

Mission of the Ridgeview Kindergarten Program

We want to welcome you and your child to our kindergarten program at Ridgeview Elementary School. We are looking forward to an exciting year of new experiences and a lot of fun!

It is during the first years of life that children form attitudes about themselves, others, learning and the environment. These attitudes last a lifetime, so we work very hard to find ways to help children develop positive outlooks on their education.

Educating a child is most successful when families and schools work together in the best interest of the child. We welcome your input and assistance in educating your child; after all, you are your child's first teacher! Valuing education and the opportunities it provides are important first steps. We are hopeful that you will find time to participate in some of our school activities. We are always in need of parents to get involved in our S.T.A.N.G.S. parent group and to help at many other school functions.

The goal of our program is to meet your child's needs not only intellectually, but also physically, socially and emotionally.

Attending school is one of the most important experiences in a child's life. School can be an exciting place where children meet new and different people and participate in many new and different activities. We promise to work diligently to provide the children with wonderful experiences that help them to feel good about themselves and their school.

Introduction

This kindergarten handbook has been created to acquaint you with the major components of our program as well as to provide activities which will help your child prepare for kindergarten in August. Please keep this handbook as a reference guide for the entire school year.

Communications

Contacting the Office:

School Phone Number: (309)723-6531

Attendance extension: 1

Website: www.ridgeview19.org

Email Addresses:

Mr. Hutley: bhutley@ridgeview19.org (Principal)

Mrs. Scaggs: jscaggs@ridgeview19.org (Secretary)

Mrs. McCormick: emccormick@ridgeview19.org (Counselor)

Mrs. Helmig: shelmig@ridgeview19.org (Kindergarten teacher)

Mrs. McCoy: pmccoy@ridgeview19.org (Kindergarten teacher)

Mrs. Kollross: skollross@ridgeview19.org (Speech Pathologist)

Mrs. Starks: astarks@ridgeview19.org (Nurse)

Mrs. Hoffert: choffert@ridgeview19.org (Art)

Mr. Ludwig: dludwig@ridgeview19.org (Physical Education)

Mrs. Schuler: lschuler@ridgeview19.org (Librarian)

Mrs. Borton: kborton@ridgeview19.org (Title I Reading)

Mr. Jamerson: cjamerson@ridgeview19.org (Title I Mathematics)

Mrs. Aupperle: raupperle@ridgeview19.org (Music)

Mrs. Wilson: twilson@ridgeview19.org (Special Education)

Entrance Requirements

Every child entering kindergarten must have a physical examination dated less than 12 months before the first day of school. The physical examination form must record that the child has received the required immunizations. A dental exam must be dated after November 15th of the previous year. An eye exam must be completed by an eye doctor, dated less than 12 months before the first day of school.

Children must have had:

1. MMR: Two shots required with the first given after the first birthday.
2. DTP: Four shots required with the last one being after the fourth birthday
3. Polio: Three required with one after the fourth birthday.
4. Blood Lead Screening results
5. Varicella/Chicken Pox vaccine: 2 doses after the first birthday
6. Dental exam dated after November 15th, of the previous year
7. Eye exam by an eye doctor, dated less than 12 months before the first day of school

****The completed Certificate of Child Health Examination physical (including health history completed and signed by guardian) with proof of completed immunizations, Lead blood test results, dental examination form and eye examination form should be turned in to the school by October 15th, 2021. All forms are available online under the Health Tab on the Ridgeview website.**

An **official** birth certificate must also be presented to the school.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Ridgeview School District 19 follows Illinois School Code, which specifies that to enter Kindergarten, children must be five years old by September 1 of their eligible kindergarten year and six years old by September 1 of their eligible first grade year. On the rare occasion, exceptions to both of these policies may be made for children whose potential and skills are in the highly exceeding range.

Ridgeview School District 19 has specific criteria and procedures for considering parent requests for early entrance. The decision for a child to enter school early can have a profound effect on his or her academic and social performance for the remainder of the child's school career. It is a decision that we do not take lightly.

Since the district takes the decision for a child to enter early very seriously, the criteria for early entrance are very rigorous. The goal is to ensure that children are not frustrated by the challenges of the instructional programs and the long term effects that early placement may have.

