fiction texts daily for the purpose of reading enjoyment and learning new information, and visit the school library.
2. **WRITING:** Children write daily in order to share their ideas and to develop skills and awareness of letters, words, and texts.
3. **SPEAKING:** Activities and instruction encourage a child's growth to speak distinctly, expand his/her vocabulary, use complete sentences, overcome reluctance or shyness in speaking, and to listen when others are speaking.
4. **MATHEMATICS:** Activities and instruction encourage a child's growth in the ability to count, write numbers, add and subtract, create simple charts or graphs and identify basic geometric shapes.
5. **SCIENCE:** Activities and instruction encourage a child's growth in the understanding of plants, animals, air, water, and the earth.
6. **MUSIC:** A music specialist will introduce musical concepts of rhythm and harmony as well as provide an opportunity to perform and learn about music history.
7. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** A Physical Education (P.E.) specialist will lead activities designed to build an understanding of the concepts of fitness and healthy living.





People Your Child Will Meet

The Teacher is the focal point for much of what your child does at school. You and the teacher have much to give each other – you, because you know your child so well – the teacher, because of experience with so many children.

The Principal in charge of your child's school is responsible for the school's program.

The Secretary usually will be the person who relays messages, answers questions and assists your child when he or she is ill or injured.

Educational Assistants (EA's) are in the classrooms, at recess and lunch duty. They also may be crossing guards watching out for the safety of your student.

Specialists including speech pathologists, counselors, reading specialists, English language teachers, learning specialists, P.E. teachers and music teachers, are available to help teachers and students in certain skills areas.

School Health Personnel are scheduled regularly from Multnomah County Educational Service District (MESD).

The Custodians keep the school clean and safe for your child.

The Bus Driver maintains the safe transportation of children riding the bus and also helps children when they take field trips.

Things Parents Need to Know

Be sure your child has:

1. Masks and a water bottle marked with students' name and filled from home.
2. Practical clothing with name marked clearly on jackets, caps, backpacks, etc.
3. Sufficient sleep at night.
4. Rest and outdoor play.
5. Nutritional breakfast/lunch

Absences

When your child returns to school after an absence, please explain the reason for the absence. State law requires that parents send a note specifying the reason why a child has been absent, is tardy, is to be dismissed early or is taking an alternate bus route home. Please write a note each time one of these situations applies to your child.

Your school attendance line is listed on the first page of this booklet. Take the time to add it to your phone list now.

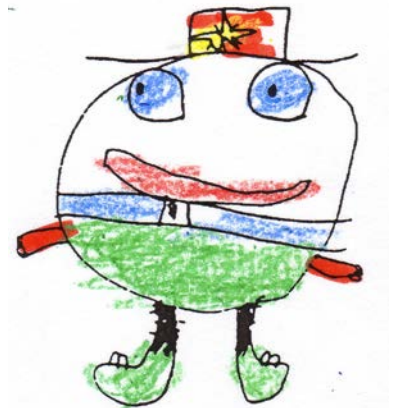
Having great attendance in kindergarten will prepare your child to do well academically throughout their school years.

Volunteer Activities Open to Parents

Teachers encourage parents to get involved in the school in whatever way possible.

Connect with your child's teacher for opportunities such as:

1. PTA/PTO/PTC or Parent Booster Club.
2. Room parents (to help out at special events).
3. Parent/child homework activities.
4. Parenting meetings (informational/educational)



Medications

The school's nurse provides consultation about medication administration that must occur at school. Only medication that is necessary to be given during the school day will be kept at school. Ask your doctor if medications can be administered outside of school hours. Medication must be in the original container with age appropriate dosage, marked with your student's name. This applies to over-the-counter and prescription medications. Parent must transport medication. Any medication not picked up at the end of the school year will be destroyed. For more information of medications and immunizations, refer to the 'Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook' located under 'Parent and Student' area for the district web site.

Immunizations

To protect all children, every student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for religious, philosophical beliefs and/or medical exemption, the student should not be immunized. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic.

