

Plainedge Public Schools



♥ KINDERGARTEN ♥ HANDBOOK

2026-2027

**PLAINEDGE UNION FREE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
N. MASSAPEQUA, NY**

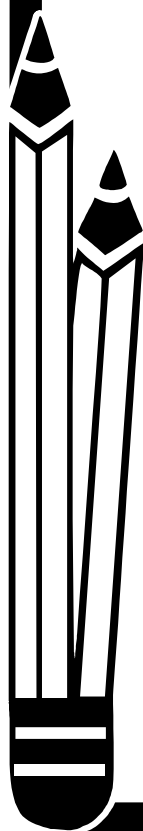
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This handbook was prepared to explain our school and to help parents of incoming Kindergarten students better understand ways in which they can help their children prepare for their new school experience. It is our hope this handbook will provide parents and students with answers to many of their questions. Please keep this on hand for future reference.

When there is good communication, cooperation and understanding between home and school, our children reap the benefits. Now your child will have a team of people with the same goals, working together to give your child the best possible education. Should you have additional questions, please call your elementary school directly.





Sail Into Kindergarten



“Sail Into Kindergarten” creates a fun and exciting opportunity to introduce our newest students to the “big” School. This event will be held on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**, and you will receive an invitation during the summer to attend.

This fun day will allow our incoming students to become familiar with the building, meet some of their new friends and build excitement for the first day of school. Students will be invited to the school for approximately one hour, and along with their parents/guardians, they will:

- Have a tour of the inside and outside of the building.
- Meet the Principal and some staff members.
- Drop off their materials/supplies to their classroom.
- Join some friends in the cafeteria for a snack.
- Go on a bus with some friends and parents.
- Leave with a memento of their experience.

Start for the Kindergarten School Year:

School Begins on September 1, 2026



Kindergarten Curriculum



Our English Language Arts curriculum is based on a balanced approach to literacy, designed to immerse children in a language rich environment. We utilize Teachers College Reading and Writing Units of Study to provide students with literacy skills for successful lifelong reading and writing. The Units of Study for both Reading and Writing promote avid, skilled readers, writers and inquirers by immersing our young learners in literacy-rich content-area instruction. The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) phonics program provides an explicit, systematic approach to phonological awareness and phonics. Our programs focus on the Next Generation English Language Arts Standards which include language experiences and skill development through a strong foundation of literature, reading and writing workshops, word study, creative arts, content area exploration, dramatics and inquiry-based play activities. It is essential to foster a positive disposition toward reading and writing early in a child's school experience. The Reading and Writing Units of Study, as well as the themes introduced in Kindergarten, encourage this attitude through the integration of thinking, listening, speaking, writing and reading.





The Kindergarten Math curriculum encourages the development of critical thinking and reasoning skills resulting in successful problem-solving experiences. It is aligned with the Next Generation Standards and establishes a strong mathematical foundation for our kindergarten students.



The New York State Social Studies syllabus recommends that the Kindergarten program focus on developing awareness of self as a growing individual, stressing the child's unique qualities and appreciating the similarities and differences in others. The program also encourages and fosters an understanding of self, family, home and community from the social, political, geographic and historic perspectives. In addition, social interaction skills are emphasized. The content of the Social Studies program is relevant and personally meaningful to the kindergarten children, encompassing a wide range of interdisciplinary activities.

Science/Health



The Kindergarten science program capitalizes on children's innate curiosity, desire to explore, discover and find the answer to "why". Through many sensory experiences, children handle, investigate and experiment to formulate simple concepts about their physical world. Teachers focus on developing skills of observation, comparison, classification and problem solving strategies. The Kindergarten science concepts, as well as the related health curriculum, are integrated into all unit themes. Appropriate instructional activities to develop understanding of proper nutrition, human growth and development, safety and prevention of drug and alcohol abuse are provided.



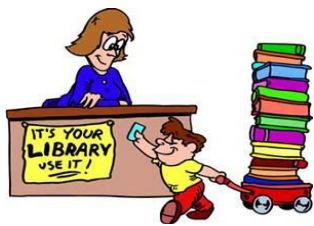
Physical Education

Research has established a close correlation between physical development and the learning process; therefore, it is particularly important at this age to provide many opportunities for children to develop coordination skills, which include basic and creative movements. The other major focus of attention is body management skills such as body awareness, balance, laterality and directionality. In addition to the weekly physical education periods, the classroom program provides opportunity for gross motor activities.



