

Important Dates to Remember ~ 2020-2021

Kindergarten Information Session for Parents

Southington Public Schools will have one Kindergarten Registration Information Session for all parents who have children entering kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. This session will provide parents with some general *information about the registration process* and the day-in-the-life of a kindergartner.

Monday, January 27, 2020—6:00 p.m.

DePaolo Middle School Auditorium

Kindergarten Registration (by appointment only)

& Orientation for Parents & Students

****Please call school for a registration appointment time****

Elementary School

Derynoski
240 Main Street
860.628.3286

Registration

March 4 & 5, 2020

9:30 - 11:30 am; 1:00-2:30 pm
March 6, 2020
9:30 - 11:30 am

Orientation

May 8, 2020

1:30 pm

Flanders

100 Victoria Drive
860.628.3372

March 5, 2020

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 2:45 pm

May 15, 2020

9:30 am

Hatton

50 Spring Lake Road
860.628.3377

March 11, 2020

9:00 - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 2:45 pm

May 6, 2020

9:30 am

Kelley

501 Ridgewood Road
860.628.3310

March 5, 2020

9:15 - 11:30 am (A-L)
12:30 - 2:30 pm (M-Z)

April 30, 2020

9:30 am

Oshana

70 Church Street
860.628.3450

March 11, 2020

9:15 - 11:30 am
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

May 27, 2020

9:30 am

South End

Maxwell Noble Drive
860.628.3320

March 6, 2020

9:00 - 11:30 am (A-L)
1:00 - 2:45 pm (M-Z)

May 15, 2020

1:30 pm

Strong

820 Marion Avenue
860.628.3314

March 19, 2020

9:30 am - 2:15 pm

May 21, 2020

9:30 am

Thalberg

145 Dunham Road
860.628.3370

March 5, 2020

12:00—2:00 pm

March 6, 2020

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00—2:30 p.m.

May 15, 2020

May 15, 2020

9:30 am



SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Southington, Connecticut

A Guide to Transitioning Into Kindergarten

**E arly
C hildhood
C ollaborative of
S outhington**



Dear Families:

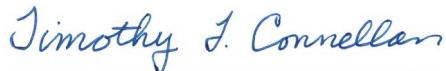
Welcome to the Southington Public Schools!

This is an exciting time for the members of your family as your child begins the journey from Kindergarten to graduation from the Southington Public Schools. One of our goals is to create an open and collaborative partnership with families that ensures student success. Your support of and engagement with your child's education is the cornerstone to that success. Please feel free to ask any and all questions that come to mind regarding your child's educational program. When the first day of school arrives, I hope you are confident that your child will be in loving, capable hands.

This informational booklet is designed to serve as a reference for you over the next few months. Please feel free to call the administrative offices of Southington Public Schools at (860) 628-3204 and speak with Mrs. Teresa Colegrove, Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the registration process. You may contact the principal of your child's school if you have any questions or concerns about the kindergarten program.

I assure you that the entire staff of the Southington Public Schools are committed to providing a warm, safe and nurturing environment. We all look forward to the arrival of our newest students.

Respectfully,



Timothy F. Connellan
Superintendent of Schools

Health Checklist for Kindergarten ~ Continued

Acetaminophen may be administered to a student upon written authorization from their parent/guardian. This medication must be provided unopened and in the original packaging by the parent/guardian. An authorization form is located in the school health office and must be renewed annually. The first dose of any new medication should be given at home. All medications must be picked up within one week following termination of order or on the last day of school by a parent/guardian or responsible adult.

All health forms are available on the Southington Public Schools web site under ***Health Services***. The link to the ***Health Forms*** page is at the left of the page.

3. Food or Other Life-Threatening Allergies Information

Food or other life-threatening allergies must be discussed with the nurse, classroom teacher and other appropriate school personnel. Schedule an appointment to speak with the school nurse to discuss your child's food allergy so that an appropriate health care plan can be made. EpiPen or other emergency allergy medication must have the appropriate forms completed by a physician and parent/guardian prior to administration by a school employee. The safest plan is to have the allergic student eat only food snacks that are brought from home. Please explain to your child that for the safety of every child they should not trade food with others. Due to the increasing number of children with serious food allergies, our elementary schools celebrate food free birthdays by enjoying fun activities or projects so that all children may participate in the celebration in a safe and healthy environment.

4. Request of Confidential Information

If your child will need a medication, treatment or health procedure in school or has health issues that may impact the educational process, we will ask you to sign an *Authorization for Release of Information* form so that we may speak with your child's physician in order to ensure appropriate care in school.

5. Information Updates

It is very important to update emergency contact names and telephone numbers annually and as needed throughout the year.

Health Checklist for Kindergarten

1. State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record ~ "Blue Form"

To ensure your child's entry into kindergarten on the first day of school, this form must be completely filled out, the front by the parent/guardian and the back by your child's physician. Please note that all starred areas on the form must be completed by the physician.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN ACCORDANCE TO STATE LAWS. CONSULT YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICIAN AT THE TIME OF THEIR VISIT.

Kindergarten students may NOT start school without the physical form completed. Please schedule your child's physical appointment well in advance. The physical must be completed within one year before the first day of school.

Prior to the start of school, notify the nurse of your child's specific health problems, allergies, chronic disease, or in-school medication administration that requires support during the day.

