

#### Information 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

### **Topics**



- School Readiness
- HCPSS Kindergarten Program
- Registration/Transition Information



## All families want what is best for their children.

As a child's first teacher, parents and families play a significant role in education, beginning at birth and beyond.

# 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.

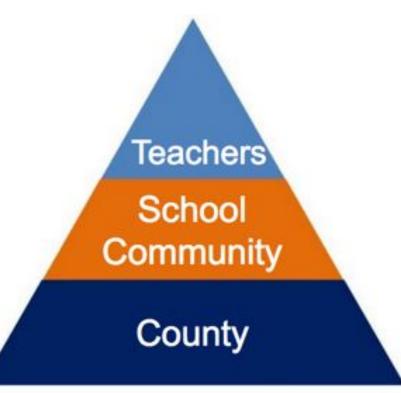
Kindergarten is an important step towards success in college, career, and life upon graduation from high school.

#### Welcome to the Class of 2035

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 elementary schools.

Once you register, you'll learn specific information about your child's school and eventually, their teacher.



# What does "Ready for School" Mean?



Real-life experience

Early vocabulary and literacy exposure

Areas of competence and strengths

Developmentally appropriate activities

Young, curious minds

#### Real-life experience

- Take advantage of places in the area to visit!
  - The Howard County Library, hiking trails, 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

#### 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?
- Your 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.

#### 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.

#### 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. Spell the names of family members and friends. Find other things in the house that start with the same letter as their name.
  - Play with the sounds in words. Change the first letter to a new letter.
     What is the new word?
  - 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!

#### Young, curious minds

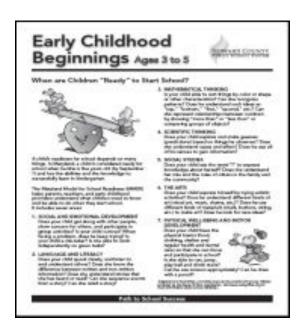
- It's ok to ask questions!
- Demonstrate asking questions about things you are curious about. Say things like, "I wonder...". Read books about the things you wonder, visit related places, practice using new words you learn, etc.

Children don't have to come to school knowing everything. It means they have the foundational skills, knowledge, and behaviors that help them access new learning.

#### Support Readiness

Find resources and additional links on our website!

- Kindergarten Family & Community Resources
- Early Childhood Beginnings



#### Family and Community Resources

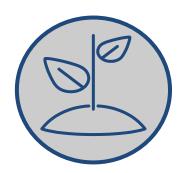
These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

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

#### Curriculum for Grades K-12

Curriculum for Grades K-12

### HCPSS Kindergarten Program



#### 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;
- nurtures a positive school experience where all students contribute as members of the classroom community; and,
- supports an individualized approach so each student successfully acquires, demonstrates, and applies the skills and knowledge of the curriculum.



## Every day in kindergarten...

- Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- Expressive Language Opportunities
- Social / Emotional / Behavioral SkillDevelopment
- Interdisciplinary 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
  - o 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
  - o And more!



### **Interdisciplinary 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
  - o Etc.



#### **SAMPLE SCHEDULE**

Arrival / Morning Work

Opening / Morning Meeting or Circle

Language Arts

Science / Social Studies / Health

Recess & Lunch

Quiet Time / Take Ten

**Mathematics** 

**Related Arts** 

**Student-Selected Activities** 





## Arrival / Morning Work

- Children arrive by car, bus, or as a walker
- Enter with other students
- Learn to participate in arrival routines (e.g., unpack, gather materials) with independence





