

Ann Arbor Public Schools **All Day**  
**Kindergarten**  
Parent Information



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ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
[www.a2schools.org](http://www.a2schools.org)



The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education voted to approve implementation of All Day Kindergarten for all Ann Arbor Public Schools beginning with the 2012/2013 school year. The Board has determined that half-day options will not be provided at this time. AAPS will continue to offer a Young Fives program at Abbot Elementary. This program serves students with 5-year birthdays between August 1st and December 1st.

# Ann Arbor Public Schools **All Day** Kindergarten Parent Information

## Why All Day Kindergarten?

The research is consistent. All Day Kindergarten programs contribute to higher student achievement and many studies show that the trend continues well into third grade. The extended learning time and the continuity afforded by a full day of instruction have a significant effect on all children and their learning.

Spurred by the adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the District and the State of Michigan have taken steps to increase the rigor of instruction and the level of expectations for all students. Students attending All Day Kindergarten programs are afforded more time to explore concepts and to learn pre-reading and early mathematics skills. Studies support that students benefit significantly from self-initiated activities, which can be included in greater measure in our all day program.

All Day Kindergarten programs allow for additional progress monitoring and teacher observation of the students. This is key for teachers to make informed decisions about lesson design and teaching practices to maximize student learning.





## Why All Day Kindergarten? (continued)



In addition to the academic benefits, All Day Kindergarten programs positively impact students' self-confidence and the development of social/emotional skills such as playing fairly with others, sharing, and managing one's emotions. An all day program helps to integrate children into the school culture early on. An added perk is seen in the attendance rates, which are significantly higher than those of half-day programs.

AAPS is fortunate to have excellent and proven all day programs already in place at seven AAPS elementary schools, many in their ninth year. With these programs as our foundation, a committee of dedicated leaders and teachers has worked diligently this year to study and redesign our world class program to engage our children through integrated learning opportunities and embedded use of technology. This an exciting time to be a Kindergartener in the Ann Arbor Public Schools!

The All Day Kindergarten program consists of daily literacy, mathematics, science and social studies instruction delivered in developmentally appropriate and exciting ways. Students can expect to engage in daily whole group, small group and individual activities as well as center-based explorations. AAPS Kindergarteners will have many opportunities to engage socially with peers. Rest assured that the highly qualified, nurturing teachers will love, teach and believe in your child and his/her success.

## All Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions



### **1. Will there be recess?**

Yes. Recess is an important time for youngsters to interact together in an atmosphere of free play. Recess is also essential in developing healthy habits such as daily exercise.

### **2. Will there be nap time?**

Daily nap time will not be provided, however students will be provided with some quiet time each afternoon during which some students may choose to look at books, listen to music, draw or rest.

### **3. What will my child's day be like?**

Your child will be welcomed each day into a nurturing, safe learning environment. Typically the day begins with a morning meeting and calendar time followed by the literacy block where students enjoy stories read aloud, learning about rhyme, phonics, word work, writers workshop, sight words, and other core reading skills. During mathematics, children learn about numbers and number relationships, shapes and attributes, and many other concepts through hands-on activities and explorations. After lunch children typically learn about science topics such as growing and changing, nature, pets, animals and the human body. Science may be followed by social studies where children learn to answer questions like, "Who am I?" and "Where am I in the world?" In addition, children will go to "special" classes during the week including physical education, music, art, the media center and Humanities for fun and exciting explorations. A "specials" schedule will be provided. Throughout the school day children learn important social lessons such as getting along with others and interacting in healthy ways. They are encouraged to be responsible and independent and are given many opportunities to exercise choice.

## All Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions (continued)



### **4. Will my child have enough time to eat?**

Students receive 48 minutes for lunch and recess daily. Typically 24 minutes is dedicated for lunch and 24 minutes for recess. To help your child adjust to the lunch schedule, it may be helpful to practice dining at home with a timer. It would also be helpful to practice opening baggies, water bottles and other common lunch containers. Lunch supervisors and staff will be on hand to assist students as well. Lunch is available for purchase daily. For more information, including an application for free or reduced lunch, visit the food service website at [http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/admin.bussvcs/food\\_services](http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/admin.bussvcs/food_services)



### **5. How can I get more information about the curriculum?**

Please visit our website at <http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/academics/elementary> to get detailed information about the AAPS Kindergarten curriculum. Each school hosts a Curriculum Night providing parents with detailed information about the school day and the curriculum. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend.



## **6. Can I enroll my child in half day kindergarten?**

AAPS only offers an All Day Kindergarten program. We understand that the transition to a full day of school may be challenging for youngsters. Children typically adjust to the daily routine within the first few weeks of school. While it is the parent or guardian's prerogative to pick children up early, please know that these absences will mean that children miss instruction and classroom interaction in the afternoon. We encourage parents to talk with the principal and teacher if you have concerns.

## **7. What is my child expected to know when he/she enters Kindergarten?**

Here in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, our highly qualified teachers are skilled in meeting the needs of all of our eligible Kindergarteners and all are welcome. Most incoming Kindergarteners typically recognize their name, most of their letters, know how to count to ten, know colors and shapes, and how a book works (how to turn pages while telling the story.) We encourage enrolling children in AAPS Rec & Ed's Safety Town the summer before Kindergarten and to provide some activities involving periodic, supervised, separation from parents.



