

# Connect to Kindergarten

Sign up for Kindergarten by June 1st



## Visit the School - Enroll for September Gresham-Barlow to Host Connect to Kindergarten Events

Children entering kindergarten in September, and their parents/guardians are invited to attend a **Connect to Kindergarten** event at their neighborhood school **April 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This is an opportunity to learn about your school and its kindergarten program. You will meet the staff, tour the school, and complete enrollment. Call 503-261-4550 to determine your child's neighborhood school. See event dates and times below:

### April 1<sup>st</sup>

4:00 PM

Deep Creek Damascu

5:00 PM

Highland

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

East Gresham 4-5 PM

East Orient: 5-6 PM

Hall: 5-6 PM

Highland: 4:30-6 PM

### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Hogan Cedars: 3:30-5 PM

Hollydale: 4-5:30 PM

Kelly Creek: 4-5:30 PM

North Gresham: 4:30-6 PM



### Proof of Age

Bring your child's birth certificate to enrollment.



### Proof of Address

Bring one piece of mail sent to you; Utility Bill or Lease.



### Immunizations

Bring your child's immunization records to enrollment.

## Kindergarten Readiness

**Your child is beginning a wonderful new adventure! Practice these activities at home to prepare your child for school:**

- Play cooperatively with other children
  - Make choices about food and activities
  - Share his/her first and last name with others
  - Recognize his/her written name
  - Hold a pencil and write his/her name
  - Select books and look at them independently
  - Retell stories
  - Count to 10
  - Name the written numbers 1-10
  - Identify the basic colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and black)
  - Express thoughts and feelings
  - Share experiences
  - Be persistent in learning new things
  - Be able to work independently and in groups
  - Make new friends
- Develop relationships
  - Have meaningful conversations
  - Share your home phone number and address
  - Tie shoes
  - Zip, button and snap clothing items
  - Engage in an activity for 10 minutes (other than television)
  - Follow 2 or 3 part directions
  - Color, write, and draw on paper
  - Practice cutting paper
  - Separate from parents for short periods



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations and welcome to you and your child as you begin an exciting and important adventure with us in the Gresham-Barlow School District - *Kindergarten!*

We hope that the information in this newsletter will be helpful as you prepare for your student's first year of school.

If you have additional questions, the staff at your neighborhood school will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to working with you and your student as we begin a great new school year together!

Yours in Education,

Dr. A. Katrise Perera, Superintendent

Gresham-Barlow School District - Our Mission: "Inspire and Empower Each Student"



## Kindergarten Attendance is the Key to Success

Daily attendance in kindergarten is critical in establishing the importance of learning and education. Kindergarten teaches the basic habits and structure your child will use his/her whole life, even beyond school. Missing 10 or more days in kindergarten or first grade makes it much harder for children to read well. You can help your child attend school regularly by:

- Setting regular bedtime and morning routines.
- Laying out clothes and backpacks the night before.
- Making sure your child has the required immunizations.
- Sending your child to school unless they are truly sick.

## Illness Guidelines

If your child is sick, please keep him or her at home. Here are some basic guidelines to follow:

- **Temperature of 100 degrees or higher** - Students must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, before they return to school.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** - Students must stay home for at least 24 hours after the last episode.
- **Too sick to participate** - If your child isn't well enough to participate in the daily routine at school, please keep your child at home.
- **Undiagnosed Rash** - If your child has a rash, they must be seen by a physician who can diagnose and prescribe treatment if necessary, or your child must remain at home until the rash is gone.

**REPORT SCHOOL ABSENCE**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK**

**CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
BY 8:30 AM**

## Plan Healthy Meals and Sleep Routines

Nutrition is important for all children. Provide plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables in your daily meal plans. Limit sugary foods, and snacks with empty calories like chips and junk food. Make sure your child has time to eat a healthy breakfast, either at home or at school. Keep it simple and include a glass of milk.

All Gresham-Barlow Schools offer a Free or Reduced Meal program. Applications will be available at the Connect to Kindergarten event, where you can get more info.

A Kindergarten age student should get 9-10 hours of sleep per night. A regular set bedtime, and nighttime routine will help your child get a good night's sleep.

# Transportation and Kindergarten Bus Safety

Kindergarten students ride the bus to school with elementary students in 1st-5th grades.

Younger students are assigned to the front seats of the bus for supervisory and safety reasons.

