

WEST CLERMONT LOCAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN



WEST CLERMONT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# WELCOME

Welcome to West Clermont School District!

As superintendent, I am extremely proud of our students and staff. We are a quality school system that exists so **each student** can achieve excellence. Our enrollment is increasing, we are expanding our state-of-the-art facilities, and West Clermont is the place to be!

We are committed to successfully preparing our students for an increasingly complex and global world. Jobs are rapidly changing and require different skill sets. We know that our students have diverse learning, social and emotional needs; therefore, the school experience we provide is evolving and changing to meet these challenges. Creating a learning environment in which **each student** achieves academic and personal excellence is our core purpose.

A full-day, world class kindergarten experience is how we create a strong foundation for **each student's** success. We know that engaging students through relevant and meaningful learning experiences is essential. Our students are taught by highly competent educators who are passionate, well developed and held accountable for providing learning results in a safe and nurturing environment.

I hope you find this packet to be informative as your child begins the journey with us. Please continue to connect with us by viewing our website, liking and following us on social media, visiting our schools and partnering with us. All of us share the responsibility of preparing our children for their successful futures. We are grateful for the strong support our community shows our schools, our dynamic partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations, and the excellent parent involvement that contributes to the positive experience here at West Clermont Schools.

We are glad you have chosen us!

*Kind regards,*

Natasha Adams

Superintendent



# THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## A TYPICAL DAY

### Morning Meeting

Morning meeting starts the day by engaging students and building a strong sense of classroom community. Students and teachers greet one another and participate in sharing and group activities. Morning meeting helps set a positive tone for the day and helps students experience success both socially and academically.

### Literacy

We believe that teaching young children early literacy skills gives them an unshakable foundation for a lifetime of learning. The literacy model used in kindergarten addresses the core reading, writing, speaking and listening skills that students need while fostering their growth as caring, collaborative and principled people. We utilize a structured literacy approach to teaching letters and sounds, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. We work to create literacy rich classrooms in which children are read to, children read with others, and where children eventually read independently. We believe that kindergartners learn best through hands-on, meaningful learning experiences.

### Math

We believe that leveraging a kindergartner's natural number sense is key to their development as mathematicians. Within our math classrooms, kindergartners will engage in hands-on learning, have access to high quality instructional materials, and engage in problem-solving. Through explicit instruction, students will build conceptual understanding, math fluency and flexible thinking.

### Science

The kindergarten student will explore several areas of science during the school year including Life Science, Physical Science and Earth Science.

### Social Studies

Kindergarten children begin to form concepts about the world beyond their classroom and community. Culture, heritage and democratic principles are explored and build upon the classroom experience. Children begin to form an understanding of roles, responsibility for actions and decision-making in the context of the group setting.



# THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## PROGRAMS

### Discover Programming

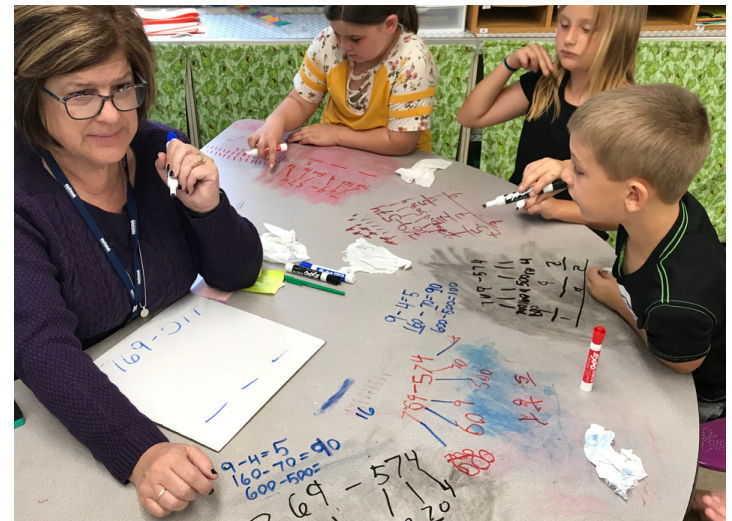
"Discover" classes expand a student's learning, help them develop their talents and recognize additional areas for learning and development in the future. West Clermont offers these experiences in art, music, physical education and a discovery course to kindergarten students.