## **8. How can I volunteer at my child's school?**

During Curriculum Night, which occurs in late September/early October, teachers will traditionally discuss volunteer opportunities in the classroom. Some common opportunities include reading with students, assisting with learning centers, helping with special events like science day or field day, providing party supplies, making play dough or repairing books, chaperoning field trips, providing fruit for snacks and much more.

## All Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions (continued)



### **9. What does my child need to bring with him/her on their first day of school?**

The school provides pencils, crayons and all educational materials for the students. There is no need to purchase these items for school. Many classrooms appreciate donations of tissues, glue sticks and other small items, but these are in no way required. It is recommended that students come with a backpack or bookbag to transport items to and from school. Parents are welcome to send any items they feel are essential along with their child(ren).

### **10. What about a snack for my child?**

Students will have snack daily. The Ann Arbor Public Schools follow a food borne allergy policy to maintain a safe environment. You will receive information about how snack is handled at your school during Curriculum Night. You may provide a snack for your child at the beginning of the school year until you are informed of the snack plan for the classroom.

### **11. Will I have input on teacher selection?**

To ensure that all classrooms are balanced, AAPS does not guarantee any specific teacher. In determining the classroom placement of students many factors are considered. Families will be notified of their child's classroom assignment in late August.

### **12. When should I register my child?**

You should register your child as soon as possible. School offices are open 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m. on school days. Elementary offices are open through June 21, 2013 and open up again on August 19, 2013. You can also turn in your enrollment packet at the AAPS district office, 2555 S. State Street, during the summer between June 24 and August 16, 2013.





### **13. What is the average class size?**

The district makes every effort to keep class size at 25 or fewer students in the Kindergarten classrooms.

### **14. Will parents receive a report card for their child(ren)?**

#### **Do Kindergarten students participate in standardized testing?**

Parents receive a report letter three times during the school year, in November, March and June. The report informs parents about the current academic status of their child. Kindergarten students participate in the Northwest Education Association MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment. This is a nationally normed, adaptive assessment given in January and May to provide teachers with important data about student growth and instructional levels in the areas of math and reading.

For more information on the MAP testing, please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/a/aaps.k12.mi.us/nwea/home/for-parents>

### **15. Will I have a chance to meet with the teacher throughout the year to receive updates on my child's achievement?**

Yes. Parent/teacher conferences take place at least once a year. Teachers also make themselves available to meet with parents to discuss concerns or questions. It is recommended that parents contact the teacher to arrange an appointment before or after school so as not to interfere with instruction. Teachers also use email frequently to communicate with parents and phone messages can be left for the teacher. Teachers will not be available to answer the phone during instruction time.

### **16. My child turns 5 in the fall. Will he/she be eligible for Kindergarten?**

Any child who will turn 5 on or before November 1st may attend school at the beginning of the term.

## Is My Child Ready for All Day Kindergarten?

Many parents ask us for guidance in determining the readiness of their children for Kindergarten. Here in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, our highly qualified teachers are skilled in meeting the needs of all of our eligible Kindergarteners and all are welcome.



### Some readiness indicators...

#### Language

- Can speak in simple sentences
- Can use a normal speaking voice
- Knows how to whisper, speak softly, speak loudly and shout
- Can express needs, feelings, and opinions
- Can answer questions and give information about self
- Knows their own phone number and parents/guardians names
- Can relate experiences
- Can ask questions and ask for help

#### Manners and Social Skills

- Does not interrupt conversations, stories, and lessons
- Is aware that other children deserve attention too
- Is learning the concepts of fairness
- Is learning that rules and procedures are important for the safety and well being of all
- Is learning that rules and expected behaviors might vary from place to place
- Is learning to take turns, raise hand, and share
- Says positive phrases such as: "please, thank you, I'm sorry, excuse me," etc.
- Takes care of personal belongings, materials/equipment
- Knows it is OK to make mistakes
- Knows it is NOT OK to be mean or disruptive



### Fine Motor Skills

Has engaged in many experiences using crayons, paints, clay, books, puzzles, beads, blocks, zippers, laces, water, sand, markers, Legos, scissors, pencils, etc.

### Health and Safety Habits

Covers mouth when coughing or sneezing  
Can blow nose and disposes of tissues appropriately  
Uses the bathroom independently and washes his/her hands  
Dresses self independently  
Attempts to put on own coat, boots, mittens, etc.  
Washes hands before eating and when they get dirty  
Can wash face  
Does not put objects in mouth  
Knows sharp objects are dangerous and leaves them alone

### Listening

Listens attentively to a story for 5 minutes or more  
Can recall some details of a story or video  
Can follow directions, especially those involving spatial concepts  
(under, behind, over, next to, etc.)  
Can recognize common sounds (household, animals, street, classrooms, etc.)

### Academics

Recognizes first name in print  
Recites some rhymes and poems  
Sings simple songs  
Can tell about pictures  
Enjoys books and stories  
Knows most of the alphabet  
Counts to ten  
Notices shapes and forms