Music

Performing, creating and responding to music are the fundamental music processes in which humans engage. Students, particularly in grades K-4, learn by doing. Singing, playing instruments, moving to music and creating music enable them to acquire musical skills and knowledge that can be developed in no other way. Listening to, analyzing and evaluating music are important building blocks of musical learning. Further, to fully participate in a diverse society, students must understand their own historical and cultural heritage and those of others within their communities. Because music is a basic expression of human culture, every student should have access to a balanced, comprehensive and sequential program of study in music.



Library

Kindergarten students will be visiting the School Library one period per week. The children will listen to stories from various genres and participate in literature related activities. The Kindergarteners will also have the opportunity to borrow books from our Library at that time.



Art

Kindergarten students will benefit from attending Fine Arts class in many different ways. First and foremost, students will be introduced to new art materials and exciting lessons. Kindergarteners will begin to practice basic skills, which will lay the foundation for their elementary art career.

These classes will highly impact their development of fine motor skills. Kindergarten Art lessons will coincide with the elementary curriculum, which is founded on the Seven Elements of Art (Color, Line, Shape, Space, Form, Value and Texture). These seven elements are flexible enough to adapt to students of any age, while at the same time broad enough to incorporate interdisciplinary lessons. Throughout the course of the year, students will learn about great artists, techniques, media, etc.; all of which will help them as they progress.



STREAM

Our Kindergarten students have the opportunity to visit our STREAM Studio on a rotating cycle to engage in collaborative learning experiences which focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics. Our evolving STREAM program, led by our STREAM Specialists with support from our Kindergarten teachers, nurtures a collaborative environment where teachers and students learn together. Our STREAM program fosters a STREAM mindset, where we guide students to develop the 4Cs: Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Communication, while also developing students' leadership abilities and growth mindset. STREAM topics explored in Kindergarten include engineering challenges, coding, weather and climate, the five senses, multimedia authoring, artistic representations and participating in global experiences, such as World Read Aloud Day and Dot Day. Hands-on, experiential learning driven by curiosity and discovery helps our STREAM program thrive while preparing students for career paths that don't YET exist!





Smoothing the Way from Home to School

OUR PEACEFUL SCHOOL BUS RULES...

Stay seated in your assigned seat at all times.

Always respect others, the bus, and yourself.

Flinging things in or out of the bus is not allowed.

Eating and drinking on the bus is not allowed.

Talk quietly; no hurtful words, no teasing.

You are responsible for your actions; keep your hands and feet to yourself.



Additional Safety rules for your children are as follows:

1. Keeping arms and heads inside windows.
2. Waiting for an approaching bus to stop before walking toward it.
3. Walking directly home with an adult after getting off the bus.
4. Children who regularly ride the bus will need written permission if they are not to take the bus home at dismissal.



***Absences:** If your child shows signs of illness, please use your discretion in deciding whether or not it is advisable for him/her to attend school. In the event your child is absent, please call the nurse's office @ (516) 992-7510, so the teacher may be notified.



***Attendance:** Success in school is dependent upon regular attendance and punctuality; therefore, it is important to establish these positive school habits as early as possible in your child's school career.



***Lunch:**

If your child will be buying lunch, we recommend that you set up an account for your child on www.myschoolbucks.com. You may put money directly into their account and also be reminded by email when your child has a low balance. If your child owes money, we will not allow your child to charge snack purchases. Our computerized registers keep track as purchases are made. Another option is for you to deposit money into your child's lunch account. This helps to expedite the lunch line and eliminating "lost money." Please either send in a check made payable to the Plainedge Public School District or cash in an envelope with your child's name and classroom. This account may be used to purchase lunches and also snacks sold in the cafeteria during lunchtime.



***Backpack or School bag:**

It is recommended that your child have a backpack, tote bag or school bag to help carry belongings. Please label all items.



***Money:**

Any money that is sent to school should be in a sealed envelope, marked with your child's and teacher's name and its purpose.



***Footwear:**

Sneakers are recommended for safety since the children take part in various physical activities in the classroom, on the playground and in their physical education classes.



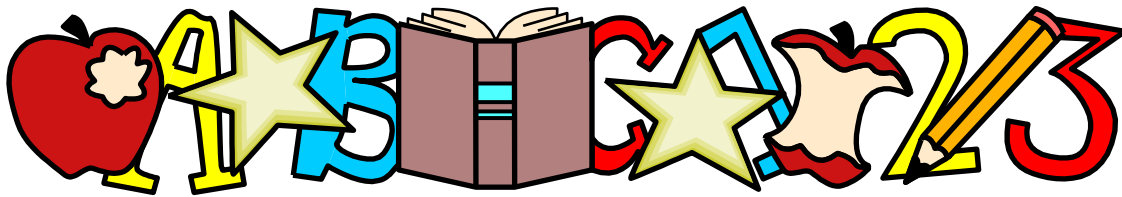
Recess:

During the cold weather months, the children go outside at lunchtime as much as possible. Make certain that your child is dressed to play outside, even when it is cold.

