

Kindergarten Is a BIG Step!



Full-Day Kindergarten

• www.fergflor.org • 314.506.9000



FERGUSON-FLORISSANT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Welcome!



Welcome to the Ferguson-Florissant School District Full-Day Kindergarten program. We are eager to help your family with the exciting transition to kindergarten, and we look forward to working alongside you as a supportive partner who is here to help keep your child happy, healthy and successful in school.

Yes, kindergarten really is a big step! It is a step that celebrates your child's readiness to join a new learning community. We know that any change comes with a certain amount of uneasiness, so we prepared this booklet to help answer your questions. If you still have questions after reading this material, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher and principal for help.

We believe that you continue to be your child's first and most influential teacher. Your child's success in school is very much dependent on your expectations, interest and involvement.

There are a number of ways that you can stay connected to your child's school. Call when you can, and enjoy conversations with the teacher about your child's progress at school and home. Listen to your child talk about school. We also recommend that you visit class.

Our district encourages students to be read to at home at least 15 minutes every day. Please join us in encouraging essential reading skills by reading or listening to your child read a minimum of 15 minutes each day.

Again, we look forward to working alongside you on this journey to kindergarten. Children are young for such a short period of time. Let's all share in the wonder and joy of their learning!

Every child takes that giant step from home into the wider world of elementary school. His first steps lead to kindergarten—a busy and happy place—with many fascinating tools for learning and an understanding teacher who will guide him through new experiences and help him make friends.

Eligibility

A child must be five years old before August 1 of the school year to enter kindergarten. This is a Missouri state law, and the district has no flexibility. The following documents are required for kindergarten enrollment:

- Original or certified birth certificate.
- School health record showing a recent physical exam and an up-to-date immunization record.

The parent or legal guardian must be a resident of the school district. Proof of residency is required. Please bring the following documents to kindergarten enrollment:

- Up-to-date (within the last 90 days) occupancy permit that includes the child's name
- Current lease, rental agreement, mortgage document or mortgage bill

If you live in an apartment or house owned by others, please bring the following documents to kindergarten enrollment:

- Up-to-date (within the last 90 days) occupancy permit showing their names
- Current lease, rental agreement, mortgage document or mortgage bill showing their names
- Affidavit of residency (form available in district admissions office) to verify that you live with them
- Current business mail (no advertisements or personal mail) that is addressed to you at the residence

Checklist for Kindergarten Enrollment

Come to the Ferguson-Florissant admissions office, Administration Center, 1005 Waterford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033-3649 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For your convenience, Enrollment forms are also available online.

Just visit www.fergflor.org and click on the Parents tab and scroll down to Registration Forms to print the forms.

Please have all of the following items ready to show or give the Admissions staff:

- Original or certified birth certificate
- Child's original Social Security card
- Occupancy permit dated within 90 days and lease agreement or mortgage bill
- Complete immunization record
- Results of vision examination by a state licensed optometrist or physician
- Parent identification (such as a driver's license)
- Proof of guardianship if you are not the parent such as court approved documents, the divorce decree, Children's Division placement papers or foster care papers

Notification

Parents who complete registration will receive a letter that includes their child's assignment in August.

Registration Information

How to Get a Birth Certificate

Children Born in any State

Regardless of where a child is born, families can obtain their child's birth certificate by going online and visiting www.vitalchek.com.

Children Born in Missouri

You can obtain your child's birth certificate for \$15 in person or by mail from Saint Louis County Vital Records, 6121 N. Hanley Rd., Berkeley, MO 63134.

Vital Records is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call (314) 615-0376 or visit www.stlouisco.com for more information.

How to Get Your Child's Social Security Number

Federal law requires children one year of age or older to have a Social Security number. To apply for a card for your child, go to the nearest Social Security office and show your child's original or certified birth certificate and one or more documents showing the child's identity (this could be a doctor or hospital bill showing the child's name). Keep in mind, the parent must also show some kind of identification, such as a driver's license, employee ID card or passport.

For further information, please call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

Health Record

Each child entering kindergarten should have a physical examination, including a lead screening, within one year prior to the child's first day in kindergarten. A school health record (completed on both sides) is required.

Immunization Record

Under state law, parents or guardians are required to provide proper immunization dates to schools. Proof of immunization must show all immunizations received from birth with the month, day and year received.

Children may not attend kindergarten unless immunizations are up-to-date and a record of immunizations is on file at the school.

Immunization Requirements for Children Entering Kindergarten:

- **DTP**
4 to 5 doses – last dose must be received after 4th birthday; 6-dose maximum
- **Polio**
3 doses, last dose after 4th birthday (if a combination of IPV/OPV is received, 4 doses are required.); 4-dose maximum
- **Hepatitis B**
3 doses, given according to a specific schedule
- **MMR**
2 doses, first dose on or after 1st birthday, and second dose 28 days or more after 1st dose
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**
2 doses or a doctor's statement verifying the month and year of the disease



Screening

Before the beginning of the school year, children entering kindergarten will be given a screening test. This screening provides information to the teacher about your child's strengths and the skills he or she needs to develop.

