



**Kindergarten, here we come!
We know we'll have lots of fun.
Lots of things to make and do.
Reading, writing, counting, too.
Kindergarten, here we come!
We know we'll have lots of fun.**



No member of our team is more important than the students we serve.

Bradford Area School District

PO Box 375 • 265 Constitution Avenue • Bradford, PA 16701

Telephone: 814-362-6834 (3112) Fax: 814-362-5485 Web Site: www.bradfordareaschools.org E-mail: djones@bradfordareaschools.org

"No member of our team is more important than the students we serve."

David Jones

Principal – George G. Blaisdell Elementary

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This handbook has been prepared by kindergarten teachers and school nurse to provide you with information, which will be helpful to you as your child enters school.

The Bradford Area School District believes that kindergarten education places major emphasis on development of a child's personality, intellectual growth and physical, social and emotional well-being. The purpose of kindergarten is to recognize and meet individual and collective needs of the group to the fullest extent possible.

In a few months, your child will enter kindergarten and begin what we hope will be a happy and profitable experience. They will learn to work and play with others and to think and act for themselves. Their early learning skills will come through self-discovery. They will be encouraged to ask questions and discover facts.

A pupil's education is the joint responsibility of the home, school and community. We will share the responsibility of helping to broaden the pupil's interests and curiosities, acquire information, improve skills, learn to solve problems and develop language.

In the kindergarten program your child will enjoy singing, rhythms, creative art, games, trips, films, dramatization and outdoor play as well as reading, math, science and social studies which are introduced in kindergarten. In addition to the regular curriculum, the school district provides many services and specialists for assistance in analyzing a child's learning progress and adjustment.

Success in school is often based upon a child's first reactions and impressions to their school experience. We ask you to look over the suggestions on the next few pages to see if your child can do most of these things. A mature judgment on the part of parents before sending a child to school may make the difference between a good or bad experience.

We invite you to visit the schools and we hope you will feel free to ask us for any further information you may wish.



GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is an enjoyable place which offers new playmates, new experiences and many exciting adventures.

When a child enters kindergarten, he/she becomes a member of a larger group. It is important that he/she has some previous preparation to fit him/her for this experience. Here are some suggestions:

- Take care of any physical problems that you know about.
- Teach your child to take care of his/her personal needs (dressing him/her self, brushing his/her teeth, washing his/her self and bathroom independence).
- It would be helpful for your child to know how to button and unbutton, tie and untie shoestrings and operate a zipper. Clothing easy to put on and take off helps him/her to become independent.
- Rubbers and boots should be large enough so he/she can manage them alone.
- Nametags are useful on items such as coats, sweaters, mittens, gloves, boots and rubbers, which the children will take off in school.
- Give him/her some home responsibilities for doing simple tasks such as putting toys away.
- Teach him/her to listen to others and follow directions. It is best to give one direction at a time and see that he/she does what he/she is asked to do.
- Be sure your child recognizes his/her name when he/she hears it and say his/her own first and last name, address and phone number. To know his/her parents' first names is often helpful.
- If your child is interested in printing his/her name, encourage him/her to use a capital letter at the beginning then lower case letters for the rest of his/her name.
Ex: WENDY (wrong) Wendy (correct)
- Prepare your child to ride the bus.
 - Go with your child to the bus stop a few times before school begins, then let him/her try it alone.
 - Show him/her the need to sit quietly and obey the bus driver.
 - Teach him/her to walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
 - Explain that children riding the bus must remain in their seats until the bus comes to a complete stop and should not change seats while the bus is moving.
 - Instruct your child that he/she is only to get off the bus at his/her stop unless he/she has written permission from you.
- Practice counting to 100 with your child.
- Familiarize your child with letter and sounds.



OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Read to your child as often as you can.
- Provide some colorful books for him/her to enjoy.
- Tell him/her many stories.
- Watch some children's T.V. programs, such as **Leap Frog Learning** and **Sid the Scientist**, which will be educational as well as entertaining.
- Encourage him/her to listen and ask him/her a few simple questions about what he/she has heard.
- Encourage him/her to recognize colors by name when they are pointed out to him/her.
- Plan to do a few things together as a family, such as going for a walk or picnic or other activities you may enjoy.
- Encourage your child to be cooperative and share with others.

We hope that after your child begins school you will feel free to visit kindergarten Anytime after the first month. The first month is important to let him/her make adjustments to school life. We look forward to meeting with you during the school year.

THE KINDERGARTEN DAY

Children gain independence and responsibility by discussing and planning the activities for the day. These activities include the development of the following basic concepts, knowledge and skills.

1. Math

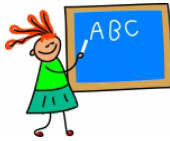


Math offers many opportunities to help the child develop his/her powers of reason. Patterns and relationships are stressed as he/she moves from concrete experiences to abstract ideas.

Continuity and creativity are emphasized. The following content is explored:

- Physical geometry
- Sets
- Numbers and numerals
- Order and relations
- Readiness for addition and subtraction, fractions and time

2. Reading



In Kindergarten, we will provide a comprehensive literacy program for our students. A variety of activities will be utilized to help our students learn to read and write. Kid-writing, phonemic awareness activities, shared reading, interactive reading and guided reading will be incorporated in our program to ensure that students are able to recognize alphabet letters and their sounds and are prepared to be beginning readers. On-going assessments will be utilized to ensure that students progress throughout the program.

As a parent, you should read to your child as often as possible to develop his/her general knowledge as well as an appreciation for reading.

3. Science



The purpose of the science program in kindergarten is to awaken in the child a sense of joy and excitement concerning the world in which he/she lives. From the start he/she becomes actively involved in the scientist's way of asking questions and seeking answers.

