

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are so excited to meet you! Our Kindergarten philosophy is **“Learning Through Play.”** This means we will read and write, dance and sing, and problem-solve and learn together. It is our goal to help students become thoughtful, self-directed, happy, and confident learners. We hope to engage children in active and meaningful ways that reflect both their interests and needs. There will be a balance between child-directed play, teacher-directed play, and structured learning experiences.

McCammon Elementary is a wonderful school with a strong commitment to family and community. We are looking forward to a great school year ahead. See you in September!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

Welcome to  
**Kindergarten!**

## **Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule**

In September, the Kindergarten gradual entry schedule is designed to allow for the transition between home and school to be as comfortable as possible. Time is allotted for classroom visits with parents and each child. Each 20-minute interview will occur with the Kindergarten team. The purpose of these meetings and the gradual entry schedule is to allow us to determine the best classroom environment for your child. **You will be informed of your child's teacher and class placement on Friday, September 12.**

### **Tuesday, September 2 to Friday, September 5: Meet and Greet**

No Kindergarten classes – meetings with the Kindergarten team, parents/guardians AND student. You will receive another email containing your child's scheduled Meet and Greet time and which group of Mini Sessions they will be attending.

### **Monday, September 8 to Friday, September 12: Mini Sessions**

Monday, September 8:

Group A: 8:00 – 9:30

Group B: 10:00 – 11:30

Tuesday, September 9:

Group A: 8:00 – 9:30

Group B: 10:00 – 11:30

Wednesday, September 10:

Group A AND B: 8:00 – 11:00 ~ Send a snack with your child.

Thursday, September 11:

Group A AND B: 8:00 – 11:45 ~ Send a snack with your child.

Friday, September 12:

Group A AND B: 8:00 – 12:45 ~ Send a snack and packed lunch with your child.

Monday, September 15: First Full Day (8:04 am – 1:57 pm)

### **McCammon Elementary Kindergarten FAQs**

The following is a list of answers to frequently asked questions at this time of year.

1. School Hours: Monday through Friday 8:04 am – 1:57 pm  
Students will remain in their classrooms and teachers will dismiss students one at a time to their parent/guardian. **Please send an email if your child is going home with someone other than their usual caregiver or their regular mode of transportation (if they normally take the bus and you will be picking them up, please email the classroom teacher before 8:04 am that day).**
2. Backpack – the best size will accommodate a child's lunch kit and a large library book and should come back and forth every day.
3. Inside Shoes – one pair of runners (slip-on or Velcro, **NO LACE-UPS PLEASE**) to remain at school, labeled with child's first/last name.
4. Snacks/Lunch – send foods your child enjoys and is familiar with. Students are encouraged to bring a LABELLED refillable water bottle to school daily.
5. School Supplies – Kindergarten students share school supplies that have been pre-ordered. Please watch your emails for the Student Quick Pay for your child's account to pay the \$45.00 school supply fee and send a box of tissue with your child on their first full day, **Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. No cash or cheques will be accepted at the office.**
6. Labels – please label all your child's belongings. This is very helpful when things go missing!
7. Extra Clothes – Please send labeled, weather appropriate extra clothes (including underwear and socks) that will be kept at school. It is important that your child can independently undress and dress themselves, as we are unable to change them. It is necessary to have a change of clothes available at school because we have daily outside play and weekly outdoor education.
8. Bussing – If you wish to have your child bussed, you will need to contact Transportation at (604)-792-1255 to register your child before they can ride the bus (fees may apply). You will be responsible for dropping off and picking up your child from the school until you have registered him/her. **There will be no bus available for drop-off in the afternoon for Kindergarten students until they are attending the full day (Monday, September 15th) so you will need to pick up your child at the times on the gradual entry schedule attached.**

### **Prepare for Kindergarten**

- Read this letter with your child and discuss any concerns or worries they may have.
- Practice printing their name beginning with an uppercase letter (capital) and followed by lowercase letters.
- Teach them to identify letter names and sounds.
- Practice counting out loud to 20 and practice counting objects, touching each object as they count.
- Practice how to use scissors and a glue stick. Practice cutting along a line.
- Read a story with your child daily. Discuss the events and characters in the story.
- With your child, model waiting your turn to speak and saying “excuse me” to get someone’s attention.
- Visit the school playground to familiarize yourself with the playground.
- To encourage your child’s independence:
  - Teach them to button and unbutton pants so they can be independent while using the washroom.
  - Send them to school with shoes they can take off and put on by themselves.
  - Help them to be able to take on and off a coat or sweater by themselves and zip and unzip their zipper.
  - Have them practice opening all containers and packages for their snack and lunch.

*We look forward to seeing you in September!*