A teacher from your child's school will contact you before school begins to set up the appointment.

The teacher will give each child a brief test to determine whether the child has certain skills, such as being able to:

- Follow directions
- Tell the names and characteristics of objects
- Count from 1 to 10
- Pick out rhyming words when spoken
- Know and print his or her own first name and identify those letters

Parent Questionnaire

You will help the teacher get acquainted with your child by filling out the "My Kindergarten Child" form. With this information and observation, the teacher will be able to plan an appropriate program for your child and begin to establish a relationship with you and your child.

Bus Transportation

According to state law, a child living at least one mile from school may have bus transportation. It is possible for different buses to transport children to and from school.

Making the Transition Easier

The teacher will welcome your child warmly the first day, paying special attention to your child during the early weeks to learn about his or her particular needs and interests. The "My Kindergarten Child" form will also help the teacher get to know your child.

Parents get ready too. Help your child get used to being away from you and home. Discuss any fears about school before the first day. Be positive, loving and reassuring. Teach your child to do things for himself. Your child should be able to put on and take off coats and boots, be responsible for his belongings, put things away and use the bathroom independently.

Cheerfully say goodbye the first day of school when your "big" boy or girl leaves your side to enter the classroom. The confident, happy child succeeds. Show your support by encouraging your child to discuss his or her feelings about school with you.



Including Parents

Progress Reports and Conferences

Progress reports and conferences are how your child's teacher informs you about what your child is learning in kindergarten. Your child's progress is measured in terms of his development and Missouri's grade-level expectations. Children are evaluated in the areas of communication, mathematics, physical skills, life skills, art, music and physical education.

During the first quarter of the school year, you will be invited to school for a conference. A progress report will be sent home at the end of the first semester and at the end of the school year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Besides the initial conference, you may confer with your child's teacher at any time. The teacher wants your child to be successful and appreciates your interest and ideas.

Telephone Information

It is important for you to update your contact information at school when your telephone number changes during the school year. You should also inform the school of telephone number changes for your child's emergency contacts.

Parent Volunteers

Parents are invited to visit the classroom to see their child at work. They may assist with special projects and accompany children on field trips. Occasionally, parents may be asked to donate cooking ingredients or special items for projects.

Join the Parent Teacher Association or Organization and actively participate. Find out about other parent involvement programs that your child's school offers.

Help Your Child Start Each School Day Right

- Be sure your child gets 10 to 12 hours of sleep every night. This is the amount of sleep that is recommended for children 5 or 6 years of age.
- Provide well-balanced and unhurried meals. Avoid junk food.
- Have your child drink lots of water and avoid soda and caffeine.
- Plain clothes that are simple, sturdy and appropriate for hot or cold outdoor weather.
- When your child is sick, please keep your child home and call the school to report the absence. Send a note to the teacher when your child returns to school.
- Read books to your child

15 minutes every day. Make reading a regular part of your child's bedtime routine.

- Limit television and avoid programs that include violence.

Children Who Are Ready for School Success...

- Are curious and active
- Want to please others
- Are proud of being able to do things for themselves such as tie their shoes, put things away and control their behavior
- Are able to express their thoughts and feelings in words and sentences
- Believe they can learn
- Enjoy hearing stories from books
- Get along with other children



Is your child ready?

Help your child get ready for kindergarten this summer.

- Start the reading habit.
- Read to your child at least 15 minutes every day!
- Get a library card.
- Go to story time at the library (it builds listening skills).
- Have back and forth conversations with your child. Talk about the things you are doing and the places you visited that day to help build his or her vocabulary.
- Listen to your child with more than your ears. Take time. Get down on his or her level. Make eye contact.
- Say nursery rhymes together every day.
- Set up a routine time for breakfast, lunch, dinner and bedtime. This will help your child embrace school routines.
- Count everything! Ask your child, which is more? Less? Look for numbers all around!



- Play board games like Candy Land to develop counting and turn-taking skills.
- Provide lots of pencils, paper, crayons and markers to develop small-muscle skills and creativity. You can even write on paper grocery bags. Provide playdough to build small-muscle strength.
- Cook with your child to develop science skills. Show your child recipes, talk about the sequence of steps and point out how the food changes.
- Provide lots of active playtime in the sunshine and fresh air. Vitamin D comes from sunshine. Vigorous physical activity is important. We need physical activity for good health.
- Visit the zoo often and talk about the animals you see.
- Limit time for television, videos and video games. Avoid all violence.



