Road to Kindergarten

Presented by
The Office of Early Childhood Programs
Howard County Public School System
This event is brought to you by the *Howard County Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup*

- Educational consultants
- HCPSS Office of Early Childhood Programs
- HCPSS Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers
- HC Office of Children & Families
- HC Library System
- HC Head Start

- HC Office of Children and Families
- HC Family Child Care Association
- The Judy Center at Cradlerock
- Variety of community-based, private child care/preschool programs
 Tonight’s Agenda

- Welcome
- School Readiness
- HCPSS Kindergarten Program
- Registration/Transition Information
Why Are We Here Tonight?

Because we believe....
All families want what is best for their children.
Going to kindergarten is a developmental milestone.
The transition to kindergarten is not a one-time event.
Not all children have the same readiness for kindergarten.
Schools must be ready for children and families.
Kindergarten is the first step to college and career-readiness.
Welcome to the **Class of 2033**

_HCPSS is here to support your family during your child’s educational journey._

The following is county-level information that is relevant for all 42 schools.

Once you register, you’ll learn specific information about your child’s school and eventually, their teacher.
What does “Ready for School” Mean?

You may be worried that your child isn’t ready. Or, you may be worried that your child will be bored because they’ve been ready for a long time. Let’s look at what readiness means.
“Ready for School” means...

Real-life experience
Early vocabulary and literacy exposure
Areas of competence and strengths
Developmentally appropriate activities
Young, curious minds
“Ready for School” means...

**Real-life experience**

- Take advantage of places in the area to visit!
  - *The Howard County Library, zoos, farmer’s markets, aquarium, and more.*

- These experiences will give your child something to draw upon and relate to during lessons in kindergarten and make the learning more meaningful.

- Children have plenty of opportunity to share “background knowledge” - that is, what they already know or have experienced related to a topic.

- Sparks curiosity for new learning
“Ready for School” means...

Early vocabulary and literacy exposure

- Back and forth conversation, combined with quality words, supports brain development and helps sets the stage for readiness.
- Use authentic vocabulary related to those real-life experiences.
  - *When you visit the grocery store, explain you are buying “golden delicious apples”. Discuss what golden and delicious mean. Can you think of or find other things that are golden or delicious? What other words mean the same thing?*
- You lap is the best app! Read real books and give your child a chance to turn the pages, predict what will happen, discuss the story, etc. Point out simple words in the text. Select books and subject-matter of high interest to your child.
“Ready for School” means...

Areas of competence and strengths

- Growth does not happen as a straight, upward arrow. It is better to visualize growth as an upward spiral.
- Remember there will be areas of strength and areas of need, and those are unique to every child. Teachers use this approach to support learning and move each child forward along their own unique developmental path.
“Ready for School” means...

Developmentally appropriate activities

- Workbooks and flashcards are not needed to support readiness. Instead, capitalize on your child’s interest and their everyday world.
  - Use magnetic letters to spell their name. Practice the names and sounds of the letters in their name. Then, spell the names of family members and friends. Find other things in the house that start with the same letter as their name.
  - Count the number of steps it takes to get from the car to the front door, the front door to their room. How many rungs on the ladder at the park?
  - And more!
“Ready for School” means...

Young, curious minds

- It's ok to ask questions!
- Demonstrate asking questions about things you are curious about. Say things like, “I wonder...”. Read books about the things you wonder, visit related places, practice using new words you learn, etc.
“Ready for School” means...

Children don’t have to come to school knowing everything. It means they have skills that make them ready to access learning.
Support Readiness

Family and Community Resources

These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5

Curriculum for Grades K–12

Find resources on our website!

- [Family & Community Resources](#)
- [Early Childhood Beginnings](#)
Support Readiness

ReadieRosie is **FREE** of charge to every parent of 0-5 year olds in Howard County!

[readyrosie.com/register](http://readyrosie.com/register)

*Register with your mailing zip code.*
Our Vision

The Office of Early Childhood Programs strives to ensure that instruction at the kindergarten level:

- prepares students for success as lifelong learners by developing the academic, social and emotional knowledge, strategies, and skills needed to participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world;
- utilizes a child-centered approach to ensure that each child develops a love of learning; and,
- supports adjustments to the social setting of a formal classroom so that students can actually attain the skills and knowledge of the curriculum while learning how to function effectively in the classroom setting.
Every day in kindergarten...

- Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- Expressive Language Opportunities
- Social / Emotional / Behavioral Skill Development
- Integrated Instruction
Developmentally Appropriate Practices

- Hands-on learning
- Mix of learning preferences: auditory, kinesthetic, visual, etc.
- Manipulatives (magnetic letters, dice, counters, etc.)
- Learning occurs in age-appropriate chunks of time.
Expressive Language Opportunities

- Ability to communicate using language
  - Learning to ask for help
  - Asking questions
  - Back and forth conversation
  - Staying on topic in a conversation
  - Expressing an opinion
  - Etc.
Social Emotional Skill Development

- Skills for life
  - Turn-taking
  - Working memory
  - Ability to control attention
  - Putting off favorite activities to prioritize important tasks
  - Friendship skills
  - And more!
Integrated Instruction

- Apply subjects and learning across the day
  - Listen to a read aloud about counting in math
  - Write an alphabet book about healthy habits in health
  - Use the Engineering Design Process to create structures in block center during play time
  - Etc.
What Might a Day in Kindergarten Look Like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival / Morning Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening / Morning Meeting or Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science / Social Studies / Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess &amp; Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Time / Take Ten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-Selected Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arrival / Morning Work
Arrival / Morning Work

- Children arrive by car, bus, or as a walker
- Enter with other students
- Learn to unpack, gather materials, etc. with independence
Opening / Morning Meeting
Opening / Morning Meeting

- Build classroom community
- Talk about the day to come
- Share stories, songs, updates, etc.
Language Arts
Language Arts

- 90 minutes
- Mix of whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, and independent opportunities
- Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their needs.
- Reading, writing, foundational skills, and more!
Science / Social Studies / Health

- 30-45 minutes, depending on the unit
- Specific unit of study for each subject area.
- Learn more at the Kindergarten Family & Community Resources site.
Lunch & Recess


**Lunch & Recess**

- 30 minutes each
- Can bring lunch or buy
- Staff members support children with making choices, opening containers, purchasing, etc.
- Go outside for recess as much as possible, so send children to school in weather-appropriate clothing
- Practice opening containers with your child.
Quiet Time / Take Ten
Quiet Time / Take Ten

- Quiet Time is not nap, but a chance to calm after high energy moments.
  - *It is important to have down time and an opportunity to rest their brains.*
- Take Ten is movement, usually set to music. Includes dancing, songs, etc.
Mathematics
Mathematics

- 60 minutes
- Mix of whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, partners, and independent opportunities
- Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their needs.
- Lots of games and hands-on materials like dice, dominoes, animal-shaped counters, etc.
Related Arts

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Library Media
- Technology
Related Arts

- Daily
- Range from 30-60 minutes, depending on the subject
- Go to other classrooms (Art Room, Gym, etc.),
- Have different teachers for each
Student-Selected Activities
Student-Selected Activities

- 30-40 minutes
- Time to play, make choices, bring learning to life
- May include blocks, painting, dramatic play, science table, etc.
Kindergarten Instruction = Differentiated Instruction

Designed to meet each child where they are in each subject and help move them forward through individualized instruction and activities.
Check out the **School System Calendar** for early dismissals, closures, etc. so you can plan ahead!

Next year’s calendar is already posted.
Parents/guardians of enrolled HCPSS students DO NOT need to sign up for, or manage an HCPSS News account.

Community members or any non-HCPSS parent must sign up to receive email and/or text messages from the district and/or specific schools.
Follow HCPSS on various social media platforms.
Find your assigned school using School Information from the homepage. Look for **School Locator**.

- Children attend the school to which they are assigned.
- Bus service provided if you live more than one-mile from school.
Once you use School Locator to find your school, use the School Directory to learn more!

Access the School Directory from the main page using School Information OR from the Schools option in the navigation bar.
You can view school profiles, find contact information, etc.

Note school times are unique to each school - this is important to know so you can arrange before and after-care, if needed.
Find out **Transportation** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.

On the first day, we recommend sending your child to school the way they will travel every day. Plenty of adults will help guide them and they get to experience the “newness” - and excitement, nerves, anticipation - with their classmates.
Find **Food Services** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.

Information includes nutrition, pricing, online payment, etc.
Find **Before and After Care** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.

