

Welcome to
KINDERGARTEN

**Muscatine Community School District
2023-2024**



Muskies Class of 2036

Our Mission; "In partnership with our staff, families, and community, every student will excel in thinking, learning, achieving, and caring."



2023-2024 Kindergarten

Important Dates

January- March

If you have questions and want to learn more about the kindergarten experience, school program options, and visit with the elementary school principals, call the school office.

March

Registration will open on March 23rd. You may register your child online by visiting muscatine.k12.ia.us or in person at the MCSD Administration Center from 8:00 am-6:00 p.m. on March 23rd.

*If your child attends the Muskie Early Learning Center, you will register them as a returning student in July. Information will be shared at a later date.

May

Sneak-A-Peak Experience to see your child's school and classroom and learn more about the school's procedures! This will occur on the evening of May 4th.

August

Muskie Connect will occur the first two days of school (August 21st-22nd) with a visit in your child's classroom. Teachers meet one-on-one with each learner to begin a positive school-home relationship and to gather some baseline information about each child in areas such as number and letter recognition. These are not tests of ability or intelligence. This personal interaction allows teachers to better meet each learner's needs as the school year begins and gives students time to gain familiarity with their teacher, classroom, and school building. More information about these meetings and scheduling will be available from your child's school in August.

August

First day of school for all kindergarten students will be August 23rd.

Dear Parents / Guardians,

In just a few months, we'll welcome your child into kindergarten. Kindergarten is when children meet friends, gain healthy independence, and learn fundamental lessons that they will carry throughout their lives. It is Muscatine Schools' promise to provide a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and personalized learning environment for your child. We know that your child comes to us with a unique set of talents and needs. We value those differences, and we're eager to make your child's kindergarten year an exciting and positive learning experience.

This registration booklet is full of information about our kindergarten options and registration information. Learn more about our kindergarten program, then register [online](#).

We're looking forward to meeting you and your child at our Kindergarten Sneak-A-Peek experience in the spring. Until then, please contact your child's homeschool if you have any questions. We are happy to help.

Sincerely,

Elementary School Principals

Corry Spies, Franklin Elementary School
Leslie Bennett, Grant Elementary School
Kandy Steel, Jefferson Elementary School
Stephanie Zillig, Madison Elementary School
Tammi Turner, McKinley Elementary School
Stacy Olson, Mulberry Elementary School

Kindergarten Commitments

Strong Curriculum

Kindergarten is the beginning of a child's journey into elementary school. Students develop a wide range of skills in kindergarten, including physical, social, emotional, language and literacy, problem solving and critical thinking skills. Creativity is also fostered through student participation in Music, Art, and Physical Education.

Open Communication

Parents and guardians are partners with teachers in our schools. We offer many opportunities for family involvement and tools for keeping parents/guardians well informed about their child's progress.

Safe & Secure Schools

Physical, mental, and emotional safety of students is our priority. We have substantial security measures in place to ensure the safety of your child including an ID scan for visitors, secure sign out for students when leaving school, and video monitoring of our buildings and buses. Our staff is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all students.

Robust Supports

Each school has a team of teachers who have additional training in the areas of special education, speech/language, English language learners, gifted services, adaptive physical education, social work, counseling, and school psychology.



What Option is Right for My Child?

Is My Child Ready?

Parents and guardians frequently ask, "Is my child ready for kindergarten?" If your child meets the state age requirement of five years old on or before September 15 of the kindergarten year, the answer is "yes." MCSD offers two kindergarten programs options to ensure families are able to choose the option that works best for your child.

Option 1: Kindergarten at your Neighborhood School

Our kindergarten program develops children academically, socially, and emotionally. Students are introduced to reading skills, writing and problem-solving skills. Science and math concepts are fostered in kindergarten. Technology is used in the classroom to enhance learning experiences for students. Students also attend specialist classes such as Physical Education, Music, and Art.

To determine your child's neighborhood school, visit the school finder at:
<http://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/maps/>

Option 2: Kinder Academy

Kinder Academy is a district program for young five-year-olds, such as those with summer birthdays. The program follows the Muscatine School District's kindergarten curriculum and pacing. Students who are ready to move on to first grade after one year will do so. The student will attend their home school in 1st grade. Students who would benefit from an additional year will stay in the program. The teacher will modify the curriculum for the older children's developmental level. The older kindergarten students become leaders in the class and role models to incoming five-year-olds. This program is currently housed at Grant Elementary. Transportation is provided from the other elementary schools. If you are interested in this program, you can complete an interest form at [MCSDKinderAcademy](#).

Option 3: Dual Language Immersion Program

Housed at Franklin Elementary School, the Dual Language Immersion Program integrates native English and native Spanish speakers to receive academic instruction in both Spanish (80% of day) and English (20% of day). Transportation is provided from the other elementary schools. If you are interested in this program, you can complete an interest form at [MuscatineDLIP](#).