Kindergarten Locations

Elementary Schools (K-6)

1. Airport Elementary

8249 Airport Rd.
Berkeley, MO 63134
524-3872

2. Bermuda Elementary

5835 Bermuda Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63121
524-4821

3. Central Elementary

201 Wesley Ave.
Ferguson, MO 63135
521-4981

4. Combs Elementary

300 St. Jean Street
Florissant, MO 63031
831-0411

5. Commons Lane Elementary

2700 Derhake Rd.
Florissant, MO 63033
831-0440

6. Cool Valley Elementary

1351 S. Florissant Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
521-5622

7. Duchesne Elementary

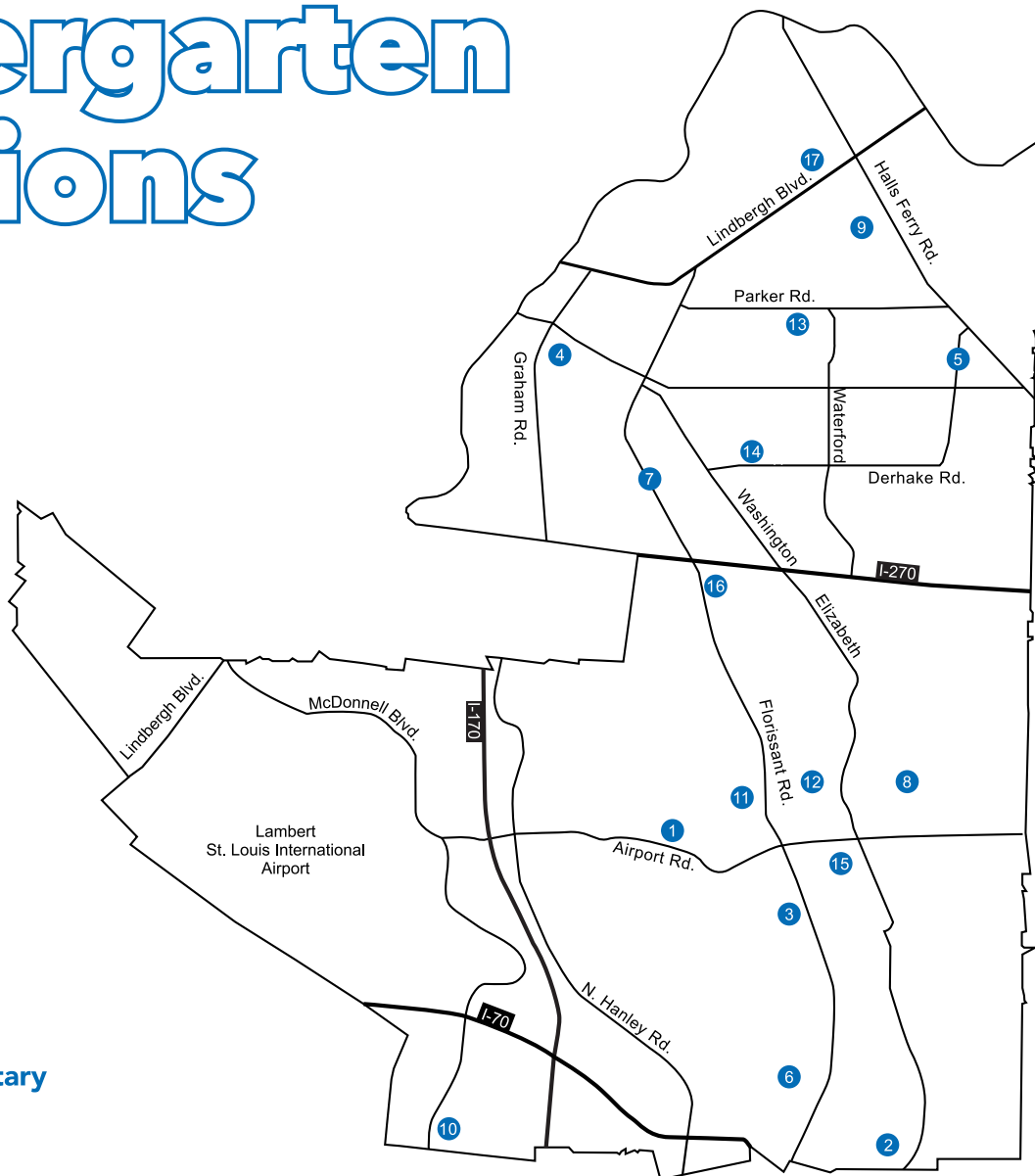
100 S. New Florissant Rd.
Florissant, MO 63031
831-1911

8. Griffith Elementary

200 Day Dr.
Ferguson, MO 63135
521-5971

9. Halls Ferry Elementary

13585 New Halls Ferry Rd.
Florissant, MO 63033
831-1022



10. Holman Elementary

8811 Harold Dr.
Berkeley, MO 63134
428-9695

11. Johnson-Wabash Elementary

685 January Ave.
Ferguson, MO 63135
524-0280

12. Lee-Hamilton Elementary

401 Powell Ave.
Ferguson, MO 63135
521-6755

13. Parker Road Elementary

2800 Parker Rd.
Florissant, MO 63033
831-2644

14. Robinwood Elementary

955 Derhake Rd.
Florissant, MO 63033
831-4633

15. Vogt Elementary

200 Church St.
Ferguson, MO 63135
521-6347

16. Walnut Grove Elementary

1248 North Florissant Rd.
Ferguson, MO 63135
524-8922

17. Wedgwood Elementary

14275 New Halls Ferry Rd.
Florissant, MO 63033
831-4551