



Downers Grove Grade School District 58

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

Children Learn What They Live

- IF a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- IF a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- IF a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- IF a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
- IF a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- IF a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
- IF a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
- IF a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- IF a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
- IF a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- IF a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

By Dorothy Law Nolte

A Time to Begin



a parent's introduction to kindergarten



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**Downers Grove
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1860 63rd Street
Downers Grove, Illinois 60516
(630) 719-5800
www.dg58.org**

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Mission & Vision

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in safe, nurturing environments in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of society.

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

We Envision a school district that inspires children, sparks creative thinking, celebrates diversity, and builds visionaries.

We Seek an education that excites minds, touches spirits, challenges abilities, and prepares our children for life.

We Believe every child should be expected to grow, stretch, evolve and embrace the challenges of the future.

We Envision a school district that provides a safe, nurturing environment.

We Seek an exemplary educational program through a working partnership of parents, students, staff, and community.

We Believe all children should be engaged in stimulating, collaborative learning experiences.

We Envision high standards of conduct, commitment, and accomplishments for all.

We Seek to cultivate within each child values and character necessary to be a successful citizen.

We Believe a passion for lifelong learning will inspire all to excellence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Belle Aire School
3935 Belle Aire Lane
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5820

El Sierra School
6835 Fairmount Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5825

Fairmount School
6036 Blodgett Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5830

Henry Puffer School
2220 Haddow Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 968-0294

Highland School
3935 Highland Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 719-5835

Hillcrest School
1435 Jefferson Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5840

Indian Trail School
6235 Stonewall Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5845

Kingsley School
6509 Powell Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5850

Lester School
236 Indianapolis Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 719-5855

Pierce Downer School
1436 Grant Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 719-5860

Whittier School
536 Hill Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 719-5865

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Herrick Middle School
4435 Middaugh Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 719-5810

O'Neill Middle School
635 59th Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 719-5815

Attendance



Any absences should be reported to the school office by 9 a.m.

If there is a change in a child's schedule concerning his/her after school plans (pick-up schedule is different or he/she is going home with a friend, etc.), a parent should write a note to inform the child's teacher.

Help Your Child

1. Kindergarten is the best place to establish habits of regular attendance and punctuality.
2. Realize children are unique individuals with special abilities and talents, developing at their own rates.
3. Parents can help encourage learning by taking an interest in the work their children bring home.
4. Let children have the thrill of discovery.
5. Make learning pleasant.
6. Play games that require concentration with children.
7. Encourage play with manipulative toys. Children learn best by doing.
8. Let children try things at which they may not succeed.
9. Let children make some decisions.



Welcome

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 would like to take this opportunity to welcome its incoming kindergartners to the district. This is an important event in the life of every student, and the first of many productive, rewarding and worthwhile experiences in District 58.

The purpose of this booklet is to give parents a few suggestions that will ensure a smooth transition into kindergarten.

Parents are encouraged to become acquainted with the school and teachers. School personnel will always be happy to confer with parents regarding their child's progress and growth.



Drawing by Rachel, Age 6

Get Ready



Parents play a major role in ensuring their children have a cheerful and happy experience on their first day of school. Parents are encouraged to talk about their favorite school experiences so children will know what a fun place school can be. Parents can discuss the various school activities, new school friends, exciting experiences and the many things their children will learn.

If children express doubts or fears, parents should try and answer any questions in a positive, reassuring way to let their children know that there will be friendly people to help them on those first uncertain days. The parents' reactions and attitudes go a long way toward determining how their children feel about school.

Prior to starting school, it is a good idea to acquaint incoming kindergartners with their new school and the playground. Parents are encouraged to show their children the best route to school or the bus stop, and discuss the importance of coming directly to school, walking on the sidewalk, looking both ways before crossing the streets, and obeying the safety patrol.

Get Set

Keys to Kindergarten Success

Children develop at different paces. This is a guide to help you prepare your child for kindergarten.

Social/Emotional

- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow two-step directions
- Learn to wait their turn
- Say please and thank you
- Cover coughs and sneezes



Your Healthy Child

MUMPS – Vaccine administered on or after the first birthday or laboratory evidence of Mumps immunity.

LEAD SCREENING – All students registering for Kindergarten or Preschool programs should have documentation of lead screening (questionnaire assessment by health care provider acceptable) upon first-time entry to school.

VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX) – One (1) dose on or after the first birthday or statement from physician or health care provider verifying disease history or laboratory evidence of Varicella immunity.

DENTAL – Effective July 1, 2005, all children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades are required to have an oral exam performed by a licensed dentist and present the State of Illinois dental form as proof to the school district by May 15 of that school year.

DIABETES SCREENING – All students registering for kindergarten must have documentation of a diabetes screening, including a Body Mass Index (BMI) measurement, by a physician.

