

Kindergarten at Albert Einstein Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

Can twins be in the same classroom?

Typically we place twins with the same teaching team just in opposite weeks. So they will have the same English and German teacher.

If you have a special circumstance where the twins need to be in the same classroom, please reach out to the front office.

Do you have experience with students who only speak Spanish and if not what are some steps I can take to prepare my kids for school?

Yes, we do. Please begin to introduce English to your child however you are able. (It is difficult to give specific support strategies without knowing more about you.) When you say something to your child in your native tongue, say it in English as well. Read or listen to books in English. Sing the alphabet song and other nursery rhymes and songs in English.

Please keep in mind that your child will be learning English and German at AEA, so helping your child to learn English over the summer will be very beneficial.

How do the teachers/the school accommodate different reading levels when they teach reading?

We assess reading level on the first formal academic assessment which is completed in September, we will place each child in a reading group that meets their current reading needs.

Small kids are sick a lot. How does the 5 absences a year work?

AEA monitors daily attendance and we understand students may be absent due to illness. It is important that all absences are called in/mailed to the Front Office so we can provide guidance on next steps. Typically, contracts for independent study are offered when a child will miss more than 2-3 days due to illness.

Snack donations. Do snacks need to be pre packaged individually or is it ok for parents to prepackage them or will the teacher do it? For example if we bring fruit?

We love to have community snacks to give our students. Snacks like: cuties, apples, grapes, berries, string cheese, etc. are all wonderful brain food for the kids and simple for teachers to grab and hand out. If it is something like a watermelon, we would appreciate it being already cut up for the class. No peanuts please!

How much is school lunch?

Breakfast and lunches will be provided for free for the next school year.

We ask all parents to fill out the application that will be sent out during the summer via their SchoolMint accounts.

Are we able to see a sample homework sheet for the week? Maybe show us during the orientation?

A sample is on our kinder website. Right now, please read, read, read! Read to your child.

Homework menus will be explained in the fall.

[Click here for our Kinderblog](#)

Sample menu below:

Unit 4 Homework Menu: HOW THE WORLD WORKS				
PROJECT: To work on Mon-Thurs , and due on Friday morning in line of the four activities per week : We know parents love to help out but please make sure that your child is doing most of the writing/drawing/creating. Weeks 1-2: Build a character dressed their clothes a type of weather (sunny, rainy, windy, cloudy, snowy, etc.). Label and write a sentence in English and German. Bring into class to share. Read a minimum of 1 book each night Monday-Thursday, and record on the back reading log. Read a minimum of 1 home work night, Mon - Thurs				
German Activities	Math Activities	English Literacy Activities	Reading Enrichment	
Weeks 1-2 Central Idea: Weather can shape the way communities live. Learning Goals: I can ask questions to learn more. Attitude Focus: Curiosity I am interested in the world around me.	Week 1: *Ask your child to create a subtraction story problem using three different animals. Ex: I saw three turtles swimming in a field. 2 turtles hopped away to eat some grass. How many are left? Weat: _____ *Have your child draw a subtraction story problem on multiple pieces of paper. Have them tell you their story. Week 2: *Ask at Chapter 11: Measurement introduction page, go over the math words and play the game. *Have your child put some legs of order of height. Have them tell you which leg is the tallest and shortest. *Look through pictures of numbers 1-20 in order. Have your child label with you about what is the tallest and shortest in the picture. *Draw a picture using the shapes. Label them with Kites, Dinosaur, Owl, Zebra, Quail and Reptile.	Week 1: *Play Street Story: Pick several cards with the right words. Order words: (sunny, rainy, windy, cloudy, snowy, etc.). *Write a sentence in English and German. Bring into class to share. *Have your child draw a subtraction story problem on multiple pieces of paper. Have them tell you their story. Week 2: *Draw and label pictures of different types of weather. Write a sentence to go with the weather picture. Ex: I like the snow. I like to sled. *Write about what the weather is like today. Draw a picture to match your sentence. *Make a prediction about what the weather will be tomorrow. Write about what you will wear. Ex: If it is sunny I will wear shorts. *Write a story about a rainy day. Ex: The day is jumping puddles. We had fun run in our rain boots. *Write a story about a sunny day. Ex: The day is jumping puddles. We had fun run in our rain boots.	After your nightly 20 minutes of reading, choose one of the questions below for your child to answer. (Circle or highlight the question you answered) - Where is the title of the book? - What does the author of a book do? (Where is the author's name?) - What does the (illustrator) of a book do? (Where is the (illustrator's) name?) - Who are the characters in the story? In addition to answering one or more of the above questions, your child may also: *Ask on to www.kidzworld.com and explore. *Create your own story on www.kidzworld.com . *Make reading a fun book. Create a book video to share your reading. *Draw your favorite part of a book.	

