



Loker Kindergarten School

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Wayland, MA 01778

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Welcome parents to the Loker School!

We have taken the liberty of answering some questions, which have come up in previous years from parents of our new incoming kindergarteners.

THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS BOOKLET.

- ∞ *How does the school know about our child before he or she enters school?*
- ∞ *Are there evaluations before our child enters school? Are there further evaluations when our child enters school?*
- ∞ *What do we have to do to register our child for kindergarten?*
- ∞ *Who are the members of the kindergarten staff?*
- ∞ *Will we be able to meet the teachers and see the classrooms?*
- ∞ *How will children be grouped within classrooms?*
- ∞ *How will our child know who his/her teacher is?*
- ∞ *Will we be able to visit our child's classroom before the first day of school?*
- ∞ *What is the Kindergarten curriculum?*
- ∞ *Tell us about bus transportation.*

- ∞ *Tell us about extended day options and the BASE program.*
- ∞ *How can we become active in the PTO?*
- ∞ *What are the elementary school health policies?*

How does the school know about our child before he or she enters school?

Ms. Gretchen Lutz, the Early Childhood Coordinator, communicates with all local pre-schools. In most situations, she talks with the teachers and visits the nursery schools to observe. She also interviews some parents. Contacts are made only with the written consent of the parent.

Are there evaluations before our child enters school?

Some students are evaluated for special needs, with parental permission, prior to kindergarten.

Each nursery school is asked to complete an inventory form for each child, with the permission of the parent, which describes the child's developmental readiness skills. This becomes part of the child's public school record.

When parents wish to talk about their child prior to entering kindergarten, they can call Ms. Gretchen Lutz, Early Child Coordinator or Mr. James Lee, Loker Kindergarten School Principal.

Are there further evaluations after our child begins school?

During the first two days of school, all kindergarten children will be screened for speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, and readiness skills. Each child will be assigned a designated time slot by appointment only for his/her individual screening. Kindergarten teachers and special educators will perform all the screenings. Parents will be given information to read while waiting in the lobby. Upon completion of the screening, children will have the opportunity to look around the classroom with their parent. This screening of children in the fall will help us in planning for each child's kindergarten year.

What do we have to do to register our child for kindergarten?

Registration packets are sent out from the Wayland Public Schools main office in March. If you are registering your son or daughter after that time, you may contact the schools for materials. The March packet included a DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY, a REGISTRATION FORM, HOME LANGUAGE FORM, EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM and HEALTH FORMS (physical examination/immunization form to be filled out by doctor, health history to be filled out by parents). Please contact the school nurse if there is any additional information the school should know about your child's health history. The school must receive all forms, along with a copy of your child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE, before school starts in September.

Should you wish to share any information with us about your child prior to his/her entering school, please give us your input in writing, addressed to the principal. Please do not request specific teachers, because those requests are not considered in the placement process.

If you feel you would like an individually scheduled conference with the principal, you may make an appointment at any time.

Who are the members of the kindergarten staff?

A classroom teacher and an assistant staff each kindergarten room. The Loker Kindergarten School will also have staff assigned to the areas of guidance and special needs.

Will we be able to see the classrooms?

Yes, incoming kindergarten students will have the chance to see the classrooms upon completion of their screening the first two days of school. They will have the opportunity to look around the classroom with their parent at that time.

How will children be grouped within classrooms?

Groups are heterogeneous in nature. They are balanced for gender, special needs, skills, age and elementary school district.

In an effort to make your child's transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible, information from parents and pre- schools are also considered.

How will our child know who his/her teacher is?

In early August, your child will receive an information packet, which will include the name of his or her kindergarten teacher and a list of other children in the class.

Will we be able to visit our child's kindergarten classroom and meet the teacher before the first day of school?

The first day of school for Grades 1-5, is not a regular school day for kindergarten. The first two days of school, kindergarten parents and children will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet their classroom teachers and instructional assistants after their screening.

What is the Kindergarten curriculum?

A copy of the Kindergarten philosophy is included below.

Specific information regarding the kindergarten curriculum can be found on the Wayland Public Schools website.

