

Clark County Preschool Parent Survival Guide 2026-2027



Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome to Clark County Preschool! We are so excited to begin the 2026–2027 school year with you and your child. Whether this is your first experience with preschool or you're returning for another year, we want to ensure your family feels supported, welcomed, and at ease every step of the way. Below is a guide to help you know what to expect during our first days together:

August 11, 2026 – Lil' Cards' Flight to Pre-K Day

This is a special day for you and your child to explore their new school together!

- **No bus transportation on this day**—families will bring their child at a scheduled time.
- During your visit, you'll:
 - Meet your child's teachers
 - Tour the classroom and school building
 - Finalize any remaining paperwork
 - Please receive your child's backpack and a **backpack tag** (this tag must be kept on the backpack daily—it's essential for safety).
- Your child will also have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast or lunch, depending on your appointment time.
- We'll have **community partners and a health fair** in the gym for families to visit.
- Families will stay with their child for the entire visit—we can't wait to meet you!

August 17 & 18, 2025 – First Full Days of Preschool

- **School begins at 7:00 AM.**
- Families may **walk students to class on Monday and Tuesday only**—please park in the side or back parking lots.
- After Tuesday, families will use the **car loop** at the front of the building.

Car Riders:

- A staff member will assist your child in safely exiting the car and escort them into the building.
- **Please wait for a staff member to open the door** before your child exits the vehicle.
- **Dismissal starts at 1:00 PM.** The car lane will open at **12:40 PM**—please do not arrive earlier as the entrance will be blocked.

Bus Riders:

- Bus transportation begins!
- This is a **hand-to-hand process**: families must walk their child to the bus and hand them off directly to the bus aide.
- **Please remember that you must complete your Online Registration (health section) for your child to ride the bus.**

August 19, 2025 – Independent Drop-Off Begins

Starting Wednesday, August 19, all students will use **bus transportation or the car loop** for arrival and dismissal.

At this point, families will **no longer walk students to class**—we promise they'll be in good hands with our caring staff. Thank you for choosing Clark County Preschool. We are honored to be part of your child's early learning journey. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions—we're here to help and support you every step of the way.

Warmly,

Jillian Blanton

Director of Early Learning

Principal at Clark County Preschool

jillian.blanton@clark.kyschools.us

Tips for Tear-Free Goodbyes

Saying goodbye on that first day can be the hardest moment for parents and children. Here are five tips on how to ease separation anxiety.

- **Reintroduce the teacher to your child.** Allow them to form an initial relationship. Make it clear that you trust the teacher and are at ease with her watching your child.
- **Bring a friend from home.** Ask the teacher whether your child can bring along a stuffed animal to keep in his/her cubby in case she needs comforting. It shouldn't be his/her favorite one, though, because there's no guarantee it will come home in one piece. Other favorite choices include a family picture, a special doll, or a favorite blanket.
- **When it's time to go, make sure to say goodbye to your child.** Never sneak out. As tempting as it may be, leaving without saying goodbye to your child risks her trust in you.
- **Once you say goodbye, leave promptly.** A long farewell scene might only serve to reinforce a child's sense that [preschool](#) is a bad place.
- **Express your ease with leaving.** Some parents wave from outside the classroom window or make a funny goodbye face.
- **Don't linger.** The longer you stay, the harder it is. Let your child know you'll be there to pick him/her up, and say "See you later!" once he/she is engaged in an activity.
- **Create your own ritual.** One of the moms in Shanon Powers's class, in Kansas City, Missouri, says goodbye to her son the same way every day: She kisses him on the lips and gives him a butterfly kiss (her eyelashes on his cheek), and then they rub noses and hug. When the embrace is over, he knows it's time for her to go to work.
- **Consider a reward system.** Linda Roos, of Scottsdale, Arizona, gave her kindergartner his own calendar. If he went to class without making a fuss, she put a smiley face on the calendar (otherwise, he got a sad face). On Friday, if he had five smiley faces, she made him a treasure hunt as a treat.
- **Learn the other kids' [names](#).** When you can call your child's classmates by name ("Look, Matthew, there is a space at the train table with Eli and Katie"), it makes [school](#) seem much more familiar and safe.

Clark County Preschool

Clark County Public Schools Vision Statement

Clark County Public Schools
One Community; One Vision: Life Ready
Where Every Student Matters

Clark County Preschool Mission Statement

The Clark County Preschool is committed to creating a high-quality, child-centered environment that builds responsibility and opportunities through partnerships between educators, students, families, and the community. Together, you and I will make a difference.

Guidelines for Success for the Clark County Preschool Staff

We reteach and enrich. We make every minute count. We aspire for student growth. We develop lifelong learners. Together, you and I will make a difference.

Student Motto – The Cardinal Way

Work hard each day. Always be a friend. Together, you and I will make a difference.