Are smartwatches allowed? GPS watch etc

No, smart watches are not allowed at school.

When will we know what teachers are assigned to my child?

Lists will be posted outside the office at the Kinder Meet and Greet/ "Kinder Tea"

Any assessment done for children prior to the beginning of the school year or are they done when school starts?

If you have turned in a preschool evaluation then your child will not be evaluated before the start of kindergarten. If you have not, you will be contacted by the office to bring your child in for a basic assessment prior to school starting.

Formal academic assessments will begin around week 3 of school.

I see that the recommended backpack size is 17in? Do they need that big of a backpack? Will 16in be fine?

What will they carry besides the journal and snacks?

16 inch backpack is fine but the MINI backpacks are too small.

The backpacks should be able to fit a planner, a sweater, a lunch box and a water bottle (room for library books) should fit in the backpack. Once a week there will be library books coming to and from school so that could also be taken into account.

Is there any way to connect with other families and incoming kindergarten students over the summer?

Class lists will be posted the Friday before school starts. Once the classes have adjusted, around the end of September, the **room parents organize a class picnic or Saturday get together at the park** so families can get to know each other.

Your child's classroom will also have an **optional playdate doc** that the teacher will share after the first few weeks of school where families can share their contact information to set up playdates and get to know one another.

That way, if your child says, I'd like to have a playdate with my friend ____, you can reference the playdate doc. If that family isn't on the doc yet, write a note with your contact information and we can place it in that child's planner.

Is it possible to set up a meet and greet type event at a park?

We will have an "Einschulungsfeier" (meet and greet the teachers) on the Friday before school starts where the kids and families can come on campus, meet teachers and see their classrooms.

Once the classes have adjusted, the room parents organize a class picnic or Saturday get together at the park so families can get to know each other.

If students are dropped off early can they play/ wait in a given location?

No. At 7:50 Students are not permitted to play on the play structure before or after school. Before school, students' can have breakfast in the lunch arbor, sit in our classroom line with peers, or participate in Running Club - stay tuned for more info

Will you be sending home homework for the kindergartners?

Yes, an optional Homework menu and a required nightly reading log will be sent home every Monday, please return it to school each Friday. There are also optional math, english and german activities that can be found online.

Will there be any field trips that parents can also attend with their kindergartners?

We have one field trip off campus, and yes we will have an option for adults to be chaperones/volunteers. Please stay tuned for more information.

How can parents participate and help out in the classroom?

Parents can participate in several ways.

- helping with prep from home, teachers can send items home with you to work on and return to school
- donate snacks to the classroom
- Join our Friends of AEA and/or help with their events to support our school
- turn in required volunteering documentation and volunteer in class.

Elaborate on the reading level- should our children be reading for kindergarten?

There is no expectation for students to come into Kindergarten reading. We focus on social-emotional learning. You can read more about our Kindergarten Readiness skills to practice at home [here](#).

Can you wait in line with your child?

Parents are not allowed on campus in the morning. You can drop your child off at the front of the school on Ash st. or in the car drop off lane on A street.

Will there be after school programs next year? Yes over the summer you will get more information

Some links are in the kindergarten handbook and will send more information out at the beginning of the year from your classroom teacher.

Morning times of interest:

7:45 breakfast, 7:50 running club, 8:10 school bell

Is there a prize for running club?

Students earn a running club necklace and plastic foot after they run 100 laps around our designated running location. For each 100 laps they earn an additional foot. Then after they run 100 laps 10 times they earn a plastic number 100 to put on their necklace.

Can you please talk about how socio-emotional learning is taught and incorporated into the classroom. Do you use SEL curriculums such as Second Step or Zones of Regulation, mindfulness?

Yes! We believe that SEL is the key to successful learning. We use the Zones of Regulation Kindergarten wide as well as each teacher using their own touches of mindfulness in the classrooms.

Will there be a Kinder Tea?

Yes! There will be a Kinder Tea. It is always held the Friday before the first day of school. This is a great opportunity for our incoming students to see the classrooms and meet their teachers! Please feel free to bring in supplies that day.

