



**Great Falls
Elementary**

Kindergarten Basics

Principal Sara Harper
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Registration Basics

A child may enter kindergarten if he/she will be age 5 on or before September 30, 2023

**Children who meet this criteria must be enrolled unless a parent/guardian notifies the school in writing that they wish to delay*

To register, parents must provide:

- Proof of residency within our school boundary (original deed, lease agreement; copies not accepted)
- Proof of birth (original birth certificate)

Registration forms can be found online at <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration>

Coming Soon: Online Registration

*Note: The physical/immunization form may be turned in at a later date; however, the completed physical and required immunizations must be received before school starts

To assist us with staffing, please complete registration before May 22, 2023. Appointments for registration can be made by calling the main office at 703-757-2100. Drop-in registration is available Mon-Fri between 8 and 3.

**8:50-
3:35**

School
Hours

School Age Child Care (SACC) is available before and after school through the county: search.fairfaxcounty.gov

Register Now

<https://greatfallses.fcps.edu/student-services/new-student-registration>



Transportation

School Bus

- Service provided for those who live within boundaries.
- You will get bus route info in August Open House packets
- Parents will complete ID card with child's address and bus #
- Kindergarteners are identified by colored tape on backpacks
- Kindergarteners sit at the front of the bus and are accompanied by Safety Patrols

A parent, designated adult, or sibling in middle school or older must be present to meet kindergarteners at the bus stop

Please note that drop off and pickup times may fluctuate in the first week of school. We appreciate your patience!

- Download Here Comes the Bus app
- Transportation Department: 703-249-7100
- After 5 pm, call Safety & Security: 571-423-2000

Kiss and Ride

We encourage families to take advantage of FCPS bus transportation

- Students riding Kiss and Ride will be escorted to the designated location by IAs
- Parents remain in their car with given placard on dashboard and meet students by door #4



Class Supplies

A list of required kindergarten supplies is available on our school website: www.GreatFallsES.fcps.edu

The PTA also offers parents a prepackaged school supply kit for pre-purchase on their website: gfspta.com

PTA Website:
www.gfespta.com

School Office:
703-757-2100

Social Media:
[@Gr8FallsES](https://www.instagram.com/Gr8FallsES)

Success in Kindergarten Parent Strategies



Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) believes that a high quality kindergarten program provides an education which meets each child's needs, interests, and level of development. Kindergarten offers opportunities for children to observe, explore, experiment, and investigate the world around them.

FCPS recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers. This publication provides parents with ways to support their children to help ensure a successful transition to kindergarten. Parents are encouraged to engage children in these activities in their home language. For additional information, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/is/earlychildhood/kindergarten/>

Oral Language

Oral language is the basis for all communication, both spoken and written. *With your child:*

- Talk about what you are doing and what they are doing.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes.

Reading

Children develop reading behaviors before they enter school. Print (e.g., books, street signs, email) is encountered early in life. *When reading with your child:*

- Go to the library or bookstore for story time.
- Check out books from the library.
- Use wordless books and pictures to make up a story.
- Let your child choose his or her own book.
- Point to the words and talk about what they mean.
- Let your child know he or she is a reader.

Writing

Children begin to explore writing in many ways. They make scribbles and print-like marks, draw pictures, write strings of letters, write letters in their name, write words they see, and write letters to match sounds. *With your child:*

- Encourage drawing and writing notes to family and friends.
- Make lists.
- Make up stories about the pictures they have drawn.

Mathematics

An understanding of mathematics happens as children use objects in the home. *With your child:*

- Sort objects such as socks, crayons, and cereal.
- Look for patterns (ex. stripes on a shirt, petals on a flower).
- Touch and count objects or toys.
- Talk about different coins when you go to the store.

Science

Science for young children is exploring and discovering the world around them. *With your child:*

- Talk about things you see outside.
- Collect and sort leaves, sticks, and flowers and talk about their shape, size, and smell.

