



Springfield
Public Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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Full-Day Kindergarten Begins This Fall

District gives parents tips for getting ready, staggered start

Springfield, Ore. – Incoming kindergarten students will be in school all day this fall for the first time in Springfield, thanks to an increase in state funding for kinders.

“We’re excited about this opportunity to get more time with our youngest students to help them gain the critical early literacy and socialization skills they need to be more successful in later grades,” says Elementary Education Director Suzanne Price. “Teachers can get to know students better and address any learning challenges early – helping get and keep them on track.”

Some key points for parents:

- Children must turn 5 by Sept. 1 to enroll in kindergarten.
- Parents who haven’t registered their kinder yet can do so at the school’s registration event. The full schedule is located at www.springfield.k12.or.us/backtoschool. **The first events will be on August 20 at Centennial and Ridgeview.**
- Kindergarten students will now begin and end the day at the same time as other elementary students.
- Kinders have a special staggered start schedule. They will attend school only one of the first three days. This schedule is designed to help students adjust better to school and give staff more opportunities to get to know individual students. More details about the staggered start will be shared by the schools.
- Kinders will be riding the school bus with the other students but will sit at the front of the bus. Information about bus routes will be available before school begins.
- Bus drivers will only drop off kinders if they are greeted by an authorized adult or accompanied by an older sibling (3rd grade+). If they are going to daycare, make sure the provider is there to greet the child.

More about Staggered Start: For the first three days of school (Sept. 9-11), your child will only attend one of these days. Only half of the students will be designated to come to school on Wednesday, Sept. 9, and the other half will attend on Thursday, Sept. 10, until all students have attended. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to meet with a teacher on their first day. Friday, Sept. 11, will be a no-school day for all kinders, to give teachers the opportunity to develop balanced class lists based on their observations, early assessments and meetings with parents. All kinders will then return to school on Monday, Sept. 14, together.

More information and tips for getting ready for kindergarten are located at
www.springfield.k12.or.us/kinders.

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