

West Jefferson Hills School District

Full-Day Kindergarten



Updates

- Board approved January 23, 2018
- Implementation with the 2018-2019 school year
- Half-day option
- Mid-day bus run eliminated



Full Day Kindergarten Vision

- Give the children different not more. (Hattie)
- Incorporate a growth mindset into all classes and be intentional on the type of student praise and reinforcement we use. (Dweck)
- It's all about relationships (Adult-Adult, Adult-Student, Student-Student) (Hattie)
- Mastery of key literacy and math skills must be the focus of any kindergarten program (Duncan)
- Mastery of early math skills not only predict future math achievement, but it also predicts future reading achievement.



Full Day Kindergarten Vision

- A multisensory approach to learning leads to increased knowledge and skill retention, motivation, and student success. (Multiple studies)
- Children learn best when their physical and emotional needs are met and they feel safe and secure. (Multiple studies)
- Must include opportunities to learn about (and from) the world, organize information, and solve problems. This increases feelings of self-worth and confidence, ability to work with others, and interest in challenging tasks.
- Provide a combination of formal (teacher-initiated) and informal (child-initiated) activities. Investigations and projects allow your child to work both on her own and in small group



Full Day Kindergarten Vision

- Minimize use of large group activities that require sitting. Instead, most activities feature play-based, hands-on learning in small groups. As the year progresses, large group activities become a bit longer in preparation for 1st grade.
- Foster a love of books, reading, and writing. There are books, words, and kids' own writing all over the classroom.
- Opportunities for dramatic make-believe play, which we know is essential for young children's development of literacy, social skills, creativity and imagination. Play must be child directed and creative, dynamic, and elaborate and not teacher directed driven by imitation and repetition.
- A schedule that incorporates daily brain breaks, physical activity, and snacks.



Full Day Kindergarten Core Academic/Social Emotional Skill Development

Academic Learning Progressions

Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards - Kindergarten

PA Core- English Language Arts, Grades PreK-5 District Resource - Treasures

PA Core - Mathematics, Grades PreK-12 District Resource - Under development and My Math

American School Counselor Association National Standards for Students

West Jefferson Hills Existing Curriculum



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

- 20 Students per classroom
- Initial orientation to Kindergarten
 - Teach - classroom rules, playground rules/safety, lunches, bus, walking in hallways, etc.
 - Observe - behavior differences between children
 - Assess - Baseline assessment for early literacy/numeracy skills using NWEA MAP, Social Emotional assessment
- Regroup based on initial observation and assessment
 - Small group, targeted instruction



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

Morning

- Arrival
 - Transportation provided with same pickup/drop off time for all K-5 students

- Unpack and Prepare for the Day
 - Morning Meeting
 - Social Emotional Skill Development



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

Morning

- Core Reading/Writing
 - 90 minutes a day (273 hours per year)
 - Treasures (2011), McGraw Hill
 - Social Studies embedded through Reading

- Core Math
 - 60 minutes a day (182 hours per year)
 - My Math (2013), McGraw Hill
 - Science embedded through Math

*All timeframes are approximate



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

Mid-Day

Lunch

- 25 minutes, staggered start/end times

Recess

- 30 minutes total, staggered start/end times
 - Potentially provided in two, 15 minute blocks

*All timeframes are approximate



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

Afternoon

Rest - specific to student need

- 30 minutes

Structured free play

- 30 minutes, following Early Learning Standards

Encore

- A total of 40 minutes per day, per subject
- Library, Art, Music, Physical Education (2 days/week)



A Day In the Life of a Kindergarten Child

Afternoon

Enrichment/Intervention Groups

- Reading - all students on grade level by the end of Grade 2
- Math
- Science
- Rotation

Prepare for Dismissal

- Placed on school bus by teacher
 - Expanded transportation to after school care programs
- Revised car-rider procedures and accountability system



Next Steps

- Collaboration with Kindergarten Teachers - February 5, 2018 & February 6, 2018
- Listening/Feedback Community Forum - February 6, 2018
- Scouting of other Full Day Kindergarten programs - February/March 2018
- Collaboration with Early Learning/Care Providers - February/March 2018
- Finalization of WJHSD Full Day Kindergarten programming - Summer 2018
 - Curriculum, skills, pacing, communication of student progress with parents, etc.
- Transition activities for entry into Kindergarten -April 2018



Next Steps (School Reconfiguration)

- School of attendance areas identified - March 2018
 - Communicated to parents of all rising K-2 students - March/April 2018
- School transportation information finalized and communicated - Summer 2018
 - Bus, car-rider, walker



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Community Forum Feedback

- Inquiry based learning, student choice of learning and options
- Mindfulness technique
- Same teachers during 2 week transition
- Full-day vs half-day curriculum
- Half-day separate class program or combined
- Access to technology



Community Forum Feedback

- Staffing - student/teacher ratio
- Boundary lines determined in March 2018
- Bus study and more efficient routing; Bus Aides
- Transportation to daycares
- Positive connections and relationship; growing socially/emotionally
- Mindfulness techniques
- Cut-off date for kindergarten
- Times for full-day - schedule
- Before and after child-care



Community Forum Feedback

- Free play/recess time blocks
- Enrichment time blocks
- Walkers in K-2 buildings
- Assessments