## Opening / Morning Meeting

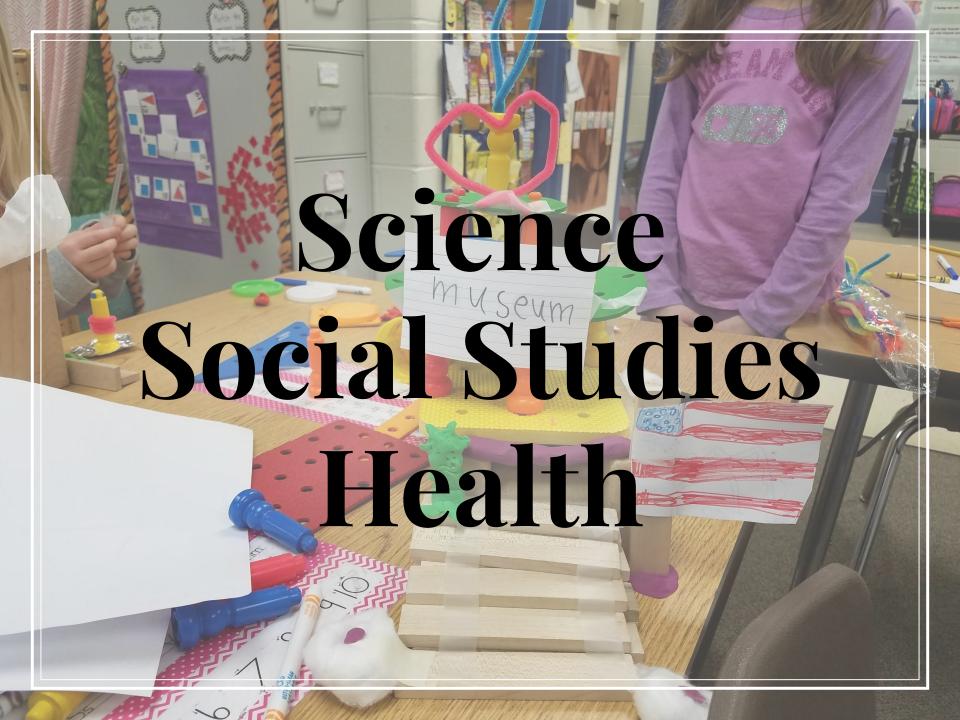
- Build classroom community
- Talk about the day to come
- Share stories, songs, updates, etc.





#### **Language Arts**

- Daily
- 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 <u>Kindergarten Family &</u> <u>Community Resources</u> site.





## **Lunch & Recess**

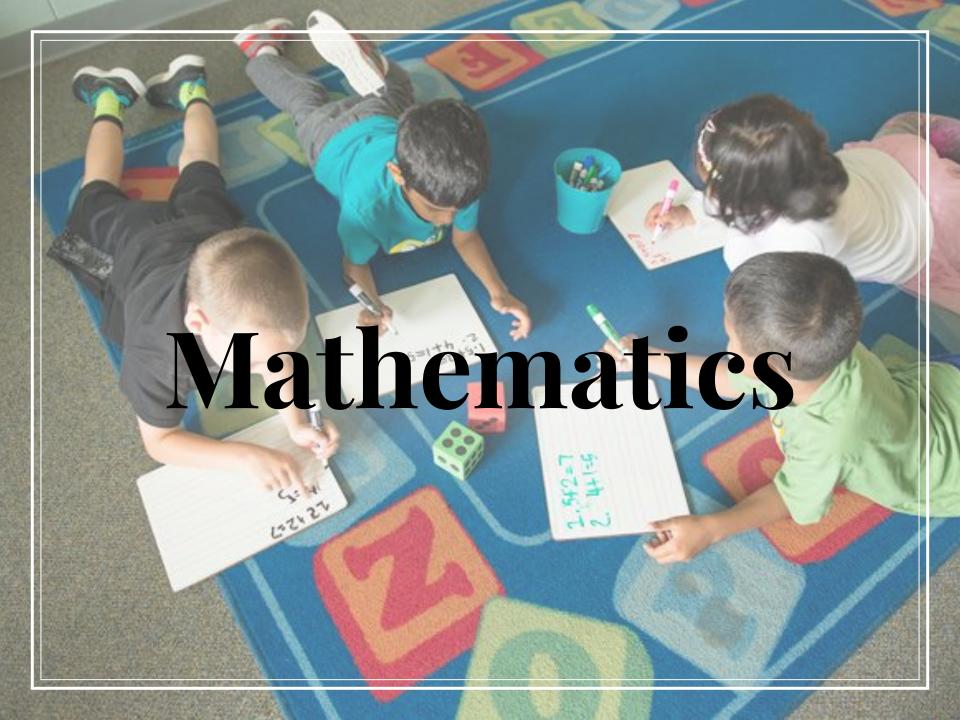
- 30 minutes each
- Lunch available at school or bring from home
- Staff members support children with making choices, opening containers, purchasing, etc.
- Go outside for recess as much as possible, so send children to school in weather-appropriate clothing
- Practice opening containers with your child.





## Quiet Time / Take Ten

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





## **Mathematics**

- Daily
- 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.



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

- Daily
- 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's academic needs in each subject, moving them forward through individualized instruction and activities.

