

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Kindergarten Registration FAQs

How do I register my child for kindergarten?

Kindergarten Registration is a three-step process:

1. Completion of **enrollment paperwork online**.
Visit www.gahannaschools.org, and click on *Families*. Click on *Welcome Center*. Scroll down to the picture of Clark Hall and choose *Online Entry Start*. Choose *Start New Registration*. Enter the Guardian Information. Check *I'm not a Robot*. Click *Begin Registration*.
2. An **enrollment appointment link will be emailed after the online enrollment has been submitted**.
Your child does not need to attend the Welcome Center appointment.
 - Additional questions? Call or email the Welcome Center at (614) 643-8300 or gjpswelcomecenter@gjps.org.
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3. Participation in a **Kindergarten Round Up** session at your child's elementary school. See page 2 of this FAQ for scheduling information.
 - Your child may need to attend Round Up with you; please check with the individual school when you call to make your Round Up appointment.

What is the birthdate requirement for kindergarten students?

In Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, a child must be five years old on or before August 1 of the year he or she begins kindergarten.

My child is already enrolled in the pre-school program through Gahanna schools. Do I still need to register my child online?

No, if your student is in the Gahanna Schools pre-school program, you do not need to register online or attend a Welcome Center appointment. In the event that additional information may be needed, you will be notified by the Welcome Center.

Which school will my child attend?

Gahanna-Jefferson has seven elementary schools. To find out which attendance area you live in, visit our website at www.gahannaschools.org and under *Families*, click on *Bus Routes* to access *TransFinder*. This resource helps you use your home address to determine your assigned school. Please check this resource in early August for busing information.

What do I need to bring to my enrollment appointment at the Welcome Center at Clark Hall?

The list of required items is available at Families > Welcome Center > Enrollment Items on our website at www.gahannaschools.org. Your child does not need to attend this appointment with you.

Will the timing of my initial appointment at the Welcome Center at Clark Hall affect my student's status in the event of an overflow situation?

The timing of your Welcome Center appointment will not affect your child's enrollment in kindergarten.

However, it could impact which school your child would attend in the case of an overflow situation. An overflow situation occurs when enrollment for a school building exceeds the building's capacity. At the kindergarten level, we strive to maintain a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:22. In the case of overflow situations, students enrolled after capacity has been reached will be overflowed to another building.

What hours will my kindergartner attend school?

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools are proud to offer all day tuition free kindergarten to all students. The school day starts at 8:00 a.m., and dismissal is at 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:50 a.m. to allow students to be ready to start the day at 8:00. Upon parent request, the district will offer half-day programming on an individual basis. During the 2014-15 through 2019-20 school years, all kindergarten students participated in full-day programming.

Are there before- and after-school childcare programs available?

After-school childcare is available in each elementary school. Information about these programs will be provided at Kindergarten Round Up. There is no *before-school* childcare programming.

When is Kindergarten Round Up?

Incoming kindergarten students and their parents/guardians will attend a Round Up session at the elementary school for their attendance area. Call the school for specific times and to sign up.

School	Round Up Dates	Round Up Time	Phone Number
Blacklick Elementary	Thursday, May 14	6-7PM	759-5100
Chapelfield Elementary	Tuesday, May 5	6:30-7:30PM	478-5575
Goshen Lane Elementary	Wednesday, May 6	4:45-7PM	478-5580
High Point Elementary	Thursday, May 7	5-7PM	478-5545
Jefferson Elementary	Monday, May 11	6-7PM	478-5560
Lincoln Elementary	Thursday, May 21	6-7PM	478-5555
Royal Manor Elementary	Wednesday, May 6	6-7PM	478-5585

What happens at Round Up?

Kindergarten Round Up takes place at each elementary school. At Kindergarten Round Up...

you will:

- gather with other parents to meet the principal, teachers, and other school staff.
- learn more about kindergarten and the school.
- ask questions.

your child may:

- spend time with other children and with teachers.
- participate in individual or group activities that may involve listening to stories, coloring, writing, drawing, etc.
- have vision and hearing screenings.

The results of the screenings are not used to determine which students are ready or not ready to attend kindergarten, rather they help identify students' needs so schools can be prepared to facilitate maximum learning for every student. The screenings are required by state law and are administered by school personnel. Gahanna Kindergarten Round Up is held in the spring to provide time for increased academic

experiences over the summer, if needed, or for corrective measures, if necessary, in areas such as vision or hearing.

Do you screen kindergarten students and make recommendations on whether or not they should attend or wait a year?

We strongly recommend that children who are not five on or before August 1, 2020 do not attend kindergarten. Children who are five on or before August 1, 2020 may enroll in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of our Kindergarten Round Up process is gathering information, not screening out students. If you have questions regarding the readiness of your child, building principals, teachers, and guidance counselors are available to talk with you to help you make the decision whether your child should attend or wait a year. In the state of Ohio, students are not required by law to start kindergarten until age six.

How can I get my child ready for kindergarten?

Help your child develop a positive attitude about school and the amazing things he or she will be learning with others in kindergarten.

We recommend:

- enjoying books together each day—reading and talking about picture books; enjoying stories, information, and poetry.
- counting and talking about numbers of items for real purposes, such as counting out snacks or counting chairs around the dinner table
- using your environment for reading and mathematics because letters, words, and numbers are all around us. Here are a few ideas:
 - Symbols, letters, words, and numerals on signs can be used to help children make connections with letter names, letter sounds, numerals, and number concepts. When you are playing at home, walking through your neighborhood, or traveling throughout the city, observe and talk about the many places we see and use letters and numbers. Here are some examples:
 - street signs
 - house number (address)
 - telephone numbers
 - restaurant signs and menus
 - doctor’s office (height and weight)
 - library books
 - grocery store
 - while cooking or baking (amounts; time)
 - elevator numbers
 - board games/card games/puzzles
- practicing writing his or her name with crayons, markers, pencils
- creating and exploring ideas by cutting, coloring, gluing
- practicing saying your phone number and address

It is important that children participate in these activities in a natural, relaxed environment. Enjoy the time

spent with your child.

What are some summer learning opportunities for my child?

- **Columbus Metropolitan Library, Gahanna Branch.** The library has a variety of fun opportunities year-round. We encourage you to visit the library regularly and check out their website at <http://www.columbuslibrary.org/locations/Gahanna>.
- **Gahanna-Jefferson Journey to Learning Summer School Program: June 8-July 2, 2020**
Summer school enrollment information will be available at your school's Round Up session in April or May and on our website at www.gahannaschools.org. The Kindergarten Preparation class is designed for children who have not previously attended preschool or who may need additional experience as they prepare to start kindergarten.
- **Safety Town: June 1-5, 2020** Information is available at www.gahannasafetytown.com and at each school's Round Up session in the spring.
- **Meet the Bus Day: Summer Date TBD**--Gahanna-Jefferson Transportation Department, 782 Science Drive, Gahanna. Kindergartners and other first-time bus riders are invited to board and become familiar with a school bus.