Kindergarten
A World of New Discovery
(January, 2016 Revision)

Warren Consolidated Schools
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
31300 Anita * Warren, Michigan 48093
(888) 4WCSKIDS
www.wcskids.net
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Student Achievement
A focus on measurable student achievement in our Professional Learning Communities.

High Expectations
Clear expectations for every stakeholder, including students, staff and parents.

Strong Relationships
Strong relationships among all stakeholders, including: teacher-student, parent-teacher, principal-teacher, and superintendent-board member.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Human Resources Officer, 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.
Dear Parents:

You are about to embark on the beginning of your child’s formal education in a Kindergarten classroom. As you move into this new opportunity for learning, you may have questions or concerns regarding your child’s readiness to move into Kindergarten. To help answer those questions, (and ease your mind), we’ve asked highly regarded Kindergarten teachers from around our district to share their insights on helping your child gain the right mix of Kindergarten-readiness skills.

The skill sets they are looking for might surprise you. Because of the national focus on improving education and meeting standards, you might think that it’s most important for children to enter Kindergarten knowing their ABCs, numbers, shapes, and colors so they can keep up with the curriculum. While teachers would love children to come in with letter and number recognition, they don't want you to drill your kids on academic skills. There are equally — if not more — important readiness skills that set the stage for your child's learning. Raising an eager learner is the goal, and it can be achieved easily through play and day-to-day activities.

To help your child have a successful Kindergarten experience, we suggest you work on the following readiness skills with your future Kindergartener: Enthusiasm Toward Learning, Solid Oral-Language Skills, The Ability to Listen, The Desire to Be Independent, The Ability to Play Well with Others, Strong Fine-Motor Skills, and Basic Letter/Number Recognition. These skills are explained in detail on the following pages. Your child is unique, and we want to ensure that this most important first step lays the foundation for a very successful school experience. These readiness skills will help your child succeed in Kindergarten as well as pave the way for an outstanding educational career.

The entire Warren Consolidated community is pleased to welcome your child to Kindergarten. The communication between home and school is a key ingredient for your child’s future success in school. We, therefore, cordially invite you to visit any of our schools, observe our quality Kindergarten programs, and confer with teachers and administrators.

We hope this booklet helps you prepare your child for not only an exciting first day in Kindergarten, but a rewarding educational career in Warren Consolidated Schools.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Konal, Ed.S.
Chief Academic Officer
KINDERGARTEN ENTRY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The entry age for Kindergarten in a Michigan public school or public school academy gradually changed since 2013 to require children to be 5 years old by September 1, rather than the cutoff date of December 1. Michigan joins the majority of states that require students to reach age 5 before enrolling in a public school and/or public school academy. The requirement was fully implemented in the 2015-2016 school year.

Kindergarten is a great opportunity for learning but is voluntary in the State of Michigan, meaning that kindergarten attendance is permitted but not required. **

**State of Michigan, 96th Legislature, Regular Session of 2012
**MI Revised School Code 380.1147: Enrollment of children in Kindergarten

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the age my child must be to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2016?</td>
<td>Children who are 5 on or before September 1, 2016 are automatically eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2016. They will count in membership.</td>
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<td>2. Is it possible for me to enroll my child in kindergarten this year if he/she turns 5 after September 1, 2016 but on or before December 1, 2016?</td>
<td>Yes, you must inform the district in writing of your intent to enroll your child in kindergarten early. This may be done any time prior to the start of the school year. The child will count in membership.</td>
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<td>3. Who decides if my child who turns 5 by December 1, 2016 is ready for kindergarten?</td>
<td>The school district may make a recommendation to parents about whether a child is ready to enroll in kindergarten, but the parent always has the right to decide whether or not to enroll their child.</td>
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<td>4. Will these dates and rules change again next year?</td>
<td>The transition to the September 1st cutoff date for kindergarten entry age is now complete and dates will remain the same unless there is new legislation. Parents’ right to request early entry for children who turn 5 between September 2nd and December 1st will also remain in force unless there is new legislation.</td>
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SEVEN READINESS SKILLS

Enthusiasm Toward Learning

Does your child approach learning enthusiastically? Is he/she eager to explore and discover? Does he/she ask questions, take initiative, and persist when tasks are difficult?

Parents can set aside a little time each day to investigate the world with their preschooler and answer those endless questions. As you drive or walk along in the park, point out your child's surroundings — the different trees or the various birds at the feeder. Demonstrate how things work. You'll help your child develop beginning science skills — the ability to form a hypothesis, test it out, and come up with new questions and theories. The more kids notice, the more curious they'll become. Kindergarten builds on that curiosity.