In addition to the classroom activities, students have art, library, music, and physical education once each week with a specialist teacher.

The parent handbook, which you will receive in September, contains curriculum information.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The major goal of the Kindergarten program is to meet the social, emotional, physical and intellectual abilities of every child in accordance with their individual abilities and to challenge them through many experiences. At all times, differences in rates of maturation, special talents, interests and personalities are respected.

Teachers recognize that many, not all, Wayland students come to kindergarten with a rich home and pre-school background. There are, however, large variations in the students' experiences and skills. For example, some students are more ready for academic work than others. It is crucial, through careful screening, to identify the individual student's developmental level and cognitive readiness. This process allows teachers to develop an appropriately balanced program for each student. Balance should be orchestrated in four domains -- social, emotional, physical and intellectual as follows.

In the social domain, most students are emerging from self-centered worlds to interactive worlds. Activities, which foster cooperation, sharing and exchange, are a basic part of a kindergarten program.

In the area of emotional development, research clearly indicates that successful experiences form a basis for enhanced self-concepts and future school competence. In a group setting, the kindergarten child will experience a variety of emotions. The program must provide the necessary support to allow the child to develop self-control, self-confidence and self-discipline in dealing with his/her peers.

In the physical domain, five-year-olds are in a constant state of movement. Large muscles, however, are better developed than small muscles. Thus, all children need experience in such activities as manipulation and cutting as well as eye-hand coordination tasks. There is variation in the amount of time each student needs to spend in this activity domain.

Finally, there should be emphasis on nourishment of the child's intellectual capabilities. Developmentally, almost all students are "pre-operational" in Piaget's frame of thinking. This means that they need rich, direct sensory experiences. Kindergarten students will want to begin learning symbolic representation, but the emphasis should be on manipulation, concrete experiences and active involvement. Some students will be ready for more cognitively based materials and activities. These should be provided for on an individual basis while considering the other domains. Whenever possible, teachers provide activities which allow students to participate at their particular developmental level.

In summary, our kindergarten program attempts to balance the four major developmental domains. It is the teacher's role to prescribe the mix and fit for each student, consistent with his or her individual needs and abilities.

Tell us about transportation to and from school.

School policy states that students who live beyond one and a half miles from their elementary school shall be eligible for bus transportation. Within those distances, transportation is a parental responsibility or available through fee-based transportation provided by Wayland Public Schools.

What extended day options are available through the B.A.S.E. program?

BASE (Before/After School Extension) is a tuition-based program for children in kindergarten through grade 7, run by the Wayland Public School System and taught by certified teachers and assistants. It offers your child an opportunity to be in school a full day, with extended hours available until 6 p.m. The student-teacher ratio is kept to a maximum of ten students to one teacher.

Registration for BASE Kindergarten extended day is ongoing prior to September of the school year. Additional students are accepted throughout the school year based on space availability. Parents who are enrolled in September will have the opportunity to change the kindergarten extended day schedule in November and February. The hours are 12:20 to 2:45 (1:35 on Wednesdays—early release time for grades 1-5). Hours can also be extended to 4:30 or 6:00 p.m. A minimum of two days per week is required.

For children staying until 2:45, bus schedules are followed by the school committee policy as outlined above.

How can we become active in the PTO?

The PTO invites all parents to participate by coming to meetings, serving on committees, getting involved in fund raising and providing ideas to enrich the program of our children.

What are the elementary school health policies?

Registered nurses meet all the health needs of the Wayland Public Schools. These nurses are responsible for all your child's health records, which are maintained at each elementary school. The Wayland Board of Health and/or the Department of Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts make our school regulations. Following please find the regulations that each child is required to meet before entrance into kindergarten.

1. A physical exam performed by a physician within six months of starting kindergarten. If a physical has not been performed within the past six months, then parents are required to submit a report of the most recent physical at the time of entrance and then a copy of an up-to-

date physical within six months after entering kindergarten. This is for the protection of your child so that the school is made aware of any recent health problems that may require special attention of the staff.

