

• 2024-2025 •

# KINDERGARTEN

#CLASS OF 2037

First Day of  
*School*  
August 12, 2024



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**Dr. Mark Shanoff,  
Superintendent  
Osceola School District**



In the Osceola School District, we believe in the importance of collaboration between home and school. Your involvement and support play a crucial role in your child's success, and we encourage you to be active participants in their educational journey. Whether it's volunteering in the classroom, attending school events, or communicating with teachers, your partnership is valued and appreciated.

Throughout the school year, we will keep you informed about your child's progress and provide opportunities for you to engage with their learning experiences. We are committed to open communication and welcome your feedback and input as we work together to support your child's growth and development.

As your child begins their kindergarten adventure, please know that they are in caring and capable hands. We are dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to building a strong partnership with your family and witnessing the wonderful growth and achievements that lie ahead. We are here to support and partner with you every step of the way.

Dr. Mark Shanoff  
Superintendent

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as you embark on this exciting journey into kindergarten. As the Superintendent of the Osceola School District, I am delighted to have your family as part of our outstanding educational community.

Kindergarten marks a significant milestone in your child's life, and we are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated team of educators is passionate about creating engaging learning experiences that foster curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning.

*Thank You!*

for choosing an Osceola  
County public school

## **We provide:**

- School Safety as a top priority
- iPads for all Kindergarten students
- Certified and experienced teachers
- Award-winning parent and family involvement programs
- College and career guidance and support
- Mandated class sizes
- Recess for elementary students
- 21st Century technology
- Personalized support for every child
- Rigorous curriculum
- State-of-the-art career training programs
- Robust arts, athletic, and extracurricular programs
- College and career acceleration options
- Free breakfast for all students
- Virtual School option
- High-quality before and after-school care programs
- Model multicultural education and students with disabilities programs
- School uniforms

*and much, much more!*

# Kindergarten, here I come!

Kindergarten is a time to make friends and learn about the world through asking questions and exploring. While this can be a magical and exciting time for many parents and children, it can also create anxiety for others. Knowing what to expect and how to help prepare your child can assist with making the transition a little easier. Here are some ideas, though not all inclusive, for getting ready for kindergarten:

## LANGUAGE ARTS

In Kindergarten, students will begin to develop important skills that will help them become successful readers and writers. They will read, write, speak, and solve stories and informational texts. In writing, they will learn how to put letters and sounds together to create words that convey their thinking. Activities in these areas include:

- Reading with your child daily and asking questions or talking about the book. Have them retell familiar stories, including characters, settings, and events
- Naming upper and lower case letters and identifying letter sounds
- Understanding basic print concepts, such as reading from top to bottom and left to right

### You can help your child at home by:

- Looking for letters and words in the environment
- Exposing your child to everyday purposes for writing, like grocery lists, reminder notes, and thank-you notes
- Asking your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions
- Engaging in rhyming games with your child



# MATHEMATICS

Building mathematical mindsets is important to creating confident and competent early learners. Balancing fluency and concept development are both part of the daily routines in kindergarten. Activities for your child include:

- Reading and writing numerals and counting objects to tell how many
- Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Adding and subtracting to 10, and solving addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Correctly naming shapes
- Expressing the length of an object using everyday objects



## You can help your child at home by:

- Asking your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things or that require comparing numbers
- Using objects and toys to help your child count on.

# SCIENCE

Kindergarten science encourages students to engage in active learning experiences and observation through exploration in the following areas of study:

- The Nature of Science by working together, using senses to make observations of the natural world, and keeping records of observations.
- Earth and Space Science by exploring gravity, and the pattern of day and night. Students will explore and observe the size perception of objects as seen from Earth.
- Physical Science by exploring the properties of matter by observing the size, shape (and changing shape), color, temperature, weight, and texture of different objects. They will observe that objects can make sound vibrate, explore objects moving in different ways (fast or slow) and that pushing or pulling can change how an object moves.
- Life Science by recognizing the five senses such as smell and nose, sight and eyes. Also, observing plants and animals and describing how they are alike and different.

## You can help your child at home by:

- Encouraging questions, curiosity, and exploring to find answers
- Providing time, space, and materials to explore the world safely
- Recording observations using drawings or taking pictures
- Taking a walk in nature or going to a local science center and asking questions about the natural world or how things work (What do you notice? What do you wonder?)



# SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies ideas will prepare students to be knowledgeable, informed, and active citizens. Kindergarten students will begin to learn about themselves, their families, and the local community around them. Basic concepts are introduced related to history, patriotism, national symbols, good citizenship, geography, economics, and the importance of following rules and respecting the rights and property of others.

You can prepare your child by giving them first-hand experiences, so they better grasp concepts and skills. Ideas include visiting local museums, the zoo, the library, or locations such as the beach, lakefronts, towns, or nature parks.

## You can help your child at home by:

- Helping your child repeat their full name, address, phone number, and birthday
- Helping them learn how to play independently or focus on one activity for up to 10 minutes
- Encouraging them to express their thoughts and feelings



# ART, MUSIC, & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

All Kindergarten students also get to experience art, music, and physical education. During these classes, children are instructed and exposed to things like:

- Creating paintings or drawings that mix primary colors
- Creating artworks or sculptures using mixed media
- Playing simple accompaniments on classroom instruments
- Performing simple songs, finger plays, and rhymes to experience connections among music, language, and numbers
- Building fundamental motor skills for game play, physical activity, and fitness
- Learning about healthy lifestyle choices and activity levels

## You can help your child at home by:

- Showing your child how to grip a pencil, a crayon, or marker correctly with thumb and forefinger supporting the tip
- Ensuring they know how to use scissors, glue, paint and other art materials safely and with relative ease