Criteria for Eligibility for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

- The child's birthday falls between September 2 and October 31, as documented by a certified copy of the birth certificate.
- The parent/guardian must schedule a meeting with school administration and the school psychologist between February 1st and April 30th to discuss the potential for early entrance.
- The child demonstrates attention, gross and fine motor skills, cooperative play, and expressive and receptive language skills at the 95th percentile or above for each area on the kindergarten screening tool.
- The child attains a score of 130 or above on an intelligence test administered by Ridgeview School District 19 personnel.

Helpful Reminders for School

Starting Time: 8:15am-3:05pm. It is essential for your kindergarten student to have regular attendance if he/she is going to obtain the utmost good from the kindergarten experience. Breakfast will begin in the classroom at 8:00am.

If there is a change in your child's usual routine, you must notify the school by phone or in writing.

Absence/Illness: If your child is absent from school, the parent should call the school by 9:30am to notify us the child will be absent. The message may be taken by our phone answering machine if you call during non-office hours. Parents are asked to notify the school if your child is absent due to a contagious disease or lice. There is no need to send a note about an absence unless it is a pre-arranged absence.

If your child becomes ill, please keep them home until they are fever-free without any fever-reducing medication for 24 hours. Also keep children home if they have had vomiting or diarrhea during the night before school. If they have been diagnosed with strep throat or pink eye or other contagious illnesses, they need to be on their antibiotic/eye drops for 24 hours

before returning to school. These precautions along with proper hand washing will greatly reduce the spread of illness and make for a healthier learning environment for all our students.

Health/Wellness/Snacks: Daily snacks will be provided by our kitchen. If you would like to bring special snacks for a celebration or birthday please know all snacks must comply with the Ridgeview Wellness Policy. Suggested snacks are: 100% fruit snacks, crackers, cereal, Jell-O cups, granola bars, pretzels, popcorn, fruit, vegetables, yogurt, etc. All snacks must be peanut-free. A “smart snacks product calculator” can be found under the Health Tab on the Ridgeview website.

Meals/Snack: Lunch is served each day to all students in kindergarten through 5th grade in the All-Purpose Room (APR). Each student in the Ridgeview Elementary school is provided a hot lunch at no charge. Students will also have the option of a breakfast in the morning before school starts at no charge. Lunch menus are posted on our Facebook page. There are three options for Kindergarten students.

Kindergarten students have snacks provided by our kitchen every afternoon. The yearly snack fee for this is \$65.00. The fee is due by the first day of school. This fee is not covered by any waiver.

Kindergarten students have 30 minutes for recess and lunch. If you wish to eat lunch with your child, please notify the office by 10:00am. This will provide an accurate lunch count so our kitchen staff will know how much food to prepare. The cost of an adult lunch is \$3.75 (subject to change).

Rules and Discipline: The general rules for kindergarten are: *“Bee” ready to learn each and every day!*

I can “bee” responsible.

I can “bee” respectful.

I can “bee” ready to learn.

I can “bee” safe.

I can “bee” a good listener.

Evaluation: Report cards are issued each nine weeks. Mid-terms are available online through Family Access. Parents may monitor their student’s grades, lunch count and much more through Family Access.

All registration is completed online. If you need assistance, please contact the elementary office.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled in October for all parents, but parents may arrange to conference with their child’s teacher at any time. Periodic assessments will also be sent home throughout the school year. Students will be progress monitored in reading and math using the NWEA MAP evaluation system and by the Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Assessment

Shoes: For safety reasons, we **prefer** that all children wear tennis shoes to school. If your child is **unable** to tie their shoes, Velcro or slip on shoes are recommended.

Illinois Learning Standards aligned to Common Core Standards:The Common Core Standards are a collection of learning targets in Math and English that have been adopted by more than 40 states to ensure that children are being taught the same basic skills regardless of geographic location.

More information about the Common Core Standards is available online at www.corestandards.org.

A Day in Kindergarten

Calendar Time / Morning Greeting	Story Time
English Language Arts (ELA)	PE (every day)
Intervention (small guided reading groups)	Math
Phonics	Snack Time
Recess (morning)	Library (two days a week)
Writing	Chromebooks
Social Intervention (free play)	Art/Music (Alternate each day)
Lunch/Lunch Recess	Character Education
Chromebooks	STAR time: Sit Together And Read
Learning centers	

Targeted Activities to Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Practice writing his/her first and last name: Have your child practice writing his/her name using a variety of tools such as a Magna Doodle, crayons, pencils and markers. Check that your child is gripping the writing utensil correctly. You may even consider having your child practice writing his/her name in different items around the house such as pudding, rice, sand or shaving cream.