Solid Oral-Language Skills

Children need wide background knowledge about their world and the words to go with it. You can help build language skills by taking your child to many new places and giving him/her words and descriptions for what they are seeing. At the zoo, explain, "There's a tiger. See how he has stripes and looks different from the lion?" These experiences have a huge impact on literacy. If you're reading a book about zoo animals and it says 'Look at the tiger,' and you can't tell the difference between a lion and a tiger, then you won't have the background knowledge to help you tackle the word. When children come to words that they don't know, they won't be able to make a good guess because it isn't in their vocabulary.

Research shows that one of the best predictors of later reading success is a well-developed oral vocabulary in Kindergarten. Pre-Kindergarten students are learning vocabulary at the rate of five to six words a day. It's just amazing how they will retain words if you use them several times in context and conversation.
The Ability to Listen

Children's literature is a rich resource for expanding language. As educators, we expect parents to be reading to kids every day. Fostering vocabulary and comprehension, reading develops the attention skills necessary in a Kindergarten classroom. Listening is a key part of school behavior. Students must be able to concentrate on what the teacher is saying, listen carefully for directions, and tune in to the sounds in letters and words.

The more animated you are as you read, the better you'll focus your child's attention on what they are hearing. Use different voices for the characters. Promote critical thinking by asking questions like, "Why do you think that happened?" and "How would you feel if that happened to you?" and "What do you think will happen next?" Engage your child by inviting them to clap or stomp when they hear a rhyming word, and letting them finish sentences in familiar stories. Books with rhyme and repetitive refrains (like those by Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss) help kids predict what's coming and detect consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words, which fosters phonemic awareness—the ability to hear and break down the subtle sounds in words. Your child won't be able to read the word "cat" until they understand that it actually has three sounds: "cuh," "ah," and "tuh." Singing fosters pre-reading skills too. Take turns substituting new sounds in nursery rhymes and songs.

The Desire to Be Independent

Encouraging self-help skills is an important step to preparing your child for Kindergarten. Many kids come to Kindergarten not knowing how to hang up a jacket. It might be quicker for you to do it, but independence is critical for helping your child adjust to school. Some children are so dependent on their parents that they expect the teacher to do these things for them. Teachers expect children to:

• Get coats on and off and hang them up
• Follow simple two-step instructions such as "take off your boots and put on your sneakers"
• Go to the bathroom and wash their hands
• Blow their nose and cover their mouth when they cough
• Fasten and unfasten simple buttons and snaps
• Eat neatly and pour into a cup
• Open up a juice box and get the straw in.
The Ability to Play Well with Others

Your child will need your assistance refining essential social skills such as sharing, compromising, turn-taking, and problem-solving. Children are naturally egocentric at this age, and we don’t expect them to be able to share everything. But by the time they reach Kindergarten, they should be able to express their feelings in words and begin to understand that two people can use the same thing at the same time.

If you and your child are building with blocks and he reaches for one you’re using, you first encourage your child to ask, "May I have the block?" Then model sharing by saying something like, "I'm glad to share my block with you." When you notice your child sharing with others, celebrate it by saying, "I'm so proud of you. It's really hard to share your favorite doll, but you were able to do it. Good for you!"

On play dates and park outings, stay within earshot so you can help kids problem-solve when conflict occurs. If your child gets in a power struggle over a toy and can’t seem to work it out, step in and say, "It looks like we're having a problem here. What can we do about it?" Encourage them to come up with possible solutions, offering your own suggestions, if necessary. Help kids understand the feelings of others. Students need to know when a friend is sad by looking at their face and seeing that their mouth is frowning or eyes are crying. This nurtures compassion and empathy.

Strong Fine-Motor Skills

Your child's hands must be strong enough to master coloring, cutting, pasting, and holding a pencil — fine-motor tasks that kids use every day in Kindergarten. By week one, Kindergarten students are already writing a letter of the alphabet. If kids can't hold the pencil correctly, they will fall behind. To hold the pencil the right way, kids need to develop the small muscles in their palms and fingers. One suggestion is to give your child a pipe cleaner and some Cheerios (or similar, colorful cereal) to make bracelets. It requires them to pinch with their fingers, the same motion needed for grasping a pencil. Or ask your preschooler to mist your houseplants with a spray bottle, an activity that boosts both writing and scissor skills. Scribbling in clay with fingers is a fun alternative to doing it on paper and especially helpful for children who are resistant to writing and drawing. A child can practice cutting the clay into small strips too.

