



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of our new Kindergarten students,

Welcome to Hillcrest Kindergarten! Whether this is your first child to enter Kindergarten, or you already have children in school, getting ready for and starting Kindergarten is very special for children, as well as their families. Seeing children share new experiences and meet new friends is very exciting for everyone!

Given that we were not able to provide our regular in-person Kindergarten Orientation in May, we realize that this year may bring additional stress and anxiety for many of our students and families. Please know that we are committed to ensuring your child will be loved and cared for during their time at Hillcrest Elementary. Our kindergarten teachers will continue to provide excellent educational experiences, as they do their best to foster a love of learning and develop positive friendships amongst their students in our new COVID reality.

Students have been assigned to a small group for the first two days as part of our Gradual Entry Schedule (See attached). The email you received should contain information about which group your child has been assigned. Please note, the teacher you and your child will be meeting with in the first week may not end up being your child's classroom teacher for the year. Parents will be informed of final class placements by email on Friday September 11.

Attached is some important information about our Gradual Entry Schedule and other things you need to know about the first week of school. Once class placements are confirmed you are welcome to contact your child's teacher to discuss any information you would like to share with them about your child. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please call the school at (250) 832-7195.

We are truly looking forward to sharing the wonderful experience of Kindergarten with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Your Hillcrest Kindergarten Team

- Mrs. Kehl (Div 12)
- Mrs. Porter (Div 13)
- Mrs. Knipe (Div 14)
- Mrs. Mitchell (Learning Resource Teacher)
- Ms. Corrie (Literacy Intervention Teacher)
- Mr. Ritchie (Principal)



Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Kindergarten students will participate in a “gradual entry” process, which means your child will only attend school for a portion of each day over the first two weeks of school. Your child’s time at school will slowly increase, building up to their first full day of school on Tuesday, Sept 22. The gradual entry process helps support a smooth and successful transition into Kindergarten. Teachers will be introducing your child to classroom routines and procedures and helping them adjust to the new social and emotional realities of school, in addition to COVID-19 safety protocols.

On the first day of school, Thursday Sept 10, **one caregiver** can accompany their child into the classroom provided **they are wearing a mask**. Please bring a mask with you as the school has a limited supply. In order to adhere to the COVID-19 safety protocols in place and ensure the safety of our students and staff, after the first day, parents must remain outside when dropping their child off. Students in K-5 are not required to wear a mask.

Thursday, September 10	8:30-9:00	Group A	Group H
<i>Child and 1 Parent meets with teacher in small group.</i>	9:15-9:45	Group B	Group I
	10:00-10:30	Group C	Group J
	10:45-11:15	Group D	Group K
	12:15-12:45	Group E	Group L
	1:00-1:30	Group F	Group M
	1:45-2:15	Group G	Group N
Friday, September 11	8:30-9:30	Groups A, B, & C	Groups H, I & J
<i>Parent drops off child at classroom door.</i>	10:00-11:00	Group D, E, F, & G	Groups K, L, M & N
Monday, September 14	8:30-10:30	Bring Snack	
Tuesday, September 15	8:30-11:30	Bring Snack	
Wednesday, September 16	8:30-11:30	Bring Snack	
Thursday, September 17	8:30-11:45	Bring Snack & Lunch	
Friday, September 18	8:30-1:00	Bring Snack & Lunch	
Monday, September 21	No School	Pro-D Day	
Tuesday, September 22	8:12-2:14	Full days begin	

Note:

To ensure everything runs smoothly please arrive a few minutes before the start times listed above and wait in the Kindergarten Playground area with your child until called into the classroom.

The First Full Day

Our full day goes from 8:12 until 2:14. In the morning your child will wait for the bell to ring outside our classroom door where they will be greeted by their teacher. This is also where you will meet your child after school. Once class placements are finalized, teachers will send home an information sheet for you to provide some specific information about your child, any daycare arrangements and who is permitted to pick your child up from school.

Other Important Information

- Children should have a pair of clean indoor (Velcro) shoes, with non-marking soles, to be kept at school.
- Children should come to school with a water bottle. In addition to classroom sinks we have a new water bottle filling station outside of the office!
- We have a “Pack it in, Pack it out” policy at school in which we encourage families to prepare healthy lunches with minimal waste and easy to open containers.
- All your child’s belongings should come to school in a large backpack. Personal items should be labelled with your child’s name.
- Please send an extra change of clothes to be left at school in case of emergencies. Clothes should be placed in a large Ziploc bag with your child’s name on it.
- Please ensure your son/daughter is independent when using the washroom. If there are any concerns about your child’s toileting routines or independence, please talk to your child’s teacher.
- There is no need to purchase school supplies. The school buys all of the students’ supplies and charges families a School Supply Fee. More information about school fees will be sent out soon.
- If your child is riding a school bus, a parent/guardian must be at the bus stop to drop-off and pick-up the child. If you are unsure of bus pick-up/drop-off times for your child, please contact the SD No. 83 Transportation Dept. at (250) 832-9415. Teachers will ensure your child gets on the correct bus after school. Students will not be able to ride the bus during the Gradual Entry Schedule due to the different drop-off and pick-up times.