Kindergarten Schedule

A sample day gives an idea of what core areas are included in a day in Muscatine Community Schools kindergarten. Depending on the school and teacher, your child's schedule may be designed differently. The hours for each school are 8:00- 3:00pm. Students will be considered tardy if they arrive after 8:10am.

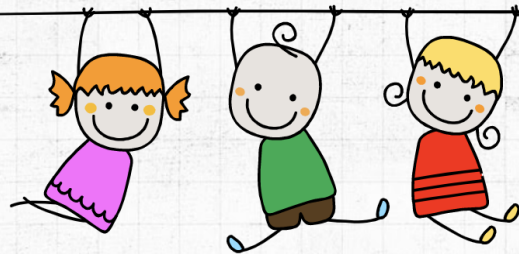
A Sample Day for Kindergarten:

ELA

Kindergarten students will have 120 minutes of ELA instruction daily. This includes phonemic awareness, phonics, small group, and large group reading. This also includes time for library checkout, intervention, and enrichment.

Math

Kindergarten students will have 90 minutes of math daily. This includes large group math, small group math, intervention, and enrichment.



Specials

Students will have art, music, and gym on a 3 day rotation.

Science/Social Studies

Student will have science and social studies included also.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students is always a priority, never more than these last few years. We maintain a close relationship with local and state health agencies to ensure we are fully aligned with all current health and safety recommendations.

Some of the steps taken include:

- Enhanced building HVAC systems to improve ventilation/airflow
- Frequent hand washing opportunities
- Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers
- Regular cleaning of high touch areas
- Increased cleaning of buses

What You Need to Know

Required Immunizations & Health Services

Your kindergartener must be up-to-date on all immunizations before starting school. Kindergarten boosters are required after the age of 4. The immunization form or a copy of your child's immunization record, even if partially complete, should be submitted with your [registration](#).

Please schedule an appointment with your child's pediatrician for a well-child check and immunizations before the start of kindergarten. Schedule the appointment in early August as this is a very busy time for clinics with many requests for well-child checks before school begins.

All elementary schools are staffed with a registered nurse. Our health services staff will work with you to accommodate your child's health needs. Please complete and return the health forms included with the [online registration](#). This information helps us to prepare for all health needs on the first day of school.

PowerSchool Link

Public Portal will provide you access to information about attendance, bussing, class schedule, grades, news, and alerts from your child's school. An activation code for your account will be emailed to you shortly after the kindergarten registration is fully processed.

Bus Transportation

Transportation is provided to students in all schools free of charge to those who live in the district boundaries unless you live close enough to your school to be in the no-bussing zone. Please complete a transportation request within the [registration](#) form.

Information about the bus stops and schedule will be available in August via the Powerschool Parent Portal.

It's time to enroll in kindergarten!

Checklist for Enrollment:

- ☐ Name of previous school, city, and state (the secretary will fax a request for student records to your child's previous school).
- ☐ Birth Certificate
- ☐ Immunization Record
- ☐ Recent Physical
- ☐ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information:
 - ☐ Name
 - ☐ Preferred Phone Number
 - ☐ Email Address
 - ☐ Place of Employment
 - ☐ Employer's Phone Number
- ☐ Emergency Contact(s) Information:
 - ☐ Name
 - ☐ Phone Number
 - ☐ Relationship to student
- ☐ Medical considerations and Medicines that need to be noted.
 - ☐ Please visit our district [Health Services](#) page for additional information on screenings and immunizations required by the State of Iowa.
 - ☐ If your student has a chronic health condition (i.e. seizures, allergies, asthma, etc.) there are additional forms available on our Health Services page.
- ☐ Doctor and Dentist Name/Phone Number (if known).
- ☐ Court documents with information regarding the custody of the student or if the student is mentioned in a protection order (if necessary).

Stay Connected!



Facebook: [Facebook.com/MuscatineSchools](https://www.facebook.com/MuscatineSchools)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/MuscatineCSD](https://twitter.com/MuscatineCSD)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/MuscatineCSD](https://www.instagram.com/MuscatineCSD)

TikTok: [@MuscatineSchools](https://www.tiktok.com/@MuscatineSchools)

Muscatine School District Homepage: [Muscatine.K12.IA.US](https://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us)

MCSD District Phone: (563) 263-7223

Class DoJo:

School Contacts:

Franklin Elementary School: 210 Taylor Street 563.263.5040

Grant Elementary School: 705 Barry Avenue 563.263.7005

Jefferson Elementary School: 403 E. 9th Street 563.263.8800

Madison Elementary School: 1820 1st Avenue 563.263.6062

McKinley Elementary School: 621 Kindler Avenue 563.263.9049

Mulberry Elementary School: Mulberry Street 563.263.8143