School Staff Your Child May Meet

In addition to your child's classroom teacher, your child will meet the:

- * Principal*
- * Assistant Principal*
- * Math Teacher*
- * Physical Education Teacher*
- * Teaching Assistants*
- * Secretaries*
- * Nurse*
- * Librarian*
- * Social Worker*
- * STREAM Teacher*
- * Speech/Language Teacher*
- * School Psychologist*
- * Resource Teacher*
- * Reading Teacher*
- * Teacher Aides*
- * Cafeteria Workers*
- * Custodians*
- * Lunchroom and Playground Aides*
- * Bus Driver*
- * Security Guard*



A Typical Day*

Arrival Doors Open (8:50- 8:55AM)

9:00 AM *Morning Announcements*

Morning *Morning Meeting*
Phonics
Reader's Workshop
Writer's Workshop

Lunch

Afternoon *Mathematics*
Science/Social Studies
Self-Guided Center Time
Nutrition Break
PE or Library
Learning Centers

* *The typical day may include many or all of the activities noted above.*

Kindergarten Dismissal begins at 2:55 PM

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

A note, not an email, **must** be sent in to school any time a child is to be dismissed other than the usual way. If a last minute emergency occurs once the school day has begun, please contact the main office, so that the teacher may be notified promptly. Walkers will be dismissed by their teacher in a "hand-to-hand" manner. No child will be dismissed to any unauthorized person.

Kindergarten Safety

The safety of all children is top priority. At the beginning of the school year, the children will attend an assembly to learn about basic safety in the school and discuss their own responsibilities in helping to maintain a safe learning environment.

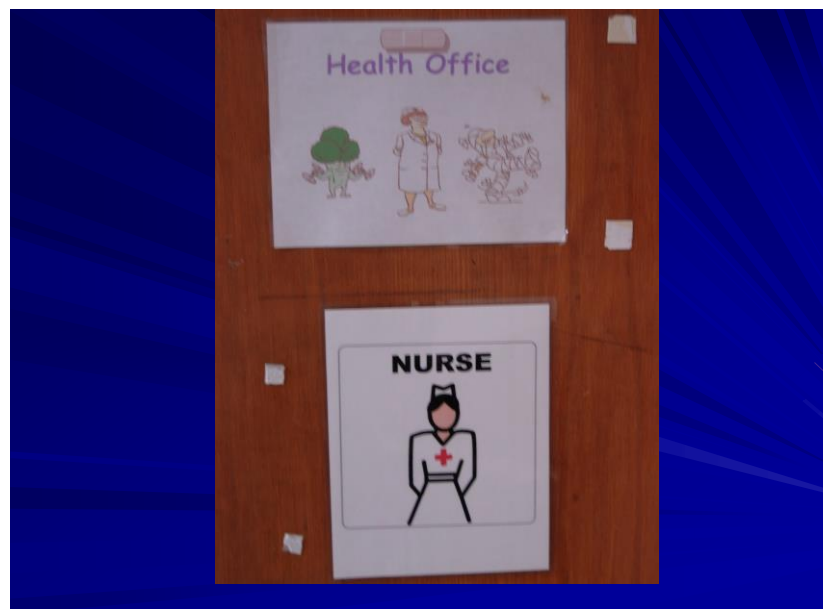
EXIT DOORS

All doors have a sign that states **EXIT WITH AN ADULT**. No child will be permitted to leave the building without an authorized adult. No child should ever open an outside door to anyone, even if they know who the person is by the door.



LEAVING THE CLASSROOM

When leaving the classroom, Kindergarten children will wear picture badges. Matching pictures will be located outside the office and the Nurse's office. For the first few weeks of school, children will be escorted by an adult when they are leaving their classroom. For the remainder of the school year, students leaving the classroom will be escorted by a student "buddy."



General School Information

- When visiting the school, please use the front entrance and sign in. **ID must be shown to enter the building.**
- Regular attendance is expected of all children. Whenever your child is absent or is going home from school in a way other than that which is usual for him/her, you must send a note or call the main office after the school day has begun
- Emergency school closings will be reported on the district website, FIOS 1, News 12, the radio, as well as our district-wide phone system.
- Our school utilizes the Parent Square to deliver emails and text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You will receive an email invitation to join Parent Square to the address you registered with.
- Important phone numbers are listed on the school calendar.
- Consult the school calendar for specific start and dismissal times for the school day, as well as other pertinent information.





