

A Beginning Chapter Introduction to Kindergarten

Baldwinsville Central School District ■ 29 East Oneida Street ■ Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Welcome to Baldwinsville Central Schools! As you know, starting kindergarten is a new adventure for your child. He/she will arrive at school with feelings somewhere between happy and sad; excited or worried; a bit shy or very curious. With all of us working together (parents, teachers and principals), we can create a positive experience to start their thirteen-year journey through school.

This packet will acquaint you with our district's kindergarten program by answering some frequently asked questions. Moreover, we want each child's transition to school, acquisition of basic learning skills and learning to work in groups to be a solid foundation for their continued education.

Additional details will be provided through letters and orientation programs at the various schools. Once the school year begins, you can always contact classroom teachers and/or the school principal if you have a concern that you would like to discuss.

We look forward to working together on your child's journey through education at Baldwinsville Central School District.

Is your child ready?

All children are different and grow at their own rate physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Patterns differ from neighborhood playmates and sisters or brothers. Children are usually ready to begin a successful school experience if they:

- Anticipate entering Kindergarten
- Follow spoken directions and obey rules
- Are ready for group activities
- Use words to express feelings
- Know their name and address
- Use the bathroom without assistance
- Are developing an easy give and take attitude
- Are ready for intellectual challenges
- Have an ever-increasing attention span
- Are alert to new words and meanings
- Want to carry out instructions
- Are developing a questioning mind
- Are perceptive to different points of view
- Are beginning to relate experiences in sequence
- Can name basic colors and count to 5 or 10
- Are able to cross the street correctly
- Know what to do if they should get lost



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children are eligible to enroll in our district's Kindergarten program if they will turn age five on or before December 1, 2022. It is a NYS Education Law that mandates children must enter school by their sixth birthday. **At Registration**, please present your proof of residency and your child's proof of age. Supplemental documentation includes: Transportation Form, Home Language Questionnaire, Student Health History, Dental Health Form, Immunization Records and Physical Exam. If your child's physical exam and dental appointments are scheduled after the open registration dates, completed forms may be presented to the school as soon as the appointments are complete.

Additionally, if parents share joint custody of their child, please bring a copy of the custody documentation. Provide name, address, phone numbers and email addresses for both parents as equal access of student educational records is required by New York State. If there is sole custody we need a copy of that court documentation. If there is a court protection order for your child, we require a copy of the document at the school and district office for the protection of your child while in school.

School Health Information

Meet our School Health Staff

School Nurse: Licensed Registered Nurse who protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. The school nurse, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, and advocate for quality student-centered care. *from National Association of School Nurses (nasn.org)

- Provides State-mandated screenings for hearing, vision and scoliosis
- Consults with parents, students, and faculty to help plan programs respective to student individual needs
- Implements medical regimens prescribed by the family physician
- Keeps accurate, confidential, up-to-date health records

District Nursing Supervisor: Nurse Practitioner with additional education to provide expanded health services. Will consult with School District Physician and/or the family for more in depth health issues.

School District Physician: Consultant to the Nursing Supervisor and School Administration.

Notes from the Health Office:

Before school begins in September, make sure you have completed the following:

Immunizations: The Public Health Law requires that each child be immunized against polio, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox. Proof of these immunizations are required **before** a child enters kindergarten in September.

Health Appraisal: Your child must receive a complete physical exam by their physician. Your doctor has time to spend with both you and your child to discuss any health or developmental concerns. Proof of a physical exam is a state requirement for all new students and in grades Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

Comprehensive Dental Exam: Proof of an exam signed by a NYS Licensed Dentist submitted prior to starting Kindergarten in September is requested.

OUR SCHOOL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Harry S. Elden Elementary School	29 East Oneida Street	315-638-6118
Catherine McNamara Elementary School	7344 O'Brien Road	315-638-6130
Pearl Palmer Elementary School	7864 Hicks Road	315-638-6127
Mae E. Reynolds Elementary School	222 Deerwood Drive	315-638-6124
Van Buren Elementary School	20 Ford Street	315-638-6121

LUNCH BITES



Baldwinsville Central School District's Food Service Department is excited to provide parents with a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service called MySchoolbucks.com. The service allows parents to deposit money into their child's school meal account and view the balance at any time. By having money in each child's account prior to entering the cafeteria, lunch lines move along much faster, enabling your child to have more time to eat and be with friends. If you choose not to take advantage of the online prepayment service, you may make advance payments via cash or check made payable to Baldwinsville Food Service.

NOTE: Please write your **child's full name** on the check.

***Current lunch prices:**

\$2.90 for Elementary students K-5

\$3.00 for Middle & Junior High 6-9

\$3.25 for High School students 10-12

***Current Breakfast prices:**

\$2.00 for K-7 students

\$2.50 for Junior High & High School Students

*'21-'22 prices-new prices will be posted for '22-'23 school year

Families may fill out an application for Free and Reduced meals at any time. Income guidelines are established annually by the USDA, and applications are included with the annual District Calendar mailing during the summer. Additional applications are available at the Food Service office located in the Administrative Office Building on the main campus at 29 E. Oneida Street.

How you can help at home

Parents are children's most important teachers. When you are with your children...

- . Listen and talk with your children
- . Read and tell stories
- . Monitor and discuss books, movies and television programs
- . Establish an early bedtime habit and quiet time
- . Teach good manners and kindness
- . Encourage creativity using crayons, scissors, paste, etc.
- . Develop responsibility for care of toys and belongings
- . Help your child to learn to tie his/her shoes
- . Plan a variety of family outings
- . Encourage autonomy
- . Allow time before school for breakfast and toileting
- . Help your child form the habit of getting to school on time and attending regularly
- . Get acquainted with the teacher and participate in school activities
- . Read all notices and bulletins sent home from school
- . Encourage your child's attempts with drawing, painting, and handicraft
- . Teach that nurses, doctors, crossing guards, bus drivers and teachers are friends

OFF TO A GOOD START

A few things to remember . . .

- Keep clothing simple, comfortable and appropriate for weather; items that are easily fastened are best. (i.e. boots easy and large enough to put on without teacher assistance.)
- Each student should have a book bag large enough to hold crafts and large library books.
- Label all school clothing and book bags with your child's name.
- To protect children, the school requires that changes from regular dismissal procedures must be approved by the school principal.
- Any absence from school requires an excuse to be called into the attendance office first thing in the morning. Arriving late to school also requires a phone call to the attendance office or written notification.
- Kindergarten children will be picked up at an established stop designated by the Transportation Department.
- Children should not arrive more than five minutes before school begins; teachers are assigned other duties in the building and children would be unsupervised in the classroom.

A MESSAGE ABOUT... KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

Screening is a valuable opportunity and provides additional information regarding your child's needs in education. Families will be contacted prior to September 2021 to schedule an appointment.

All students are screened, **including** those students who currently receive services through the committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). The results can be discussed at your child's special education transition meeting, in order to make the most appropriate recommendations for kindergarten services. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Mrs. Jennifer Cerankowski, CPSE Chairperson, at 635-4572.



Baldwinsville Board Of Education Members:

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Ms. Denise Falso

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District Administration:

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David Kilcourse, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Tiffany Turner, Business Official

Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education

Karrie LaMacchia, Director of Pupil & Personnel Services

Tony Cardamone, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

Elementary Principals:

Mr. Thomas Coughlin Elden Elementary

Ms. Jennifer Homeyer, McNamara Elementary

Mr. Alex Ewing, Palmer Elementary

Ms. Melissa Chiodo, Reynolds Elementary

Mrs. Cindy Cronin, Van Buren Elementary