When and where can I enroll my child to aftercare? Does my child have to stay until closing or can we pick up as soon as parent is available?

After school programs are listed in our Kindergarten handbook. Please contact them directly.

My child has not been to daycare or preschool, so this will be quite an adjustment for him. Am I able to come in and stay with him for any length of time on the first day?

Unfortunately no. We have many staff members available and ready to assist students who need extra time adjusting the first few weeks of school.

Also, I saw some toys in the kindergarten rooms during the tour. Is there time for play in Kindergarten?

Yes, we believe in learning through play and there is time, especially during the first semester, for Kinders to play in the classroom. We also have 3 recess breaks outside for the kids.

Does AEA offer any free after school program such as prime time?

We do offer Afterstein. Students who qualify will be notified.

The 5 absences rule is for excused absences as well?

The 5 absences do not include excused absences when a contract was created and work was turned in.

What is the preschool questionnaire for and exactly how is it used? Is it used to determine placement in a particular kinder class? The form says "it helps support placement". For example, would a child "scoring "mostly 2 and 3 be placed in a class with similar scoring children or would they be mixed with a child scoring 0 and 1. I need to understand its exact use before agreeing to submit one. Depending on the answers I do have follow up questions and concerns.

We are just trying to figure out more about the students to know about their age, background, and make sure our classes are balanced.

Do you guys have a complete detailed guide on uniforms?

There is a description of our uniform policy on page 4 of the kindergarten orientation packet and we send home a flier with visuals detailing the AEACS uniform at the beginning of the school year.

You can go to the AEA Elementary website : students and families : required uniform information.

Are navy blue pinafores with school logo embroidered on them acceptable as uniform? For example,

<https://www.next.us/en/style/st986995/m82229#m82229>

Yes, these are fine. We recommend wearing leggings or shorts underneath since kindergarten students are very active, especially at recess and during PE.

When we will know who is our teacher?

You will find out at the kinder tea, the Friday before school starts.

When will we know if we qualify for free or reduced lunch?

Create a [MyMealTime.com/app](https://myMealTime.com/app) account linked on the AEACS website under Students and Families. Please fill this out.

All families qualify for free lunch.

My child has an IEP. When will I be contacted to discuss the services she requires?

In Summer, our SPED team will reach out to you to learn more about our students with IEPs and the needs and supports outlined in them. Within the first 30 days of school, we will also hold an interim IEP meeting with your students' teachers and support team to review needs and supports in the new, kindergarten setting.

From the packet - the 20 min of reading each night, is that us reading to them until they actually know how to read?

Yes! We encourage families to read to their child at night in any language.

How do the children's interests shape the classroom? In a similar vein, how much choice do the students have in classroom learning? How much of the day is play?

-The teachers here often include the interest of children into books we read and our IB based projects tend to be open ended. That allows students to choose activities or projects that interest them. The classroom is structured to ensure that students get the main content but play is a big part of kindergarten and is built in every day throughout the day. Students get 3 recesses on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday they have 1 recess due to it being a short day.

How is cultural bias handled and diversity promoted? Does this come into play with traditions families observe at home, such as Dia de Los Muertos, Valentine's Day, and Christmas?

We invite all students to share their cultures and celebrations at any time (including singing happy birthday in multiple languages). This also includes read-alouds celebrating different cultures. We also participate in 3 "No Place For Hate" activities during the year where we learn about diversity, acceptance, and exploring who each of us are as individuals as an entire school. We also encourage students to share food or traditions with the class during any type of celebration. We also respect any students who do not celebrate or wish not to participate. They also get a chance to be exposed to German language and culture with whom many of our students are not yet familiar when starting at AEA. This is a chance for them to grow their natural curiosity about the world and other cultures with respect for similarities and differences.

How are behavioral issues handled at school and how is healthy conflict resolution balanced with keeping the environment safe?

-We empower students to solve their own problems with our guidance. Throughout the year we teach students problem solving skills and continue to guide them in solving their issues using the strategies they have learned and practiced.

Will there be a uniform sale at school with pre-owned uniforms?

-There will be a uniform sale but the date and time is to be determined. We will let you know before the kinder tea the date and time. During that time kids will receive 2 shirts and 1 polo.

Is there anything in person before school starts for the kiddos to meet the team?

Yes, there is a Kinder Tea held the week before Kindergarten. This will be a time when students and families can come onto campus to meet their teachers and see their classrooms.