Parent/School Communication

- Parents should feel free to contact classroom teachers. You may make appointments or share information by sending a note directly to the teacher, emailing the teacher, using the Parent Square app or by calling your school office.
- Teachers will contact parents on an as needed basis.
- Back to School Night is scheduled for an evening in the fall.
- Parent/Teacher Conference Days generally occur in fall and spring.
- Children will receive report cards three times a year via the Parent Portal.
- The district school calendar provides information regarding vacations, holidays and special events.

The First Day is a Big Event!

Discuss any fears

Be positive and loving. Be reassuring about school before the first day. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident about entering the school world.

Show your support

Be encouraging. Discuss openly his/her feelings about school and meet with the teacher to work out any problems. Teachers care how parents and children feel. It's okay for children to be afraid. Fear is a natural emotion. You don't have to fix it or make it go away. As your child gains confidence, his/her fears should diminish.

Who's going
to meet me after
school?

Who's going
to help me?

Will I
miss home?

Will the
other kids like
me?

?

Will the teacher
like me?

What happens
when I have to go
to the bathroom?



Letting go can be hard, but don't let your doubts or nervousness dampen your child's enthusiasm.



Nothing makes children feel better than seeing a friendly, respectful relationship between the most important grownups in their lives ----- their parents and their teachers.

How Parents Can Help Their Children Be Ready For School

Children are natural learners. They're always learning from whatever is happening around them. They never stop. That's why they ask so many questions!

You can help your children learn everything they need to know to be ready for Kindergarten. Talk with them about what things are, what they're like, and how things work.

- Teach them to become familiar with their first and last name, address, telephone number and age.
- Read them stories, or tell them your own stories.
- Let them help you with what you're doing.
- Let them do things for themselves.
- Ask them questions, and answer theirs.
- Practice buttoning, zippering and tying laces.



Remember, when children ask questions, they're trying to learn. Questions mean children are interested and curious about what's happening around them and want to learn about it. That's something parents can be happy about, so be patient with their questions, no matter how many they ask.

Your Child Will Feel More Comfortable in School if He/She:

- Can be away from parents for 6 hours without being upset
- Takes care of toilet needs independently
- Feels good about self
- Is not afraid to go to school
- Cares for own belongings
- Knows full name
- Dresses self
- Knows how to use a tissue
- Brushes teeth
- Knows parents' names
- Knows home address
- Knows home phone number
- Enters into class conversation
- Carries a plate of food
- Maintains self-control
- Gets along well with other children
- Plays with other children
- Recognizes authority
- Shares with others
- Talks easily
- Puts away toys
- Able to stay on a task
- Able to work independently



Being able to do things independently, to get along with others and to be able to be away from people one knows are basic skills to being ready to go to school. If children aren't able to do this yet, parents and caretakers are the best people to help them.

Parents often ask "What should my child know before coming to Kindergarten?"

Helpful Skills for Kindergarten

SIZE Understands big and little Understands long and short Matches shapes or objects based on size	READING READINESS (continued) Tells the meaning of words heard in a story Looks at pictures and tells a story Identifies own first name in manuscript Prints own first name
COLORS AND SHAPES Recognizes and names primary colors Recognizes circles Recognizes rectangles Matches shapes or objects based on shape Copies shapes	POSITION AND DIRECTION Understands up and down Understands in and out Understands front and back Understands over, on, and under Understands top, bottom, and middle Understands beside and next to Understands hot and cold Understands fast and slow
NUMBERS Counts orally through 50 Counts objects in one-to-one correspondence Understands empty and full Understands more and less Writes numbers 1 – 10	TIME Understands day and night Knows age and birthday
READING READINESS Remembers objects from a given picture Knows what a letter is Has been read to frequently Has been read to daily Looks at books or magazines Recognizes some nursery rhymes Identifies parts of the body Identifies objects that have a functional use Knows common farm and zoo animals Pronounces own first name Pronounces own last name Expresses self verbally Identifies other children by name Tells the meaning of simple words Repeats a sentence of 6-8 words Completes incomplete sentence with proper word Has own books Understands that print carries a message Pretends to read Uses left-to-right progression Answers questions about a short story	LISTENING AND SEQUENCING Follows simple directions Listens to a short story Listens carefully Recognizes common sounds Repeats a sequence of sounds Repeats a sequence of orally-given numbers Retells simple stories in sequence
	MOTOR SKILLS Pastes objects Claps hands Matches simple objects Touches fingers Able to button Builds with blocks Completes simple puzzles (5pcs. or less) Draws and colors beyond a simple scribble Able to zip Controls pencil and crayon well Cuts simple shapes Handles scissors well Able to copy simple shapes