Offer writing utensils in a variety of sizes and shapes. Some people think that fat pencils are easier to hold, but that's not always true. For a child with weak hands, a smaller, shorter pencil might be easier to manage.
Basic Letter and Number Recognition

Kindergarten teachers believe that it is their responsibility to teach kids letter sounds and how to write, but they do hope incoming students can recognize most letters by sight. They also hope children can count to 10, identify numbers 1 to 5, and know some shapes and colors.

Teachers don't want you to quiz your child or use workbooks, flashcards, or phonics kits. So much learning can happen without quizzing or sitting down with a pencil. The lessons unfold naturally as you and your child sort Legos by color or shape. Your daughter practices counting as she doles out pretend cookies for the dolls in her tea party. Your son builds letter recognition while scrambling alphabet magnets on the fridge.

Every outing is a spontaneous opportunity to learn. Play guessing games like, "I spy with my little eye something with the number 3." Teach by "immersion" and "show kids how letters are all around us." Say, 'Hey, that spells Target. Let's spell it together. T-A-R-G-E-T.'" Point out objects that contain the letters in your child's name. Most important, always keep the focus on fun. Relax, and enjoy your child. Read, play, and go places. And talk the whole time you're doing it!
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to begin Kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before September 1st of the year he/she is entering school.

When you come to school to register your child, please bring the following:

- Your child’s **ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE**. If you do not have a birth certificate, you may obtain proof from one of the following agencies:
  - For a child born in Michigan, contact the Michigan State Health Department of Vital Statistics, 3500 North Logan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48914
  - The web site is: [www.mi.gov](http://www.mi.gov) The link is: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-4645---,00.html
  - For a child born in Macomb County, contact the Office of the County Clerk, Macomb County Court Building, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043
  - For a child born in Oakland County, contact the Office of the County Clerk, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48053
  - For a child not born in Michigan, call your County Clerk’s Office for information on how to obtain a birth certificate.

- **CUSTODY PAPERS** (if applicable).

- Completed **HEALTH APPRAISAL RECORD**, including an up-to-date Immunization Record. (Parent fills out top & left side). Does not need to be completed by your Doctor. Make sure to list any medical issues. Immunizations are available at the Macomb County Health Department, Southwest Health Center, 27690 Van Dyke, Suite B,(North of 11 Mile), Warren MI 48093 Phone: 586-465-8537

- A certificate of **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**. Vision and Hearing must be tested by 1st day of school. The form must be turned in stating that the student has passed or failed each portion of the testing. Vision and Hearing screening examinations are provided by the Macomb County Health Department by contacting (586) 412-5945.

- **RESIDENT INFORMATION FORM**. Please bring your Current Driver’s License, we will make a copy of your Drivers License at registration.

- **TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCY**
  1. Current Monthly Mortgage Statement, Property Tax Statement with name and address, OR Apartment/Home Rental Lease Agreement OR Notarized Statement of Residency from Taxpayer (and taxpayer’s proof of residency).
  AND
  2. One current Utility Bill with name and address OR current Charge Statement with name and address OR Current bill (physician, dentist, insurance etc.) with name and address. It can not say Resident or Occupant. (Water bills are not acceptable). **Shut-off or final notices will not be accepted.**
  3. If you are not the homeowner or signer of the lease you need:
     A notarized statement of residency from the taxpayer stating that you and your child/children reside in their home and the taxpayer’s proof of residency as stated above. Also you must provide a current bill, or charge statement, or insurance statement with your name and address as stated for your current residence.

- **WARREN CONSOLIDATED STUDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION** form with the front and top half of page 2 completed and signed. If your child was receiving Special Education Services, such as Speech, etc., please bring a copy of the latest IEP Report.

- **KINDERGARTEN QUESTIONNAIRE**

Registration questions can be answered at Kindergarten Orientation, Kindergarten Registration, or by calling Warren Consolidated Schools’ Office of Student Affairs at (586) 698-4478.
KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS

Warren Consolidated Schools provides several options to meet your child’s educational and child care needs. Choose the program that best meets your child’s needs. For the 2016-2017 School Year, students eligible for Kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1st of the year they begin school. Parents may sign a waiver for early enrollment if their child turns the age of five years old between September 2nd and December 1st.