### Enrichment/Intervention

Enrichment and Intervention time provides opportunities for students to work with teachers in small groups to support learning of a specific skill or need.

### Access to Technology

Kindergarten students are provided a district-owned chromebook to be used at school. Teachers incorporate technology into their instruction to allow students the opportunity to communicate their learning and thinking in multiple ways.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### **Do all kindergarten students go to the first day of school or do they phase in similar to preschool?**

Students with a last name beginning with the letters A-M will attend on August 15th and last names beginning with N-Z on August 16th. All students will attend beginning August 19th.

### **What is the daily schedule?**

At your school's open house event, you will be given a copy of your child's daily schedule and many other pieces of information. Plan to attend the open house to find out details and sign up for volunteer events.

### **What are the costs associated with kindergarten?**

West Clermont offers a full-day kindergarten program tuition free for all students and families. As required by law, West Clermont offers a half-day kindergarten option for families. There is an annual school fee of \$50 for all kindergarten students.

### **When will I know who my child's kindergarten teacher is?**

Students will be assigned a homeroom after our kindergarten orientation period. During this time, our teachers will conduct observations and administer assessments. Final placements will be shared prior to Labor Day.

### **How can I find out which school my student will attend for Kindergarten?**

On the district website there is a **My School Locator**. Families can enter their current address and the locator will let you know what school is in your attendance area.

### **What supplies do I need to buy for my child?**

Please check the district website for supply lists. Your school will communicate when you will be able to drop off supplies in your child's classroom before the start of school.

### **Will transportation be provided for my kindergarten student?**

Yes. The district provides transportation for any student in grades K-8 within their home school attendance boundary. Information regarding bus routes will be published on the district website and available in August.

### **Will someone make sure my child gets to the carpool line or the right bus at the end of the day?**

Each school has established procedures to ensure students' safety during dismissal. Your child's school will share their specific dismissal plan.

### **Are there before and after school care options?**

Child Focus operates a before and after-school program, paid for by parents who utilize the program. Cost and additional information will be available during open house. Additional information is available at [www.child-focus.org](http://www.child-focus.org).



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### **How can I get involved?**

Each school's PTO offers many opportunities for families to partner with our schools. From volunteering in the classroom to chaperoning a field trip, there are many ways families can be involved. Information on volunteer opportunities will be available during open house. All volunteers must have a background check completed, submitted to the District Office, and approved by the Board of Education to be a school volunteer.

### **If I have a current WC Preschooler who is transitioning to kindergarten, do we have to register again for kindergarten?**

Yes. Families will need to complete a new student registration application. However, to finalize your child's registration, the only documents needed are a photo ID of the parent/guardian and updated immunization records.

### **How does lunch work?**

At the beginning of the day, students inform their teacher if they are buying lunch. If your child is buying lunch, you can either send in or put money into your child's online account at [www.payschoolcentral.com](http://www.payschoolcentral.com). School staff will assist your child with buying the lunch. There are several adults in the cafeteria to help students open packages if they are having difficulty.

### **How do I know what is being served daily for lunch?**

The lunch menu may be accessed via the Titan website at <https://lingconnect.com/register>. Once registered, you can view menus, apply for free or reduced meals, monitor meal transactions and more!

### **What do I do if my child is sick and needs to miss school?**

If your child is sick and cannot attend school, please follow your school's guidelines for contacting the office to ensure they know your child will not be in attendance.

### **What if my child needs to arrive late or be dismissed early from school?**

Whether picking up or dropping off students outside of the regular arrival and dismissal times, please be sure to come into the main office and sign your child in or out. If you have a planned early dismissal, please send a note and we will work to have your child ready in the office when you arrive.