A student entering
Kindergarten or
Grades 1-6 needs*

5 Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
4 Polio
1 Varicella (chickenpox)
2 MMR or 2 Measles, 1 Mumps, 1 Rubella
3 Hepatitis B
2 Hepatitis A

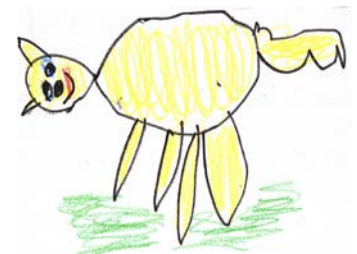
Transportation

If your child takes the bus to and from school, please have him/her ride the bus from the very start of the school year. This will cut down on confusion.

Parents must be at the bus stop, our bus drivers have been instructed to not let a child off of the bus. This is for the safety of the child.

Your child should know these basic safety rules:

- Go directly to and from school.
- Don't talk to or accept rides from strangers.
- Cross streets only at crosswalks and corners after looking in all directions for traffic.
- Walk on sidewalks if possible; if there are no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic.
- Wear a mask and follow current guidelines



How Parents Can Help

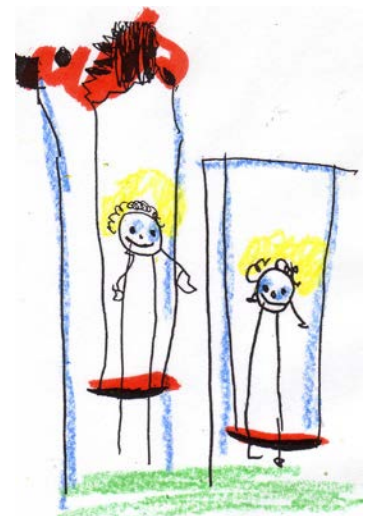
Your child's attitude about school is established long before he/she enters in September. The following suggestions may help your child make a smoother transition into our Kindergarten program. Let your child know that:



- Kindergarten will be fun.
- Kindergarten will bring new friends.
- Many people will be at school to help.

You can help your child be prepared to learn by:

1. Reading to your child. This is one of the most important things you can do to help your child be prepared to learn. Try to read at least 10 minutes every day to your child. Read stories and rhymes to illustrate that joy comes from books.
2. Helping your child learn to write his/her name.
3. Listening to a short story or program and talking about it with your child.
4. Taking your child for walks, to the zoo, to the library, to a park, and to the store to provide experiences that will later help the child understand what he/she is reading.
5. Urging your child to play and share with others.
6. Encouraging your child to button, snap, and zip his/her own clothes and to tie shoe laces.
7. Helping your child learn to complete a series of two and three step simple tasks or directions.
8. Having your child memorize his/her full name, birthday, address, phone number, and your name.
9. Providing an opportunity to use, in a proper manner, scissors, pencils, crayons, and markers.
10. Teaching your child to use the bathroom properly and to wash hands afterwards.
11. Encouraging your child to speak up for his/her needs.

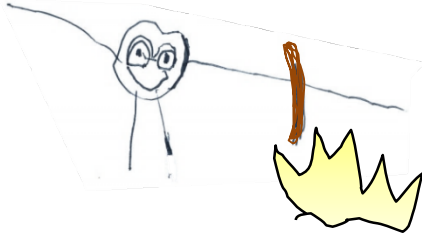


Free and Reduced Meals

Online Meal Benefit applications are available on our web site:
csd28j.org ▶ under Departments, click on Dining Services.

If your Kindergarten student has older siblings already receiving benefits, you must also submit an application for the new student. Apply after July 1 for the upcoming school year.

Any concerns, call the Dining Services Office at 503.762.3670



Helpful links to resources and information:

csd28j.org ~ for Calendars, individual school sites, Parents and Students information, Emergency notification (FlashAlert), ELL, ParentVUE, Registration, MealTime, Transportation (under departments) etc.

multnomahesd.org ~ Multnomah Educational Service District

211info.org ~ Community resources

School Based Health Center ~ 503-988-5488
Located in south east end of Centennial High School

Centennial staff members welcome you and your child to our district and to a world we think will be fun, exciting and stimulating for students.



“Good beginnings never end.”