**An adult must be at the bus stop to meet your kindergartener after school. If no adult is waiting, the student will be taken to the closest middle school. Parents are notified and must arrange to pick-up the student immediately.**



Bus tags are provided for kindergarten student backpacks at the beginning of the year. Please be sure your child’s bus tag remains on the backpack for the entire school year. Teach your child the bus number and identify a fixed landmark near the bus stop as a reminder of where to get off the bus. **First Student**

**Transportation** can be reached at 503-665-8193 if you have any questions or concerns.

Kindergarten Schedule  
8:35 am to 3:05 pm (9:35 to 3:05 pm on Wednesdays)

## Required Immunizations or Exemptions

**Immunizations are required by state law for children in attendance at public schools.**

Vaccine doses vary by a child’s age and how long ago they were vaccinated. Please check with your child’s school or health care provider for more details. To obtain a non-medical exemption, talk with your health care provider or visit <https://multco.us/school/school-immunizations> for more information. If you do not meet the state requirements for immunizations by February, you will receive an exclusion notice. Your child will be allowed to return to school once immunizations are complete.

Required Immunizations for Kindergarten	Vacunas Requeridas para Kindergarten	Ученики, начинающие посещать
5 doses - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)	5 dosis - Difteria, Tétano y Tosferina (DTaP)	5 Дифтерия/столбняк/коклюш (DTaP)
4 doses - Polio	4 dosis - Polio	4 Полиомиелит
1 dose - Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dosis - Varicela	1 Ветряная оспа (ветрянки)
2 doses - Measles	2 dosis - Sarampión	2 Корь
1 dose - Mumps	1 dosis - Paperas	1 Свинка
1 dose - Rubella	1 dosis - Rubeola	1 Краснуха
2 doses - Hepatitis A	2 dosis - Hepatitis A	3 Гепатит Б
3 doses - Hepatitis B	3 dosis - Hepatitis B	2 Гепатит А

## What Parents Can Do to Support School Success

- ▶ Talk with your child about school. Be calm, relaxed and positive. Your child will pick-up on your attitude and share your excitement.
- ▶ Avoid taking your child out of school for routine appointments.
- ▶ Schedule family trips and vacations during scheduled school breaks.
- ▶ Have a back-up plan for getting your child to school during a family emergency.
- ▶ Get to know your child's teacher, school counselor and principal.
- ▶ Volunteer in your child's classroom.
- ▶ Talk to your child's teacher or school counselor if your child seems anxious about school or complains of stomach or headaches with no other symptoms of illness.
- ▶ Don't hesitate to ask questions or share your concerns.
- ▶ Make school attendance a family priority.
- ▶ Attend all parent programs and conferences.
- ▶ Limit TV, video games and computer time.
- ▶ Keep after school hours simple, allowing for rest and family activities.
- ▶ Make reading a daily family activity.
- ▶ Include a change of clothes in your child's backpack, just in-case.
- ▶ Contact the school office if your child needs to take medication during the day. Medication permission forms will require your signature.
- ▶ Let your child freely choose from clothing items that you have determined are appropriate for school. Encourage your child to set clothing out the night before to prepare for the morning routine.
- ▶ Make after school childcare arrangements if necessary. Some schools offer extended care.



### Kindergarten Gradual Entry

In GBSD, kindergarten students are welcomed into their new classes gradually. During the first week of school, students and parents will be assigned times to meet with teachers, participate in learning and assessment activities, and move through a typical schedule. This will help students become familiar with class routines, lunch, recess, and the school. The gradual entry model ensures a smooth and successful transition into kindergarten.

**It is important to know that most schools will NOT have bus transportation available during this week. Each school will have their own variation of this model and will inform you of the details.** You will be contacted by your school via letter in August, informing you of the assigned attendance date and specific times for your child's gradual entry day.

## Who to Call for Information

<b>Early Intervention</b> 503-261-4653	<b>SODEXO (Food)</b> 503-261-4590	<b>First Student (Bus)</b> 503-665-8193
<b>Special Education Services</b> are provided to eligible students. If your child has an IFSP, or special needs, please contact our Student Support Services Office at 503-261-4560.	<b>ELL Services</b> 503-261-4579	<b>Volunteer at School</b> 503-261-4558
	<b>Homeless Liaison</b> 503-261-4579	<b>General Information</b> 503-261-4550
	<b>Kindergarten Counts</b> 503-261-4579	<b>Education Foundation</b> 503-766-0008

## Sign Up for Kindergarten by June 1st

At many schools, it is difficult to sign up for school during the summer months. **Don't wait! Sign Up for Kindergarten by June 1st.**

Early enrollment for kindergarten creates a connection to the school to make sure families receive important information and helps schools get ready for children entering in the fall.

If your family's home language is not English, you may call the school to schedule an appointment for enrollment assistance. The school will provide an interpreter at your request. Spanish interpreters are available at all **Connect to Kindergarten Events**.

Ask about school events that you can attend to meet other parents and the staff, and to help your child become familiar with his or her new school environment. Contact your neighborhood school for enrollment information, and attend a **Connect to Kindergarten Event!**



**Gresham-Barlow School District**  
1331 NW Eastman Parkway  
Gresham, OR 97030-3825