### **Are there any outside health resources available to students and their families?**

West Clermont is proud to have a partnership with HealthSource of Ohio, which provides our district with a School Based Health Center located at West Clermont Middle School. The Wolves Wellness Health Center serves students and staff across the district, as well as members of the community by providing medical, dental, vision and behavioral health services both during and after school hours.



# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will begin in February. If you have any questions during the registration process, please contact Central Enrollment at 513.943.5042 or send an email to: [enrollment@westcler.org](mailto:enrollment@westcler.org).

## HOW TO REGISTER

- 1) Go online to this link: [www.westcler.org/welcome](http://www.westcler.org/welcome)
- 2) Click on **Kindergarten Enrollment Application** on the right hand side.
- 3) Complete the 2024-25 Registration Form.
- 4) Once you submit the enrollment application, you will receive an email from Central Enrollment that your pre-registration was approved. This email will contain your PowerSchool Parent Portal Access ID and Access Password.
- 5) Complete your Parent Portal account set-up by clicking on the site link, selecting 'Create Account' and entering the requested information including the Access ID and Access Password. A confirmation email will be sent to you once completed.
- 6) Once your confirmation email has been received, log in to your Parent Portal account. Click on the 'Forms' icon, then select the 'Enrollment' tab.
- 7) Please fill out all required fields under 'New Student Registration' in order to complete enrollment.

### Who can register for kindergarten?

All incoming kindergarten students must be 5 years of age by August 1.

## DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED



**REMEMBER: ONLY a parent/guardian may enroll a student for school.**

- 1) **Original Birth Certificate** for the child.
- 2) **Proof of Residency** (you must provide one of the following):
  - Official lease, Title, Deed, Settlement Statement, Purchase Contract
  - Homeowner or Renter's insurance statement **or** Gas/Electric/Water statement **or** mail from federal, state or local government **dated within the last 30 days**
  - Mortgage Statement **dated within the last 60 days**
  - Federal or State tax return **dated within the last 12 months**
- 3) **Parent/Guardian Photo ID**
- 4) **Custody Documents** (If applicable)
- 5) **Kindergarten Physical** (use our Health Form Record located on the Enrollment page of our district website. Families will have two weeks after the first day of kindergarten to submit the immunization records.

# getting ready for KINDERGARTEN

To prepare for kindergarten, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. This list can serve as a guide as you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten!



## Can your child separate from his/her primary caregiver without anxiety? Can your child use self-control?

- Keeping hands to self.
- Sharing and taking turns.
- Cooperating and playing with other children.
- Using classroom supplies appropriately.

## Can your child use classroom tools and toys efficiently?

- Cutting with scissors.
- Holding and using a pencil or crayon.
- Building with blocks or Legos.

## Can your child cooperate with adults and authority figures?

- Following directions.
- Communicating effectively.

## Can your child demonstrate self-help skills?

- Using the restroom independently.
- Putting on and zipping own coat.
- Tying shoes.

## home to school TIPS FOR MAKING THE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL FOR YOUR CHILD



Give your child opportunities to leave you and spend time with other adults and children.



Take your child to visit the school. Playing on the playground, touring the building, and finding the bathrooms are helpful activities.



Expect your child's transition to be successful. Remember the adjustment can take time.



Ask your child what she thinks school will be like. You may learn that your child understands what to expect, or you may find that she has unrealistic fears or misunderstandings.



Give your child opportunities to play with items like scissors, crayons, pencils, markers, paint and paper.



Visit the bus stop or walk the route to school.



Read books to your child and talk about the pictures and story.



Talk about school in positive ways.



Encourage your child's independence by letting him follow simple directions and by letting him do tasks on his own.



Your positive outlook can help your child; let him know you are confident in his ability to do well.



# DIVERSE LEARNERS

## SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

### English Language Learners

West Clermont is committed to providing high quality instruction for all students. Upon enrollment, students whose primary or home language is other than English are screened to determine their proficiency level in the English language domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. If a student is identified as an English Language Learner, he/she will be offered instructional support through the district's English as a Second Language (ESL) program.