# Registration/Transition Information



# www.hcpss.org

# Homepage



#### **HCPSS Status**

See today's operating status, and related information



#### School System Calendar

View academic calendar information, school closings and holidays



#### **HCPSS Help**

Get answers to questions on the school year, technology/internet access, and other topics



#### Budget

Gain information about the HCPSS operating budget process, including a schedule and related documents



#### Report Bullying

Access HCPSS' bullying reporting tool, which allows students, parents and staff to easily and confidentially report incidents



#### **Student Well-Being**

Learn how HCPSS promotes mental health and well-being, and find essential resources



#### **HCPSS Connect**

Get help with or connect with your student's courses, get grades and view assignments



#### **Forms**

Complete or download forms regularly accessed or needed by HCPSS students, parents or staff



#### Supports

Read about the ways the school system and staff support students every day



#### **School Information**

Locate and contact your school, identify bus stop and times, and get attendance area details



#### Enroll

Enroll your student in the Howard County Public School System



#### **Apply Now**

Join our award-winning workforce and make a difference in the lives of our students

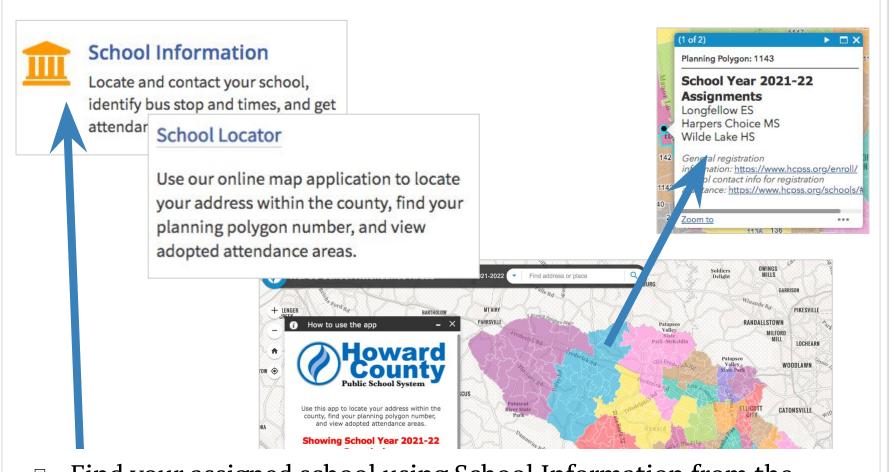
Check out the School System Calendar for early dismissals, closures, etc. so you can plan ahead!

## https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/

- Parents/guardians of enrolled HCPSS students DO NOT need to sign up for, or manage an HCPSS News account.
- If your oldest/only child is starting school in the fall, you will be automatically signed up for HCPSS News messages in early August from HCPSS and the school your child will be attending.
- Subscription information comes directly from the Family File information parents/guardians complete in the HCPSS Connect system.
- © 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 available if you live more than one-mile from school.

### **SCHOOLS**

Our online school directory

#### SCHOOL LISTINGS AND CONTACTS

#### School Directory

Browse and list all HCPSS schools. Quickly access each school's phone number, building address, website, school opening and closing times, and school profiles.

#### School Locator

Use our online map application to locate your address within the county, find your planning polygon number, and view adopted attendance areas.

#### **Community Superintendents**

Browse the list of Community Superintendents and their assigned schools.

#### Board Member Caster Assignments

Individual Board members are as inned to specific schools visit, attend special eve and become additional points of contact for

#### School Transportation

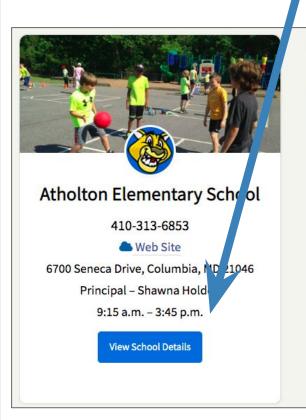
d a link to our bus stop locator, and learn ore about transportation safety and mergency closing information.

#### School Planning

Get more information about projected student enrollment, school boundary studies, attendance area adjustments, and

- 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.

- View school profiles, find contact information, etc.
- School times are unique to each school this is important to know so you can arrange before and after-care, if needed.







#### YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES



#### **Food Services**

We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, and how to pay for meals.



#### Transportation

Provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



#### Before and After Care

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's school.

