

About Junior Kindergarten

Who is eligible for Junior Kindergarten?

Junior Kindergarten is a free, optional first year of school designed for students who turn five between September 2 and December 1 of 2019 (students who would only qualify for kindergarten using a waiver). Students who attend Junior Kindergarten go on to attend a full year of traditional Kindergarten the following school year. When space permits, students who turn five between June 1, 2019 and September 1, 2019 may be considered for the Junior Kindergarten program. Priority is given to students with birth dates closest to the start of the waiver window.

Students who turn five after December 1, 2019 are **not** eligible for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. Students in this group may be eligible for the Great Start Readiness free preschool program coordinated by the district's Early Childhood Center, depending on your family's income. Children in this age group can enroll in the tuition preschool programs at the Early Childhood Center as well. Call the Early Childhood Center at 248-573-8330 or visit their page on the district website for additional information.

Where is the Junior Kindergarten program held?

Junior Kindergarten will not be offered at all district elementary schools. Not all elementary schools have space for an additional program. Final school locations for the Junior Kindergarten program will be assigned after initial Kindergarten registrations this winter, as the number of needed Kindergarten classrooms determines the number of available classrooms at a school. The number of available classrooms for Junior Kindergarten determines the number of students the district is able to accept into the program.

As locations have not yet been finalized, families interested in Junior Kindergarten are asked to attend Kindergarten registration at their boundary school on Thursday, February 28, 2019. If you do not know your boundary elementary school, please contact the Transportation Department at 248-573-8900.

Not sure if Junior Kindergarten is right for your child?

Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten?

If you are deciding between registering your child for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten, we recommend attending Kindergarten registration on Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 PM. If you are ready to make a decision that night, you can turn in paperwork for either Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten.

If you have further questions, we are hosting additional information sessions specific to Junior Kindergarten at Bartlett Elementary School on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:00 and 6:00 (the 6:00 session is a repeat session). You can turn in paperwork for either Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten at the informational session.

Junior Kindergarten or Preschool?

If you are deciding between registering your child for Junior Kindergarten or a preschool program, we recommend attending one of the Junior Kindergarten informational sessions at Bartlett Elementary on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:00 or 6:00.

Is transportation provided for Junior Kindergarten?

We are able to provide transportation for Junior Kindergarten students who are attending their boundary school and live within a zone where busing is already provided to elementary aged students. This is because a bus route is already established and the route would typically have room for one or two more riders. Otherwise, Junior Kindergarten is like our Schools of Choice program- it is an optional program and families provide or arrange their own transportation to and from school each day.

When can I register for the Junior Kindergarten program?

Initial registrations for the Junior Kindergarten program can be turned in to the school offices from Thursday, February 28- Friday, March 15 or at Kindergarten registration or the Junior Kindergarten informational sessions. Space is limited.

Registrations received after March 15 will be considered if/when space becomes available in the program.

When will I know if my child got a spot in the Junior Kindergarten program?

Our goal is that registrations received on time have a response as to program placement prior to the end of March. Notification will occur primarily by email although we ask that you provide two working phone numbers as well.

Late registrations or waitlisted students will be notified if/when space becomes available within the program.