School Colors

Red, Black, and White

Mascots

Cardinals

School Readiness as stated by the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood

In Kentucky, School Readiness means that a child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success. The journey to kindergarten begins at birth. In the first five years of life, 90% of the brain is developed. This critical window lays the foundation for a child's development and emotional health that leads to school success. The school readiness definition outlines the five developmental domains children can aspire to have prior to kindergarten. While these skills are desired, the only eligibility requirement for kindergarten enrollment in Kentucky is to meet the legal age requirement to enter public school. Families, early care and education providers, school staff and community partners must work together to provide environments and developmental experiences that promote growth to ensure that all children in Kentucky enter school ready and excited to learn.

2026-2027 Clark County Preschool Calendar

August

- 11 - Lil Cards Flight to Pre-K
- 17 - 1st Day of Transportation
- 17-18 - Parents may walk students in
- 19 - All students will use the car line or bus transportation (Parents May Not Walk In)

September

- 2 - Fall Pictures
- 7 - Labor Day Holiday – No School
- 10 - Open House, Family Engagement, Grandparents, 5 PM
- 25 - Non-Instructional Day - No Students

October

- 5-9 - Fire Prevention Week
- 8 - Family Engagement/Fall Festival, 5 PM
- 12-16 - Fall Break
- 26-30 - Red Ribbon Week

November

- 2 - Non-Instructional Day - No Students
- 3 - Teacher Work Day - No Students
- 11 - Fall Picture Retakes
- 12 - Family Engagement/SEL, 5 PM
- 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December

- 3-18 - 12 Days of Christmas
- 21- Jan. 1 - Winter Break

January

- 1 - Winter Break
- 4 - Teacher Work Day - No Students
- 18 - MLK Day - No School
- 21 - Family Engagement/Literacy & Math, 5 PM

February DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

- TBA - 100th Day of School
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 3 - Cap & Gown Picture Day
- 8-11 - Super Bowl Spirit Week
- 12 - Teacher Work Day - No Students
- 15 - President's Day-No School

March

1-4 - Read Across America Week
5 - Non-Instructional Day - No Students
8 - Non-Instructional Day - No Students
17 - St. Patrick's Day
18 - Family Engagement/MultiCultural, 5 PM
24 - Spring & Group Pictures
26 - Oval Hunt
29-April 2 - Spring Break
Cardinal Spirit Week (TBA)

April

Mar. 29- April 2 - Spring Break
12-16 - Eric Carle Week
19 & 20 - Spring Concert, 5:00 & 6:15
23 - Non-Instructional Day - No Students
30 - Derby Day Celebration

May

3-7 - Staff Appreciation Week
14 - Last Day for Students
14 - End of the Year Lil Cards Celebrating Greatness, 9 to 12

Attendance

- Our program is expected to maintain an 85% attendance rate; therefore, your child is expected to attend school daily.
- If your child must be absent, please inform your child's teacher or the family service worker by sending in a note or making a phone call.
- If your child is absent for three (3) consecutive school days without a known reason, your child's teacher or the family service worker will contact you. If the teacher or family service worker is unable to reach you, the bus driver will be instructed not to pick up your child until further notice. Please refer to your Transportation/Daily Schedule Agreement.

Tardy

A student is considered tardy if they arrive after 7:30 AM or are signed out before 1:00 PM. Questions regarding tardiness or absences may be directed to our attendance clerk, Kara Carter, at (859) 744-1722 or by email at kara.carter@clark.kyschools.us

Peanut Allergies

Clark County Preschool takes student allergies very seriously. Please notify staff if your child has any allergies, including peanut allergies. If a parent/guardian reports any allergy concerns, practices and procedures will be developed on a case-by-case basis. Please note any allergy concerns on the health form provided by the school nurse. A school allergy form must be completed for your child if you have stated any allergies. This form must be completed by your physician and returned to school as soon as possible.

Holidays and Birthdays

The Clark County Preschool staff strives to respect the beliefs of everyone in our program. To create an inclusive environment for all children and families, holiday and seasonal celebrations can be incorporated into classroom activities within a diversity context. Birthdays may be celebrated throughout the school year. Cards, gifts, store-bought treats, or invitations may be brought to school and should comply with the allergy procedures for your child's classroom.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deena Graham at the Clark County Preschool's Family Resource Center at (859) 744-1722.

Communication

Parent Conferences and Home Visits: These visits provide an opportunity to share ideas and set goals for your child. Parent conferences are scheduled twice during the school year. Home visits are scheduled twice a year, once at the beginning of the year and again during the second semester of school. Your child's teacher will notify you and schedule a convenient time for sharing important information with family members, as well as discovering the best method of working with your child.

Newsletters: During the first week of every month, you will receive a classroom newsletter from your child's teacher. It will include important dates, special activities, ideas, and safety tips for you to use at home. Newsletters contain essential information you do not want to miss. All communication will be sent home in your child's backpack.

Phone: If you have questions or need assistance, the Clark County Preschool staff can be reached at (859) 744-1722.

Social Media: Like our page on Facebook at Clark County Preschool.