If you need before and/or after care, **sign up early** (check with agencies for specific dates) - **programs fill up quickly**!
Find information about academics, look for resources, etc.
Visit Early Childhood Programs for Birth to Five information, including kindergarten readiness and more!
Find out more about readiness, what you can do the year before kindergarten, registration, and more.
For students who are the right age but parents feel aren’t ready and want to wait, there is an option for a waiver.

You can access Enrollment information here, from the homepage, or Supports.
You can access **Enrollment** information from the Homepage, Early Childhood Programs, or Supports.
The early admission application process is designed for students who are born between September 2 – October 13. Those seeking school enrollment one year early can find application information here.
**Step 3 – Gather Documentation**

Having all your documentation prepared in advance of registration will keep the process moving quickly.

**Student Identification Documentation**
- Student’s evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician’s certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration.)
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship. If applicable, bring legal proof of custody (court order).
- Any additional paperwork that may be necessary due to special living arrangements or circumstances.

**Parent Identification Documentation**
- Parent picture ID: driver’s license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.
- Signed original, current lease or deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address (non-cellular telephone, gas and electric, cable bill issued in the last 45 days.)

**Academic Documentation**
- Student’s most recent grade report, transcript, report card from last school attended at time of withdrawal.
- Documentation of Special Education (IEP), 504, Psychological Report, or related services.

**Health Documentation**
- Student’s current proof of immunizations signed by physician. Learn more about the immunizations required for enrollment →

Students who have never attended a Howard County public school have certain health documents to submit with their enrollment paperwork. Learn more about these forms and find additional forms for diabetic students, students with allergies, and student medications.

- Required documentation for registration is listed here.
- Specific information related to health documentation (immunizations, medication, allergies, etc.) can be found at the link.
After gathering the required documents, begin the online registration process.

- *Parents/guardians without access to a computer may complete the entire registration process at your child’s school.*

Complete registration at your assigned school. This final step confirms area residency, guardianship of the child and ensures that the registration process is completed correctly. This is done for both online and face-to-face.
Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 9-13, 2020

You will need:

- Picture I.D. (driver’s license, military I.D., or passport)
- Current lease or deed (to show address, valid dates, signatures)
- Current utility bill with name and address
- Child’s proof of birth (birth certificate/registration, baptismal or church certificate, hospital certificate, passport/visa, parent’s affidavit, physician’s certificate)
- Child’s current proof of immunizations
- Proof of custody, if applicable
Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 9-13, 2020

- Language support is available at the International Student Registration Center.

- Children already enrolled in a HCPSS school as a prekindergarten student DO NOT need to re-enroll for kindergarten. Parents will receive information from child’s current school and records will be transferred.

- If you are buying, building, or leasing a home in another attendance area than where you live, or haven’t yet settled on your home, contact out-of-district requests at 410-313-6997.

- For any questions regarding residency, multiple family living arrangements, homeless students, or custody/guardianship issues, please contact the Office of Pupil Personnel at 410-313-6646 or 410-313-6822.
Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 9–13, 2020

- You do not need an appointment during this week! (March 9-13 only).
- If you cannot register March 9-13, that’s ok, but you will need to call and make a registration appointment.
- This is very much a business transaction; if needed, children can join you (schools often provide coloring sheets and books) but there will not be special, child-directed activities planned...those come later!
Events At YOUR School May Include

Sample of School Events for Parents and/or Children*

- Visitation / Tours
- Parent Information Session
- Spring Picnic
- Summer Playdates
- Orientation
- Back-to-School Night

*Not all events listed occur at every school. Information about events specific to your child’s school will be shared when you register.
This Might Be of Interest to You!

**Annual Children’s Discovery Fair**
April 18, 2020
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
North Laurel Community Center

**Kindergarten Here We Come! Classes**
Local HC Libraries
August
Dates/Times TBD
Read Stories About School With Your Child!
Advice for Kindergarten Parents

- Become involved in your school - find ways to volunteer, join the PTA, go to school events!
- Sign up for email or text alerts!
- Get to know other parents!
- Never be afraid to ask questions!
- Know that it’s *normal* to feel a wide range of emotions!
- Share your excitement and curiosity with your child (not your anxiety)!
Have a great next stop in KINDERGARTEN!
Any Questions?

Office of Early Childhood Programs
410-313-5693

Amy Raymond
Stephanie Geddie
Amy Kelly
Kym Nwosu
Alicia Tyler