Transitional Kindergarten – All Day

The Transitional Kindergarten program is intended to meet the needs of children who are not quite developmentally ready for the traditional Kindergarten classroom. Those children who will turn 5 years old after September 1 and those children who have little or no preschool experience may need the Transitional Kindergarten instructional program to be more prepared for Kindergarten the following school year. This will be a full day experience for students and focus on social emotional development, oral language and early literacy and mathematical skills. This integrated experience will also include art, media, music, physical education and STEM classes.

½ Day Kindergarten

The half-day Kindergarten program will focus on the development of literacy skills and basic math concepts. The use of technology is introduced. It has a comprehensive, integrated curriculum that includes art, music, and physical education experiences. Running the half-day Kindergarten program will depend on the number interested. Location to be determined.

All Day Kindergarten - Traditional School Year

All-day Kindergarten is a full day program. Students experience a full day of school, including eating lunch at school. This program offers students additional time to acquire academic and social skills. Similar to the half-day Kindergarten program, literacy skills are the primary focus. Basic math concepts are developed. The use of technology is introduced, and it has a comprehensive, integrated curriculum that includes art, media, music, physical education, and STEM experiences.

All Day Kindergarten - Year-Round School Year

Year-round All Day Kindergarten and Traditional All Day Kindergarten offer the same curriculum and specials classes. The only difference is the calendar and the opportunities for additional days of instruction. Students who attend a Year-round School (Holden or Siersma) begin school the second week of August and end the third week in June. Students attend approximately 13 weeks of school and then have a two (2) week break. During the break, families have the option to continue learning by sending their child to structured intersessions for a nominal fee.

Latchkey Program

The Latchkey program is available for WCS registered students in grades K-5. Parents are required to complete the on-line registration process before services may begin. Please refer to our website: www.wcskids.net for more information.

Before-school Latchkey is designed for families who need childcare before school starts each morning and is available at all elementary locations until the start of school. After-school PM Latchkey is designed for families who need childcare from the time school ends until 6:00pm. PM Latchkey is only available at selected sites. If your child attends an elementary school that is not a PM Latchkey site and you need PM Latchkey, your child will be transported at the end of the school day to one of designated PM Latchkey sites.
TRANSPORTATION

Students living one (1) or more miles from the school are eligible for transportation. Students can be expected to walk up to one mile to a bus stop.

STOP TIME: Students must be visible at the stop five minutes before the scheduled stop time. If the bus does not arrive within twenty minutes after the scheduled stop time, students should return home and attempt to provide their own transportation to school. Once at school, take home will be by bus. At the end of the day, the presence of a parent is not a requirement at the bus stop, although it is certainly a recommendation. Any children that appear to be visibly upset or unsure about getting off the bus will be returned to their designated PM Latchkey site.

HALF-DAY POLICY: On days when school is scheduled for early dismissal, such as in-service days, parent-teacher conference days, etc., students will ride home on the regular P.M. take home bus. The school office will help Kindergarten parents determine the correct bus number and stop.

No transportation services will be provided for students attending the Transitional Kindergarten or half-day Kindergarten.

NUTRITION SERVICES

The mission of Nutrition Services is to offer a variety of quality, healthy food choices with excellent service in a friendly environment. A nourished student is a learning student. The department of Nutrition Services takes pride in “feeding” the minds of the future.

Each day, students have the opportunity to participate in federal breakfast and lunch programs that provide students with a balanced and nutritious meal that meets all federal nutrition guidelines. Please go to the Warren Consolidated Schools Nutrition Services website: www.wcs.k12.mi.us/foodservices for information such as menus and prices for the breakfast and lunch programs.

SendMoneyToSchool.com allows parents to gain access to the activity of their child's Nutrition Services account. There is a $10.00 requirement to make deposits online and the fees have been eliminated!! This service is now FREE to all parents. Deposits can be made at school with CASH ONLY. Checks are no longer accepted. Prepaying for meals is convenient for you as a parent, for your child, and for the cashiers during meal service. Monies are drawn from the account ONLY when your child eats; and if your child moves to another WCS school, the funds follow them.

Warren Consolidated Schools also offers both breakfast and lunch at a reduced price or free for low income household families. If your child is enrolled at a school, you can apply on line at www.lunchapp.com and you will receive a response within a week.
READY FOR SCHOOL?