### Special Education

The West Clermont School District provides services that empower students to be their best based on their individual strengths and abilities. We are committed to high-quality differentiated instruction that meets the diverse academic, emotional, and social needs of all of our students.

### Gifted Education

At West Clermont, we strive to meet each student's instructional needs through a wide variety of academic strategies and programs. Gifted students, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education, perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels when compared to others of the same age, experience or environment. Ohio law requires that school districts test and identify students for giftedness. West Clermont provides multiple opportunities for such testing.

Gifted services in grades 4 and 5 are taught by licensed Gifted Intervention Specialists.

**What should I do if my child is having difficulty learning in school?**  
Please ask for help. Contact the teacher to discuss your concerns and provide information that might be helpful.

**What should I do if I believe my child has a disability?**  
If you believe your child has a disability, you should speak with your child's teacher. Additionally, you may contact your school and ask to speak with the School Psychologist.

# KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENTS

## CURRICULUM

### Standards-Based Reporting

The standards-based report card in grades K-5 is focused around individual student progress toward meeting identified learning standards. The purpose of standards-based reporting is to more accurately and consistently communicate detailed student progress, as well as represent student knowledge and skills, related to the learning standards. All students are expected to meet or exceed grade level learning standards and are presented with multiple opportunities to grow in their learning throughout the school year. Progress is determined by each student's ability to meet a standard; not on how he or she compares to other students in the class.

### Literacy Screening

All students in kindergarten will be assessed using a standardized literacy measure in the fall, winter, and spring. This screening is conducted to identify or predict students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes. Teachers will use the results of these assessments, along with classroom information, to help monitor your child's progress. They will also use this information to identify students' strengths/needs, make instructional decisions and plan for interventions and enrichment.

### Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The Ohio Department of Education has developed a screening instrument that must be given to all kindergarten students. The assessment includes ways for teachers to measure a child's school readiness. Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards are the basis for the assessment. It has six components: social skills (including social and emotional development and approaches towards learning), mathematics, science, social studies, language and literacy, and physical well-being and motor development. Teachers will begin working on the assessment at the beginning of the year and have until November 1st to complete the screening tool.

### Vision and Hearing

The Ohio Department of Health requires us to conduct vision and hearing screenings for all students during their kindergarten year. This screening will be completed in the fall during the school day and you will be provided with a notification if your child fails the screening. If your child is screened by his or her physician for vision or hearing, it is suggested that you provide those results on the issued Health Record Form.





# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## CHILD NUTRITION

### Farm 2 School Initiative

West Clermont began incorporating more locally sourced produce, dairy and proteins during the 18/19 school year. The positive response from students was overwhelming so we began working with Green Umbrella and Local Food Connection to source and procure seasonal items that could easily fit into our current menus. At the close of the 18/19 school year, 1/4 of all produce purchased was from a farm located within a 150 mile radius of the West Clermont District. At the start of the 19/20 school year we were able to establish a food sourcing plan. That sourcing plan has enabled us to expand our Farm 2 School efforts every year since its inception. We now provide locally sourced produce, daily, in all of our school buildings.

In addition, we have established a "Featured Vegetable of the Month" program, continue to annually increase usage of existing menu items and have introduced even more Ohio made/grown items to our students.

### How can we access the free and reduced lunch Program?

To apply for free and reduced price meals, visit the Linq Connect website beginning July 8th. Login using your established username and password. At the bottom right of the screen under 'Quick Links' select 'Meal Applications.' If you prefer a paper copy contact the Child Nutrition Department at 513-943-5038.

## WOLVES WELLNESS CENTER

HealthSource of Ohio is proud to partner with the West Clermont School District to provide primary care services at its School-Based Health Center (SBHC). A SBHC is a health care delivery model that acknowledges and supports the strong link between health and academics. HealthSource operates a SBHC in the nearby Western Brown School District and has over 40 years experience providing care to communities throughout Clermont County.