2. Immunizations for DPT, polio, MMR, Hib and Hepatitis B that are up-to-date. If your child has not met the Commonwealth's regulations you will need to provide a written explanation from your pediatrician. A child cannot begin kindergarten unless this is accomplished.
3. A blood test for lead level is a requirement for all students. This is usually done as part of your child's routine testing.
4. One dose of Varicella vaccine (chicken pox) or physician documentation of the disease.

When your child begins each school year, we ask you to verify your child's demographic information we have on file. We also ask that you provide the school with emergency contact information. The information on this form is necessary for us to have in the event that your child needs medical attention during school hours. It also includes health concerns and allergies that we should be aware of.

If your child requires medication during school hours, you are required to bring it to the office along with completed medication permission forms from both the physician and the parent. Please see the medication policy below. Medications are kept locked in the health room and are administered only by the nurse. Children are not allowed to bring medication to school or to carry it around during the school day. This is for the protection of all our children.

Children who have a contagious illness such as the flu, strep, or conjunctivitis should be kept home until they are no longer contagious or are symptom-free. They should be free of a fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

In the fall your child will be screened for vision and hearing problems. If a problem is identified, you will be notified.

Our goal for the school year is for each child to function in a safe and healthy environment. To help us meet this goal, please keep us informed of any health related issues, which may require attention during the school day.

We will also keep you informed of any health concerns, which we may have. We want each child to have the happiest and most productive experience possible and good health is part of what makes this attainable.

WAYLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

MEDICATION POLICY

SUBJECT: Pupils requiring medication during hours of school attendance.

POLICY: Only medication that is considered absolutely necessary by the prescribing physician will be administered during school hours. Whenever possible, the medication schedule should be arranged so that it may be taken at home.

PROCEDURE:

1. Only the school nurse will administer the medication.
2. Medication not prescribed on a scheduled basis will be given by the nurse as soon as possible, e.g., those for an allergic reaction. (Exception: severe reaction to insect stings)
3. All medication, prescription and non-prescription, must be accompanied by instructions from the prescribing physician noting the following:
 - a. Name of pupil
 - b. Name of drug
 - c. Indications for administration
 - d. Dosage
 - e. Time(s) of administration
 - f. Duration of treatment
 - g. Name of prescribing physician
4. The medication must be in a container, appropriately labeled by the pharmacist.
5. With the exception of short-term prescription medicines, the school must have a medication form (available in the school office) signed by the physician.
6. The responsible parent or guardian must also complete a form, authorizing the administration of the medication in school.

7. Both the parental permission form and the physician's form must be submitted at the initiation of treatment and renewed at the beginning of each school year or more frequently at the discretion of the school nurse.
8. The parent or guardian is responsible for ensuring that the supply of medication kept in the school is adequate and that the permission forms are completed as required.
9. Medications should be brought to the Health Room by the parent or guardian and will be kept under lock. No medications are to be carried by the student.
10. All medications not removed by the responsible parent at the end of the school year will be discarded by the school nurse.

WAYLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
SEVERE REACTIONS TO INSECT STINGS AND
FOOD ALLERGIES

The Wayland Board of Health attempts to meet the problem presented in the schools by children who react severely to insect stings or who have a severe allergic reaction to a food. Therefore, the following standing orders and policies have been established.

1. EpiPens (pre-filled Adrenalin injections) are available in every school and will be given in the event of acute, systemic reaction to known allergen (e.g. insect stings, foods).
2. In each school the persons responsible for administration have been instructed as to the indications for medication and the method of administration.
3. If your child requires Adrenalin due to a systemic reaction to an insect sting or to a food, please complete the physician permission forms, which are available at school. Return the form and a properly labeled EpiPen to the school health office as soon as possible.
4. Parents of children requiring oral antihistamines for severe LOCAL reactions should follow the medication policy as outlined under "Medication Policy."

Please remember to visit the Wayland Public Schools website for up to date information. We also suggest that families sign up for listserve for email notifications, as most of our notifications are sent home in this manner. You may do this by visiting the public schools website and click on "Join Newsletter". Please also visit the Loker School website link which provides information directly related to our school.

www.wayland.k12.ma.us