2. Medication Authorization ~ Doctor's Orders

The term "medication" refers to any category of prescription and nonprescription preparations and refers to any type of pills, drops, lotions, ointments, creams, liquids and injectable substances. There are specific forms that you will be responsible to have completed by your child's physician and you will need to co-sign as the parent/guardian prior to any medication administration. These forms are located in the school health office and must be renewed annually. In the absence of licensed nursing personnel, a principal or teacher with medication administration training may administer authorized medications. Medications must have authorization forms completed by a physician and parent/guardian in order to be administered in school.

Medications must be in the original labeled or pharmacy-prepared container. No medication will be accepted in envelopes or baggies. Do not send any type of pills, liquids, creams or lotions to school with your child. Siblings cannot share medications. Each student must have their own written physician's order and individually labeled medication.

Frequently Asked Questions

How old does my child have to be to attend kindergarten? If your child is five years old on or before January 1, 2021, he or she is eligible to enter kindergarten.

How do I enroll my child for kindergarten? After February 24, 2020, each parent/guardian will complete an on-line registration form at www.southingtontschools.org. After this is submitted, contact your child's school to make an appointment to complete the registration (appointments will be held at each school in March—a listing of dates and times is available on the back of this brochure). Once this appointment is held and all necessary information and documents have been collected and verified, your child is enrolled to begin kindergarten in August, 2020.

What is the Kindergarten Registration Information Session? All parents of prospective kindergartners are invited to attend. At this session, information will be presented regarding the Kindergarten Registration and Orientation processes. You will also have the opportunity to ask the administration any questions about kindergarten or the registration/orientation process (dates on back cover).

How do I know which elementary school my child will attend? If you are unsure which elementary school your child will attend, contact the *Registrar's Office* at 860.628.3204 or visit our website at www.southingtontschools.org.—the School/Street Directory is located under the Parents/Students tab.

Are there before and after-care programs at the elementary schools? The Southington-Cheshire YMCA provides licensed child care in the elementary schools identified below. Included in your welcome packet there is an informational flyer pertaining to the YMCA program. Contact the YMCA directly for additional information at 860.426.9541.

Before School Care has three sites:

- Derynoski Elementary School for Derynoski and Strong students
- Kelley Elementary School for Kelley and Thalberg students.
- YMCA site for Flanders, Hatton, Oshana and South End students

After School Care has multiple school sites:

- At each school for Derynoski, Flanders, Hatton, Kelley, Oshana, Strong, and Thalberg students
- YMCA site for South End students.

Frequently Asked Questions ~ Continued

What skills should my child have upon entering kindergarten? We recognize that children come to kindergarten with a wide range of skills. Those listed below are guidelines.

Self-Help Skills:

- ◆ Ability to put on coat, backpack, use bathroom, wash hands, pick-up after self, follow directions.
- ◆ Ability to focus for a short period of time (8-10 minutes) in a group setting, e.g., listening to a story, listening to other children.
- ◆ Ability to verbally express needs, e.g., telling teacher what is needed, explaining situations.
- ◆ Ability to share, play in an appropriate manner, simple conflict resolution, respect differences of others, follow school and classroom rules (social skills).

Academic Skills:

- ◆ Recognition of own name.
- ◆ Recognition of some letters, upper/lower case.
- ◆ Exposure to colors, shapes, numbers.
- ◆ Exposure to a variety of experiences using writing/drawing materials appropriately, e.g., crayons, markers, pencils.
- ◆ Exposure to books, e.g., being read to at home and in preschool.
- ◆ Language development as a base for building further learning, e.g., general knowledge and expressive/receptive language.

Motor Skills:

- ◆ Experiences with writing name.
- ◆ Experiences with fine motor activities, e.g., cutting, tracing, gluing, coloring, painting, doing puzzles.
- ◆ Experiences with large motor activities, e.g., running and jumping.

Frequently Asked Questions ~ Continued

What should I do about my child who has a "late" birthday? (October-December)

Making the decision to enroll your child in kindergarten should be based on their social and emotional readiness. If your child attended preschool, additional information can be gathered from the preschool teacher.

What is a typical schedule or routine in a kindergarten classroom?

A typical day includes time for a wide variety of developmentally appropriate learning activities that include: language skills (pre-reading/writing), early mathematical concepts, hands-on science, and learning about our community. Social skills are taught throughout each day and practiced during play time. Art, music, and physical education are specials that are offered once a week for 40 minutes. Also incorporated in the daily routine are lunch, recess, rest periods, and snack time.

How do teachers work with children who are at different levels?

Teachers are able to utilize resources within the school, e.g., kindergarten paraprofessionals, to create small groups that allow them to reinforce skills. Teachers assess each child and plan instruction based on their academic level. Southington is committed to meeting the needs of all children regardless of their age or their stage of development.

What if my child has strong academic skills, but is not ready emotionally and socially? He has separation anxiety and carries his favorite stuffed animal with him everywhere. Is he ready for kindergarten?

A child needs to be ready emotionally before moving on to academic skills. Parents should take cues from their child and preschool teacher. Kindergarten instruction promotes learning of many skills that are the foundation of the curriculum.

What are the procedures for bus transportation?

By state statutes, children who live within one mile of the school are designated as walkers. If you are unsure whether your home is within the one-mile distance, you can check the district website or call the *Transportation Office at 860.628.3200, ext. 222*. The bus routes schedule is posted on the Southington Public Schools website and in various newspapers in August. ***The exception to busing is on the first day of school when parents are required to bring kindergarten students to and from school on that day.***