4. Social Studies



Social studies in kindergarten is concerned with helping each child to develop sound emotional attitudes about him/her self and others. He/she is encouraged to learn to think for him/her self and make intelligent choices. The social studies program includes units concerning "Me", "My Family", "My School", "My World" and "Our Country".

5. Music, Singing and Rhythms Activities



6. Spanish



¡Hola! My name is Anna Wellek, but the students call me Señorita, and I teach Spanish here at GGB. In Kindergarten students are introduced to the world of the Spanish language through the use of hand motions, games, songs, and manipulatives. Topics we cover include: greetings, family members, body parts, shapes, numbers, classroom objects, and clothing. Every couple of weeks I will send home worksheets that will indicate what we have covered and it will include a pronunciation guide so that you may practice the words with your child. You will be surprised by how much they know by the end of this very exciting year!

7. Physical Education



In Kindergarten, children will begin to learn the value of physical activity. Your child will practice fitness while learning new movements and working to develop key social skills, including good sportsmanship.

Kindergartners will also learn new types of activities. I compare Physical education to a science lab. Physical education is the laboratory of life. Children will challenge their bodies and brains to try new tasks, accept difficult challenges, and learn a different vocabulary.

Your child will try new ways of moving, whether it's galloping, hopping, walking, running, jumping, leaping, skipping, or sliding. They will practice these movements while experimenting with changes in speed and direction.

I look forward with working with your child.

Mr. Gilligan
Physical Education

8. Library



In the library, Kindergarten students will be introduced to the fiction section and how to check out books with a shelf marker. We practice our great library manners and wonderful library whispers. We read stories on our library rug and learn about new authors and illustrators. We find holiday books to enjoy helping us learn about the holidays and how people celebrate them. We learn about book awards such as the Caldecott Medal, which is for the illustrations. We learn about the important jobs that authors and illustrators do and help celebrate when an author/illustrator visits GGB. We hope to see you soon in the library!

9. Art



Kindergartners will be able to:

- Listen and observe.
- Follow directions.
- Recognize colors and color words.
- Recognize and draw shapes.
- Tell the difference between sides and corners.
- Tell the difference between a folded side and an open side.
- Shadow cut and or cut on the line.
- Stay on task to complete an activity.
- Gain self confidence and self esteem.
- Use Kindergarten art vocabulary words.
- Use art equipment and materials correctly and in a safe manner.
- Create patterns.
- Learn about line, shape, texture and color.
- Tell what colors are cool and warm colors.
- Begin to learn about art history and art appreciation.
- Trace a pattern.

HEALTH SERVICES



1. The school employs the services of a nurse. The nurse is really the health counselor of each building. Your child's health is her most important responsibility. The nurse makes periodic examinations that serve to minimize the spread of communicable diseases. She keeps a comprehensive record of each child and advises teachers and parents concerning physical handicaps that may affect schoolwork. Through her, safety and sanitary measures are initiated which serve to protect your child. Vision and hearing tests are given in kindergarten and each year thereafter. Height and weight are measured and recorded. Parents are encouraged to meet the school nurse and know her name. The nurse is not responsible for making a diagnosis or for prescribing treatment or medication. Medication can be administered to a student when:
 - ◆ We have **specific written directions** from a physician.
 - ◆ The medication is provided in a prescription bottle with frequency of administration on the pharmacy label. Your local pharmacist will supply an extra labeled bottle if you tell him/her it is for school
 - ◆ Medications are delivered to the health room or main office by a parent or guardian, **not by the student**.
2. Dental examinations will be administered upon school entrance, grades: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 by the school dental hygienist. Fluoride treatments will be given in 2nd and 6th grades with parental permission. Teeth will be cleaned with the fluoride treatment.
3. A Kindergarten Clinic is conducted each spring for all children who are eligible to enter kindergarten. According to school district policy, your child must be five years old on or before September 1st of the school year in which he/she enters. A physical examination by the family doctor should be completed before children can be admitted to kindergarten.

In order to protect children from epidemics of serious and sometimes fatal diseases, new laws have been passed. All children entering school for the first time **must** be immunized against the following:

- Diphtheria/Tetanus > 4 or more doses required, properly spaced – one after the 4th birthday.
- Polio > 3 or more doses required, properly spaced
- Measles/Rubella/Mumps > 2 doses of each. May be given separately or in combination after the age of 1 year.
- Hepatitis B > 3 doses required, properly spaced.
- Varicella > 2 doses after the age of 1 year.

Immunization records will be required **before entrance** to school. Either a booklet or card from your doctor or clinic will be needed for verification of immunizations.

4. A birth certificate (or other evidence of birth date) must be presented when your child enters kindergarten.

HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE

1. Keep your child home if he/she is ill. Communicable diseases and illness can be controlled if children are home when any of the following symptoms occur:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| * Chills | * Fever |
| * Coughing | * Headache |
| * Diarrhea | * Running Nose |
| * Pink Eye | * Skin Eruption |
| * Ear Ache | * Sore Throat |
| * Enlarged Glands | * Stomach Ache |
| * Vomiting | |

Parents are responsible for reporting communicable diseases to the school.

2. In case of sudden illness or accident, a parent is notified. When your child is too ill to be in school, you are requested to come for him/her. It is important that we know where you may be called during the school day. Unlisted telephone numbers will be kept confidential.
3. Pediculosis (Head Lice)
Students with head lice are not permitted to remain in and/or attend school until appropriate treatment has been administered. Students cannot be readmitted to school until the school nurse certifies that appropriate measures have been taken.
4. Children enrolled in kindergarten are expected to attend school regularly.