YOU ABOUT SCHOOLS ACADEMICS SUPPORTS NEWS Q

ilities Bus Stop FAQs Safety Delays Contact



### **Our Bus Services**

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



- Find out **Transportation** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- On the first day, it is recommended to send 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.



Provides safe,

transportation

students living

distance from

We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, an how to pay for meals.

Commitment to Quality

We serve more than 5.5 million high-quality meals per year

#### 2021-2022 School Year Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to families for all HCPSS students throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Free meals also will be provided to students enrolled in the DEC, as well as students in quarantine.

Full details on student meals for the 2021-2022 school year are available online.

Please note: Due to national food supply chain shortages and delays, HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service currently faces a number of food and paper product delivery shortfalls. These supply chain issues force our suppliers to make unanticipated substitutions, which may result in HCPSS menu changes

- Find **Food Services** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- Information includes nutrition, pricing, online payment, etc.



#### YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

### Agencies That Serve Howard County Public Schools

Below is the contact information for the 2 agencies that serve Howard County public schools. The elementary and middle schools that are aligned with these programs, are listed after the agency.



#### Before and After Care

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's school.

#### Columbia Association

Before and After School Care - School Age Services

- Phone: 410-715-3164
- Email: SAS@ColumbiaAssociation.org or visit their website

#### **Howard County Recreation and Parks**

Before and After School (for elementary children)

- Phone: 410-313-7275
- · Visit their website
- 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 <u>for specific dates</u>) - programs fill up quickly!

#### **K-12 INSTRUCTION**

#### Career and Technology Education

Allows students to explore a variety of technology concepts from computer science to engineering, and includes advanced-level coursework to prepare students for in-demand careers.

#### Gifted & Talented

The G/T Program seeks to recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners through differentiated instruction, programs and activities, and parent education on the topic of advanced-learners.

#### English/Language Arts

We maintain a student-centered, integrated instructional approach to ensure that learners become thinking probing users of language.

#### Health Education

Provides setting in which t parents and community me part er to help students foc vention concepts and to skills in a safe and supportiv environment.

#### Fine Arts

The arts are an essential part of every child's learning and cognitive development, sharpening analytical

### amily 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
- Parent Page for Secondary English
- Find information about academics, look for resources, etc.

## **ACADEMICS**

Building a rigorous and strong academic education



#### K-12 Instruction

Academic subject matters

#### Special Education

Supporting all students to receive a free appropriate public education

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

JumpStart and hands-on digital learning experiences

#### Career Academies

Prepare for specific career areas

High-Quality Materials and Meaningful Assessments

Testing and homowork guidelines

Early Childhood Programs

Supporting children ages birth to five



Visit Early Childhood Programs for Birth to Five information, including kindergarten readiness and more!



## **Early Childhood Programs**

HCPSS provides high quality early childhood education that is rigorous yet developmentally appropriate. HCPSS also supports and promotes school readiness by focusing on families of, and community programs that work with, children ages birth to five.

#### Early Learning Resources (Birth-5)

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. There are many things a parent or caregiver can do, starting at birth, to help their child. There are numerous resources available to support families as they create everyday learning opportunities for children, which will ultimately ensure that the children are prepared to succeed in school and later life.

View resources, quick facts and figures, and educational opportunities for:

Students Birth to Age 3

Students Ages 3-5

View guidelines for prekindergarten (RECC and pre-K programs) Late Opening/Early Dismissals

Have a child from ages birth-5? Learn more about our Launch into Learning initiative →

#### Prekindergarten

HCPSS Pre-kindergarten programming includes a range of supports based on either economic or developmental needs.

- Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) Our special education preschool programs serve children three and four years of age who have a disability or developmental delay. Learn more about HCPSS Early Intervention Programs and Services →
- Pre-K Child must be four years old on or before September 1st. The Maryland State Department of Education requires that the pre-K

#### Kindergarten

Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program or have an approved waiver.

Find out more about preparing and registering for kindergarten →

Find out more about readiness, what you can do the year before kindergarten, registration, and more.



#### Overview

HCPSS kindergarten is a full-day program. Registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins March 7, 2022. Children must be 5 years old by September 1, 2022, in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every eligible child must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have all approved waiver form, which will be available March 1, 2022.

← Start the enrollment process

#### Helping Your hild Get Ready for Kindergarten

Kindergarten teachers are prepared for children to enter school with varying abilities, strengt is and needs. Each child is taught at their appropriate level through differentiated instruction. Learn more what your child will learn in kind ergarten.