The following points should be considered as your child prepares to begin his/her school experience. A child should:

- Be able to be away from parents for short periods without getting panicky. If not, now is the time to let the child spend the night at grandmother/father’s or the afternoon with a friend.
- Assume some responsibility for self and for a few chores around the house. Don’t forget that a Kindergarten teacher may be responsible for 24 children during a full day. That’s 24 top buttons to button and 48 mittens to put on.
- Show an interest in and play with other children cooperatively.
- Knows the rules of street safety.
- Knows their first and last name and be willing to give it when asked.
- Be able to dress and care for themselves.
- Be able to follow simple directions.
- Be able to enter into activities and enjoy them.
- Show a desire to experiment with materials such as paints, clay, sand, and paper and to make things from these materials.
- Participate willingly in new experiences (e.g., scissor cutting, painting, and body movements) and exhibit perseverance with new tasks.
- Shows pride in efforts well done.
- Be able to express thoughts fairly well. Parents can help by working to improve their child’s vocabulary.
- Be attentive when listening to a story.
- Respond with appropriate comments after a story or during general discussion.
PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

It takes more than new clothes to get a child ready for school. Your child will do better in school if he/she is physically, socially, and emotionally ready for school. It is a big event in your life and in your child’s life. The habits developed since birth is part of getting off to a good start. The way your child gets along with other children is part of it. So is a sense of well being. But even at best, some children may be a little fearful if it is the first break with home. They may feel lonely at first. You can make it easier by talking positivity about the school experience and letting them know that you look forward to hearing about their day when they return home.

Tell you child what to expect. Your child needs to know about the teacher, the principal, and others who want to help. Talk to your child about being a friend and the kinds of things your child will do in the classroom.

Show an interest in what your child does. Learning is fun. The things your child does at school and the drawings and papers brought home are important. Your child wants you to show an interest in them, too.

Get acquainted with your child’s teacher. To strengthen the link between home and school, visit the school as often as you can. The teacher, principal, and other members of the schools staff take a personal interest in your child’s physical, mental and emotional growth. If you are worried about your child’s progress in school, talk it over with the teacher. Teamwork makes for happy learning and happy living.
THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL

WHO YOU WILL MEET AT SCHOOL

Principal

The principal works with teachers, parents, and community members to provide the best program for each individual child. The principal is interested in how the school can best serve the needs of the community and will help you access the services the school offers.

Kindergarten Teacher

Your Child will feel happier about school realizing that you and their teacher know each other and are friends. Share with the teacher any information about your child that is important to their success in school. The teacher will welcome your interest in school.

School Nurse

The School Nurse, who services all of our schools, is concerned with the health of each child in school. The nurse works with principals and teachers to provide a safe and healthy school environment. If your child has health problems of which we should be aware or health concerns you wish to discuss, the school nurse will be glad to talk to you.

School Secretary and Pupil Accounting Clerk

Your first contact with the school is often through the school secretary or pupil accounting clerk. In the main office or over the telephone, the office staff has most of the answers and will be happy to assist you in any way possible.
WARREN CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Angus Elementary School
3180 Hein
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2780
Carlie McClenathan, Principal

Black Elementary School
14100 Heritage Road
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312
(586) 825-2840
Khris Nedam, Principal

Cromie Elementary School
29797 Gilbert Drive
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 574-3160
Kerry Keener, Principal

Green Acres Elementary School
4655 Holmes
Warren, MI 48092
(586) 825-2890
Stacey Leavell, Principal

Harwood Elementary School
4900 Southlawn
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2650
Coreen Tremmel, Principal

Hatherly Educational Center
35201 Davison
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2880
Mary Caruso, Director

Holden Elementary School
(Year-Round School)
37565 Calka Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2670
Cheryl Priemer, Principal

Jefferson Elementary School
37555 Carol
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2680
Keith Karpinski, Principal

Lean Elementary School
2825 Girard
Warren, MI 48092
(586) 574-3230
Mark Corless, Principal

Siersma Elementary School
(Year-Round School)
3100 Donna
Warren, MI 48091
(586) 574-3174
Eric Williamson, Principal

Susick Elementary School
2200 Castleton
Troy, MI 48083
(586) 825-2665
Patrick Cavanaugh, Principal

Wilde Elementary School
32343 Bunert
Warren, MI 48088
(586) 294-8490
Matthew Guinn, Principal

Wilkerson Elementary School
12100 Masonic
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 825-2550
Michael Schulte, Principal

Willow Woods Elementary School
11001 Daniel Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
(586) 825-2850
Vera Ivezaj, Principal