Website: Visit our school's website at [Clark County Preschool Website](#)

Dress Code

Children not yet potty-trained should be sent to school with extra diapers or pull-ups and baby wipes. It is recommended that children refrain from wearing jewelry to school, as it can pose a safety hazard. Children should wear comfortable play clothes and shoes suitable for the weather. Tennis shoes or rubber-soled shoes are recommended. Children are encouraged to use self-help skills in dressing and hygiene, so please put them in clothes they can manipulate. Also, please write your child's name on the inside tags of the jackets or coats they wear to school. Children should not be dressed in snap-type bodysuits that are difficult for them to open and close. Underwear should be worn. It is recommended that children do not wear jackets with drawstrings. At the beginning of the school year, you will be asked to send an extra set of clothing (including underwear and socks) to keep at school in case of accidents or messy play. During the school year, you may be asked to send another set of clothes as the weather changes. Please put your child's name on the inside tags of extra clothing, as well as jackets or coats your child wears. Children do have a rest time each day. Please send in a blanket for rest time, also labeled with your child's name.

Backpack

Children enrolled in Clark County Preschool will be provided a backpack. You do have the option for your child to bring a personally chosen backpack from home. Your child should wear their backpack to school every day. The purpose of the backpack is for your child to bring a change of clothes and for communication between home and school. Please check your child's backpack daily for written communication. Backpacks will be checked daily by your teacher for communication from home. Please do not send food, medicine, toys, movies, phones, stuffed animals, or games to school in your child's backpack. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KEEPS HIS/HER CAR OR BUS TAGS ON THE BACKPACK AT ALL TIMES.**

Transportation Changes

Any time a student's mode of transportation for dismissal differs from normal, the office must receive a letter signed by the parent/guardian before **10:00 AM** on the requested day. Phone requests will not be accepted. Signed letters may be sent in a child's backpack, brought in by the parent/guardian, emailed, or faxed. Please honor this system.

Bus Information

Clark County school buses will provide transportation for children enrolled in the preschool program. Older children will not be on the bus while the preschoolers are being transported without prior notification to parents. There will be a bus monitor to assist the driver on each preschool route. Below is the link to the bus app. My Ride K-12 is an online portal that will allow parents and guardians to access their student's transportation information on their phone, computer, or tablet. Once registered, users will be able to see the approximate pickup/drop-off times and the location of the bus.

<https://myridek12.tylerapp.com/login>

Schedules

Due to the established schedules of bus routes, children must be ready and at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is due to arrive. If children miss the bus and are transported by car to school, they may either be dropped off in the car lane or, if tardy, will be walked to their classroom by school staff from the front office. On days when children will not be riding the bus home from school, they should be picked up no later than the regular designated time. If children will not be riding the bus to school on any given day, the parent must call the Clark County Bus Garage at 859-744-5620 before 6:00 AM.

Authorized Person at Bus Stop

An authorized person listed on the Child Release/Emergency Contact Form must be present at the bus stop when children are due to be picked up. It is understood that individuals listed on the Child Release/Emergency Contact Form **WILL** be asked to present a valid picture identification before the child is released to them. Names cannot be added or deleted from the form over the telephone. Changes must be made in person by the parent/guardian.

No One at Home

If an authorized person is not at the bus stop when the child is brought home, the child will be taken back to school, and an authorized person will be called to pick up the child promptly. Transportation will no longer be provided until the situation has been discussed with the child's teacher or other designated staff.

Hand-to-Hand Procedure

Bus monitors are required to hold the child's hand and walk them across the road before placing the child's hand into the hand of the authorized person waiting to pick them up from the bus.

Communicable Diseases

Children with communicable diseases are not allowed to continue to ride the bus until symptoms are no longer present.

Medications

Any medication to be given to a child must be handed to the bus monitor or the driver; medications should not be placed in the child's backpack.

Change of Address or Child Care Provider

All changes of address or childcare providers will require a 48-hour notice before the student can begin getting picked up or dropped off at the new location. Parents/guardians will be required to transport their child to and from school during these 48 hours..

Car Loop Procedures

To provide a safe environment for students and families, we will implement a car lane at arrival (7:00 AM) and dismissal (1:00 PM). The car loop transitions from a double lane to a single lane in the student unloading zone to help prevent backups onto the main road. **Please do not pass the car in front of you at any time, and follow the staff member who is directing traffic.**

When you enter the car loop, please form two lanes of traffic. Upon arrival, please keep your child in the car until an employee opens the door. **For dismissal, please place your car tag with your child's number on the rearview mirror so it is visible, to help the process move efficiently. If you do not have your car tag at dismissal, you will need to park, walk to the front office, and show ID.** When you exit the car loop, pay attention to the person directing traffic, as they will signal whether you can turn left or go straight.

Arrival

For August 17th & 18th, families may park in the side and back parking lots to walk their students into the building. By August 19th, all students will enter the building via the car lane. Please discuss any specific needs with your homeroom teacher.

Dismissal

All car riders will be dismissed via the car lane. Coming to the office to sign out your child before dismissal will result in a tardy. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. **Due to school-wide dismissal, no child will be signed out or dismissed from the front office between 12:30 PM and 1:10 PM.**

Car Loop Map

