



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Lena Shaw Elementary

May 10, 2021



Welcome Families and Future Grads of 2034

- Parents please know, you are your child's first and best teacher. We are here to add to the rich experience they have already had with you! Our job is to work with you to support your child's learning and development. It takes a village to raise a child.



What does your child learn in kindergarten?




- We focus on five areas of development:
 - Artistic development
 - Social and emotional development
 - Intellectual development
 - Physical development and self-regulation
 - Social responsibility

How do kindergarten students learn?

- Kindergarten children learn with their whole bodies, their minds, and their hearts.
- They learn best when:
 - Activities are play based, involving exploration and inquiry, with hands-on activities that engage all their senses
 - Activities are developmentally and culturally appropriate
 - Environments provide for their social-emotional, intellectual, aesthetic, artistic, and physical development, and growth in social responsibility
 - The adults in their world- teachers, families, school, and community members- work together to support them



The background is a solid teal color with several thick, hand-painted olive green brushstrokes scattered across it. The strokes are of various lengths and orientations, some horizontal and some diagonal, creating a textured, artistic feel.

What does a 'typical' day
in kindergarten look like?

Morning Meeting/ Circle Time

- Morning meetings are important for classroom community building and is a time when students and their teachers come together to check in and begin the day.



Centre Time

Centre time provides opportunities for children to learn and meet the curriculum through play





Snack and Outdoor Play

- Regular physical activity is essential for learning and well-being and to meet daily physical activity requirements

Story/ Discussion

- Stories and discussions foster children's language and literacy development and knowledge of the world. Discussions are focused on topics of study.



Lunch

- At lunch time, children eat in the classroom. Monitors arrive to help while the teachers take their lunch break. Lunch provides opportunities for promoting social development and healthy habits.



Math Stations



- Math stations promote mathematics and numeracy learning through hands-on play, exploration, and manipulation

Gym

- Gym is an opportunity for children to get regular physical activity, which is beneficial both to their physical and mental well-being. This is also an opportunity for children to connect with their classmates in a different type of environment.





Hands-On Learning

Hands-on activities address learning in developmentally appropriate ways

Library

- Your child will have the opportunity to visit the library once per week. During this time, they will connect with our school librarian, explore new stories, and be able to pick a book out to take home for the week.



Music

- Two times per week, Kindergarten students will attend music classes with our music teacher. During this time, students will explore different instruments, music, and dances.



Clean Up and Group Reflection



- Cleaning up is part of social responsibility. Group reflection is a transition time that encourages children to reflect on their learning and bring closure to this part of the day.

How can I support my child?

- Providing structures and routines at home and expect your child to follow through
- Provide opportunities to develop independency such as allowing your child to use the washroom by themselves, dress themselves, and eat lunch by themselves
- Limit screen time
- Talk with your child- in the language you prefer
- Provide opportunities for your child to play
- Read with your child
- Help them stay healthy by getting plenty of rest (10-12 hours per night), eating healthy foods, drinking lots of water, and getting plenty of exercise



A Healthy Kindergarten Child

- Gets plenty of rest each night
- Eats a healthy breakfast
- Has a healthy snack & lunch
- Drinks plenty of water
- Has their immunizations up-to-date
- Gets lots of exercise through outside play
- Attends school regularly and on time

What does your child need for kindergarten?

- They need to be at school each day, on time and ready to learn (unless they are ill)
- They need a healthy snack and lunch
- Clothes that they can get messy in and shoes they can run in
- Change of clothes
- The supplies on the K list





An Important Reminder...

- Safety is the most important thing at any school. In Kindergarten, parents/caregivers need to supervise their children in the line-up before school starts and ensure that their child is passed hand to hand to the teacher. Parents/caregivers must pick students up hand to hand from the teacher at the end of the day.

Breakfast/Lunch Program



- We have a breakfast and lunch program at our school to provide food for children in need. As part of this program, breakfast is provided each morning at 8:00 and a snack and lunch will be given out to your child. If your family needs this support and you are interested in signing up for this program, letters will be sent home the first week of school.

Gradual Entry

- Gradual entry is an important part of the Kindergarten program. This provides an opportunity for your child to gradually come to Kindergarten. Kindergarten can be a big transition in your child's life, and we want to make the transition as easy as possible on your child. Your child will slowly increase their time at school over the first 2 weeks of school. A detailed schedule of what this will look like will be sent home shortly before the start of school.

Thank you so much for taking
the time to learn more about
your child's Kindergarten year!
We look forward to meeting you
and your child very soon.