Be sure that your child uses a capital letter only at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest of the name.

Write your child's name in large letters or use magnetic letters. Say each letter aloud as you write or place it so your child can associate the name of the letter with the shape of the letter.

Cut apart the letters of your child's name or use magnetic letters and have him/her put them back in the correct order saying the name of each letter while doing so.

Label your child's door or other objects so his/her name can be seen in print.

Practice recognizing the numbers and writing the numbers 0-10 (or higher):

Read and enjoy counting books together.

Point out numbers in license plates, in stores, in your home, and all around you.

Use magnetic numbers to have your child practice saying them. Have your child put the numbers for your phone number in order saying each number while doing so.

Practice writing numbers using a variety of materials such as pencils, crayons, markers, and sidewalk chalk, etc.

Practice counting orally and practice counting objects to 10 or higher:

Have your child count his/her own snacks such as pretzels, goldfish crackers, grapes, etc.

Count each item as you pick up things and put them away in the house or bedroom.

Count the number of stair steps in your house or the number of steps from your house to the car.

Practice naming and correctly writing the letters of the alphabet:

Read and enjoy alphabet books together.

Help your child recognize letters of the alphabet in everyday life. For example, in restaurants, road signs, store signs, cereal boxes, etc.

Practice recognizing and writing both upper and lowercase letters.

Practice book handling skills:

Discuss how to open the book from the front. Point out the front of the book and the back of the book. Discuss that the front of the book is where the story begins and the back is where the story ends.

Discuss how to hold a book so it is not upside down and show where to start reading.

Read with your child on a **daily** basis.

Practice recognizing the eight primary colors:

When your child is coloring, ask what colors were used.

Have your child draw objects on paper and ask him/her to color the objects in certain colors.

Have your child sort objects or food by colors. Use items such as clothes, blocks, Skittles, M&M's or Fruit Loops. Have your child name the colors.

Discuss colors of things in the world around you such as the sky, the grass, cars, clothing, etc.

Practice naming and drawing the basic shapes:

Point out objects in your house or environment that have the basic shapes such as doors, windows, clocks, cans, kites, etc.

Read and enjoy shape books together.

Have your child draw shapes on chalkboards, whiteboards, paper, etc.

Draw and cut out shapes from paper, wallpaper, construction paper, etc.

Practice coloring within the lines and cutting on the lines:

Have your child cut out coupons.

Have your child cut out pictures from old magazines of things he/she is interested in.

Have your child draw simple objects with some detail including self, family, house and pets. Use crayons, markers, chalk, etc.

Tips to Help Beginning Reading and Writing

The greatest benefits of reading is obtained when your child is an active participant engaging in discussions about stories, talking about meanings of words in the story, predicting outcomes and relating the story matter to other texts and his/her own life.

- * Read to your child **daily**.

- *Talk about the book as you read with your child and after you have finished reading it.

- *Look at the book cover before reading. Point out the title, author and illustrator.

*Point out words or phrases that are repeated several times throughout the story.

*Encourage your child to finish predictable phrases and rhymes.

*Remember to focus on the meaning of the story. If a child reads something that doesn't make sense, often he or she will go back and try again. If this doesn't happen, stop and ask, "Does that make sense?"

*If your child comes to a word he or she does not know and asks for help, consider asking these questions:

*Does the picture give you a clue?

*What word would make sense here?

*With what letter does the word begin (or end)?

*If these strategies fail and your child wants you to say the word, go ahead and do so rather than having your child labor over it.

*Don't worry if your child memorizes a particular phrase or story. This is an early stage in the reading process.

*Encourage your child to point to the words with his or her finger as he/she reads.

*Some helpful questions:

-What happened at the beginning, middle or the end of the story?

-What do you think will happen next?

-Why do you think the character did that?

-What would you have done if you were that character?

-What was the best thing about the story?

*Make sure your child sees you as a reader. (reading a newspaper, enjoying a good book, reading a magazine, etc.)

*When reading with a child always sit beside the child with the book between you so that you can both see the text and enjoy the pictures.

*Consider giving books as presents so books are associated with a pleasurable experience and have special meaning.

*Make sure your child sees you as a writer. (writing things such as grocery lists, thank you notes, notes to other family members, etc.)

*Have a wide variety of writing supplies available for your child to write and draw with and various sizes and types of paper, pencils, crayons, markers, chalk, etc.

*When your child draws a picture, encourage him/her to tell you about it. Then write down what your child says as he/she says it.