Review the 2021 Road to Kin lergarten slideshow for information about kindergarten readiness, the kindergarten program, and registering your child for school. Prior to kinde garten there are many things parents can do to support their child's transition to school. From making sure appropriate documentation is githered, to playing with, reading with and listening to their child, the year before kindergarten is a great opportunity to develop school real liness!



- Access Enrollment information here or from the homepage.
- For students who are the right age but parents feel aren't ready and want to wait, there is an option for a waiver.





#### **HCPSS Status**

See today's operating status, and related information



#### **School System Calendar**

View academic calendar information, school closings and holidays



#### HCPSS Help

Get answers to questions on the school year, technology/internet access, and other topics



#### **Budget**

Gain information about the HCPSS operating budget process, including a schedule and related documents



#### **Report Bullying**

Access HCPSS' bullying reporting tool, which allows students, parents and staff to easily and confidentially report incidents



#### **Student Well-Being**

Learn how HCPSS promotes mental health and well-being, and find essential resources



#### **HCPSS Connect**

Get help with or connect with your student's courses, get grades and view assignments



#### **Forms**

Complete or download forms regularly accessed or needed by HCPSS students, parents or staff



#### Supports

Read about the ways the school system and staff support students every day



#### **School Information**

Locate and contact your school, identify bus stop and times, and get attendance area details



#### Enroll

Enroll your student in the Howard County Public School System



#### **Apply Now**

Join our award-winning workforce and make a difference in the lives of our students

- The early admission application process is designed for students born within a designated window.
- Those seeking school enrollment one year early can find application information here.

#### Step 1 - Assess Eligibility and Needs

#### **New Students**

Students who have never attended a HCPSS school must be registered by their custodial parent (biological, adoptive, legal guardian).

#### **New Kindergarten Students**

Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver.

More information about registering a Kindergarten student →

#### **New Prekindergarten Students**

HCPSS offers a half-day prekindergarten program. Students must be four years old by September 1 to be considered for enrollment. Unlike enrollment for K-12, parents must apply for admission to prekindergarten.

Learn more about prekindergarten program →

#### Seeking Early Admission?

The early admission process is designed for students who are born between September 2 – October 13 and are seeking enrollment to school one year early.

Learn more about Early Admission to see if your child qualifies →

#### Step 2 - Find Your School

Parents must live in the attendance area of the school where they plan to enroll their student. Use our School Locator tool to find and verify your school and attendance area.



Verify your child's school attendance area

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.)

#### 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 polic school have certain health documents to submit with their enrolling a aperwork.

Learn more about these forms and find additional forms or diabetic students, students with allergies, and student medications.

- Required documentation for registration is listed here.
- Specific, updated information related to health documentation (immunizations, medication, allergies, etc.) can be found at the link.

#### **BEGIN ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Online Registration is now open to enroll new HCPSS K-12 students for the 2020-2021 school year.

Guide to Online Registration for New Students

#### Grades 1-12

If you would like to register your child for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration." While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting (e.g., online Google Meet) to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

#### Kindergarten

If you would like to register for kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration". While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

#### Specifics on 2020-2021 Kindergarten Registration

Note: Parents/guardians without access to a computer should contact their child's school for assistance in completing the registration form.

#### Prekindergarten

Specifics on 2020-2021 Pre-K Application

#### Step 5 - Finalize Registration and Meet Your New School

After beginning the registration process online, your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process.



Find your school's contact information

- After gathering the required documents, begin the online registration process.
  - Parents/guardians without access to a computer should call their child's designated school for more information.
- Finalize registration with your assigned school. This final step confirms area residency, guardianship of the child and ensures that the registration process is completed correctly.

# Kindergarten Registration Begins March 7–11, 2022

### You will need:

- Picture I.D. (driver's license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.)
- Signed original, current complete lease or complete deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address
- Child's evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician's certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration)
- Student's current proof of immunizations signed by physician.
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship.

# Kindergarten Registration Begins March 7–11, 2022

- Language support is available at the International Student Registration Center.
- Children already enrolled in a HCPSS school as a <u>prekindergarten student</u>
   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, contact the office that handles 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 7–11, 2022

If you cannot register March 7-11, that's ok, but you are encouraged to register early to receive information about upcoming kindergarten transition events, etc.



## 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.

# 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, etc.!
- 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...but not your anxiety!



## Any Questions?

Please call the
Office of Early Childhood Programs
410-313-5693