Social Studies

Children are beginning to move from thinking about themselves to thinking about the world around them.

With your child:

- Share family history. Help your child to tell family stories.
- Get to know your community. Talk about the role of community members as you visit the fire station, post office, local police station, community center, swimming pool, and stores.

Technology

Technology, when available, provides another tool for learning. *With your child:*

- Make age-appropriate software and apps available.
- Talk about what he or she sees on the screen.

Emotional Development

Parents can help children become responsible, independent, and confident by setting clear limits and explaining appropriate behaviors. *With your child:*

- Discuss and be consistent with rules and consequences.
- Help your child understand that making mistakes is part of learning; encourage them to keep trying even when it is hard.
- Encourage your child to find multiple solutions (e.g., "Can you think of a different way to do it?").
- Participate in programs in your community to help your child practice being away from you for a short time. Say good-bye and give reassurance that you will return.
- Work on developing independence by having them dress, use the bathroom, and wash hands.



The Fairfax County Health Department and the Fairfax County Public School System participate in a partnership to provide each student access to a Health Room (clinic), a Public Health Nurse (registered nurse), and a School Health Aide (on site during school hours).



Role of the School Health Aide (SHA)

Kerry Franks, SHA - phone: 703-757-2100



- Is a paraprofessional trained by the Health Department. The SHA is in the Health Room each day when the students are in the building
- Has a narrow scope of practice to include:
 - Care of sick and injured students based on specific guidelines
 - Facilitate medication administration
 - Coordination of care for students with health conditions that may affect his or her school day
 - Vision and hearing screening for all kindergarten and 3rd graders, and as requested



Role of the School Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Rebecca Postol, RN – phone: 571-595-6411



- Identifies and addresses medical and health concerns of students
- Provides training for school staff about health issues and procedures
- Is a resource to school staff for communicable diseases or other health concerns
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and teaches health-related topics
- Works with school staff and other agencies to ensure the best possible environment for education of each student
- Assists in interpretation of immunization records
- Supervises School Health Aides in multiple schools

General Information

- If your child is sick, please keep him/her home.
- Students should be free from fever / vomiting / diarrhea (without medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. In some cases, students may be sent home with a Health Referral requesting physician clearance to return to school.
- Please keep phone numbers and emergency care contact information up to date in school. Sign up for WeCare to complete electronic updates from home.
- Students generally stay 15-20 minutes in the Health Room and then a decision is made to go back to class or go home. We will notify parents in some cases, but the student may still be able to return to class based on their condition.
- The School Health Aide is not a nurse and can not diagnose or give advice regarding care.
- Medications for school use require appropriate form completion. Medication Authorization, Virginia Asthma Action Plan (for Inhaler) and Epinephrine Authorization forms are available online at <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/forms>.
- Medications (including over the counter) are not provided by the school. All medication must be brought to school by the parents and be in the original container with an appropriate label.
- Students are not permitted to carry medications to and from school.

Please contact Rebecca Postol, RN at 571-595-6411 if you have any questions about the school health program or if your child has a health concern that affects his/her school day.



Welcome Kindergarten Families

The PTA would like to welcome new students and their families to Great Falls Elementary School! We are so happy that your child(ren) will be joining our wonderful school in the fall. Whether you are brand new to GFES or a current GFES family, we know how exciting and challenging a new school year can be for both students and their families. Our hope is that the PTA will help ease your transition and make you feel like a true member of our Roadrunner family!

Beginning of Year Events

Save time and support the PTA by ordering your 2024-2025 school supplies by July 1st! Supplies will be delivered directly to GFES.

www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com

New Family Playdate

9:30am-10:30am on the GFES playground

August 14, 2024

First Day of School 'Tears & Cheers' Parent Coffee

9:30am-10:30am at Katie's Coffee

August 19, 2024

Stay tuned for information about joining the PTA beginning this summer!

Keep in Touch!



@GreatFallsPTA

Create an account & subscribe to emails:

gfespta.com