2. Children should come to school ready to learn, have had adequate rest (10 hours of sleep is often recommended for children in this age group), and a nutritious meal.
3. Parents can help stop the spread of communicable diseases by not sending their children to school if they show symptoms of an illness, have a rash, or a fever.
4. In order for the children to receive any medication at school, the District 58 "School Medication Authorization" form, completed by the parent and a physician, is required. Please contact the school nurse for further information.
5. Parents should keep the school "Emergency Card" up-to-date with any changes as to work, home, cell phone and emergency phone numbers.



1. Illinois State Law requires all children entering school for the first time not only to have a physical examination but also to be immunized against childhood diseases. The law now requires every incoming kindergarten student, and every student entering any grade and school in Illinois for the first time, to be immunized against Hepatitis B, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, and mumps. Kindergarten students also are required to present verification of Varicella F (Chicken Pox) immunization. Unless exemption is claimed on religious grounds or if immunizations are documented as medically contra-indicated by a physician, children who do not present a completed physical examination form, including record of immunization, will not be admitted to kindergarten. Physical examination forms, or a letter detailing religious exemption, are to be returned to the child's teacher by registration day in the fall.

Kindergarten Immunization Requirements

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS - (Whooping Cough) – Four (4) or more doses of DPT/DTaP with the last dose qualifying as a booster and received on or after the fourth birthday. If the child did not receive Pertussis, a note is required from the physician. Minimal interval between series dose is 4 weeks (28 days).

POLIO – Three (3) or more doses of the same type of Polio vaccine with the last dose qualifying as a booster and received on or after the fourth birthday. If this series is given in any combination of Polio vaccine types, four (4) or more doses are required, with the last booster on or after the fourth birthday.

MEASLES – Two (2) doses of Measles vaccine, the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose no less than 4 weeks (28 days) later or physician diagnosed case with dates and physician certification of laboratory evidence of Measles immunity.

RUBELLA –Vaccine administered on or after the first birthday or laboratory evidence of Rubella immunity.



Physical

- Button and zip their own clothing
- Put on and tie their shoes independently
- Manage bathroom needs independently
- Have experiences with cutting, tracing, painting and coloring
- Have experiences with puzzles
- Have experiences at running, hopping and jumping
- Have experiences at throwing and catching a ball

Language

- Verbally expresses needs
- Say their full name
- Begin to know phone number, address and birthday
- Use pictures in book to tell a story
- Have experiences being read to, including nursery rhymes
- Have experiences talking about everyday activities

Cognitive

- Identify a majority of the alphabet letters in random order
- Have exposure to all the sounds of the alphabet letters
- Have experiences playing with language: rhyming words and beginning sounds
- Count to 10
- Recognize 0 - 10 in random order
- Recognize colors
- Have exposure to coins: penny, nickel, dime and quarter
- Recognize shapes: square, circle, triangle and rectangle
- Write their own first name on paper in lower case letters
- Recognize their first name in print
- Sort items by color, shape and size

Time to Go!



1. It is sometimes difficult for children to separate from their parents on the first day of school. If a child has difficulty separating, it is best to bring the child to school, drop him/her off with the teacher, and make a clean separation, giving the child the opportunity to begin school with his/her teacher and classmates.
2. Children who have been provided with a nametag should wear it to the first day of school. Parents should check the nametag information to make sure it is accurate.
3. Children should bring the recommended supplies on the first day of school.

Kindergarten Goals

1. During the kindergarten year, District 58's program will be directed towards the physical, social and emotional development of the children. Some of the many ways these goals will be achieved are through helping the children:
 - develop coordination through organized activities,
 - develop small and large motor skills,
 - accept responsibility,
 - follow directions,
 - listen attentively,
 - take part in group discussion and activities,
 - follow general rules of the school and the room, and
 - cooperate with classmates



Kindergarten Goals

2. Kindergarten provides an opportunity to broaden the children's various backgrounds of experiences through the daily program that includes:
 - good literature;
 - dramatic activities, in which they can act out a story or imitate adult activities during play;
 - music through songs, rhythms, and listening to good music;
 - art through painting, drawing, clay, chalk, creative toys, and various other materials;
 - science activities concerned with seasonal changes, animal life, plant life, water, health and aspects of nature that fascinate early learners;
 - math activities such as counting, patterning, sorting, graphing, measuring, and estimating; and
 - language activities such as learning that print is speech in a written format, rhyming, recognizing alphabet letters and their sounds, listening and retelling stories, expressing oneself verbally and in writing, as well as learning to love literature.
 - reading activities such as recognizing basic sight words, learning to decode unfamiliar words, reading appropriate grade level text.



Drawing by Payton, Age 6