### MEDICAL

Services include acute illness and injury, annual preventative exams, chronic illness diagnosis and management, immunizations, routine lab tests, and medication prescriptions.

### DENTAL

Services include cleaning, routine check-ups, some extractions, and intensive cases can be referred to outside specialists.

A mobile dentistry unit will visit each elementary school during the year.

### VISION

Services include complete eye exams, glaucoma testing, eyewear prescriptions, glasses for Medicaid Caresource, Buckeye Molina and Paramount Insurance, and Safety Goggle Program.



# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## from the DISTRICT NURSE

### Immunizations Requirements for Kindergarten

In accordance with ORC 3313.67, West Clermont School District requires that families provide record of their son/daughter's immunizations. Required immunizations and doses for kindergartners are as follows:

- **DPT** (to protect against Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis). Your child should have a total of four or more doses with the last dose being on or after the fourth birthday.
- **Polio** (IPV). Your child should have a total of three or more doses with the last dose being on or after the fourth birthday.
- **Hep B** (to protect against Hepatitis B). Your child should have a total of three doses.
- **MMR** (to protect against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella). Your child should have a total of two doses with the first dose given on or after the first birthday and the second dose being at least 28 days after the first dose.
- **Varicella** (to protect against Chicken Pox). Your child should have a total of two doses with the first dose given on or after the first birthday and the second dose being at least 28 days after the first dose.

Students who have not submitted the required immunization records by two weeks after the first day of Kindergarten will be excluded from school until the immunization record is received in the health office.

The full immunization schedule can be found on the Ohio Department of Health Website at: [goo.gl/oRmQCX](https://www.ohio.gov/g/oRmQCX).

### If my child requires medication at school, what should I do?

We encourage medications to be administered and taken at home. However, we recognize that there are situations where medication has to be administered during the school hours. For all medications including prescription, over the counter and supplemental, the West Clermont Medication Permission Form must be completed and signed by a physician. This form can be found on the Enrollment page of our district website.

All medications must be brought to school by a parent/guardian, to be counted and signed in with the school's nurse or health assistant. Medications, including over the counter, cannot be sent to school with your child. All medication must be received in its original packaging. Prescription medications must be in the prescription bottle with the child's name, and the medication and schedule must match the medication form.

**If your child has a chronic health condition** (i.e. Diabetes, Asthma, food allergies, or seizures) please reach out to the District Nurse, Heidi Sandlin, at 943-3862 or send an email to: [sandlin\\_h@my.westcler.org](mailto:sandlin_h@my.westcler.org)

# DIRECTORY



**West Clermont District Office** - 4350 Aicholtz Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
Superintendent, Natasha Adams  
Treasurer, Daniel Romano  
Assistant Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer, Randy Gebhardt  
Assistant Superintendent/Chief People Officer, Dr. David Fultz  
Assistant Superintendent/Chief Learning & Systems Officer, Ellie Preston  
Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning/Special Education, Dr. Amy Storer  
Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning/Special Education, Meghan Lawson  
Director of Operations, Chuck LaFata  
Director of Technology, Lawrence Parece  
Director of Child Nutrition, Tiffany McCleese



**Amelia Elementary** - 5 East Main Street, Amelia, Ohio 45102  
Principal, Shane Short  
513.943.3800



**Clough Pike Elementary** - 808 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
Principal, Kevin Thacker  
513.943.6700



**Holly Hill Elementary** - 3520 State Route 132, Amelia, Ohio 45102  
Principal, Josh Young  
513.943.8900



**Merwin Elementary** - 1040 Gaskins, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
Principal, Erin Parker  
513.947.7800



**Summerside Elementary** - 4639 Vermona Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
Principal, Lisa Courtney  
513.947.7900



**Willowville Elementary** - 4529 Schoolhouse Road, Batavia, Ohio 45103  
Principal, Kevin Jones  
513.943.6800



**Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary** - 3950 Britton Boulevard, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
Principal, Sue Litman-Hall  
513.943.6900