

Welcome to Kindergarten at Union Grove Elementary School

The past few years have brought you and your child many exciting experiences and very special “firsts”. You and your youngster are about to embark on yet another first - enrolling in kindergarten. This will begin an exciting educational adventure which will culminate with graduation. We have prepared this booklet to answer the many questions that arise when entering kindergarten.

We are very proud of the kindergarten program offered by the Union Grove Joint School District. It is an important transition and provides a foundation for the learning that will take place throughout your child’s educational journey. Kindergarten is a time to nurture a child’s curiosity and eagerness for learning, to develop social skills, and to help your child feel comfortable in his/her new learning environment.

We are excited to have the opportunity to serve you and your child. We hope you will continue to be a visible partner in your child’s education. This partnership is very important in enhancing your child’s success in school. Welcome to the Union Grove Elementary School educational family!

Brenda Stevenson
District Superintendent

Philosophy

Union Grove Joint School District is dedicated to providing a child-centered learning environment, expecting all students to learn and succeed. We commit to providing and utilizing a progressive, relevant curriculum encouraging all students to become responsible citizens prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

To accomplish our school's mission, the kindergarten program promotes each child's intellectual development and social interaction in a stimulating, nurturing environment. Students are provided challenging activities and daily opportunities for hands-on learning to foster a positive attitude and an enjoyment of learning. A variety of approaches and strategies are used to ensure the development of the whole child.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Joint School District #1, Union Grove to educate and empower every student to be a life-long learner. In pursuit of this mission, Joint School District #1, Union Grove will:

- Provide a positive and safe learning environment
- Deliver an all-inclusive educational program
- Address the needs of every student and celebrate diversity
- Teach good citizenship and respect for self and others
- Partner with the families of students and other members of the community

Program Description

The purpose of the kindergarten curriculum is to promote each child's intellectual and social development in a stimulating and nurturing environment that fosters a joy in learning and a positive attitude toward school.

Kindergarten is the foundation year upon which future academic success is built. Academic standards identify what a student will learn and be able to do in the areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing. The children engage in many activities that focus upon emergent literacy: listening, speaking, drawing, reading, printing, journal and story writing and the sharing of literature. Concrete material, which children can manipulate, is used to teach math concepts. Children are

engaged in creating patterns, sorting and comparing, developing a number sense, and problem solving. Young children are natural scientists and we build on this by familiarizing them with the scientific method and by sharpening their observation skills stressing the five senses.

The kindergarten curriculum is taught through a theme approach. Projects tie together the various content areas of language arts, mathematics, music, art, social studies, physical education, health, and science. Field trips and classroom guests are an important part of curriculum and instruction. We recognize that young children learn best through play. It is through play that children expand their social awareness, discover the natural world, and learn communication and motor skills.

Full day Kindergarten

Full day Kindergarten is offered at Union Grove Joint School District for the following reasons;

- ◆ to provide more time to learn Union Grove's academic goals and standards
- ◆ to do more writing/journal activities
- ◆ to enjoy guided reading activities (one-to-one or small group)
- ◆ to enhance reading curriculum and centers
- ◆ to enhance math instruction and learning center activities
- ◆ to complete small group and individual projects related to curricular themes

In the full-day, music, art, computer, library science and physical education are taught by specialists.

Kindergarten Starting and Ending Times *

Full-Day 7:45 A.M. - 2:50 P.M.

*Starting and ending times may change annually, see the yearly calendar.

Transportation

All Kindergarten students are dropped off and picked up by parent/guardian/pre-arranged individuals or bused by Dousman Transport. If bused, general bus stops are scheduled at or near a child's home. Every effort is made to schedule bus stops as close to a child's home as possible. No bus service is offered within two miles from the school unless the area is deemed hazardous by the Racine County Sheriff's Department.

Parents who use day-care centers are advised to verify with the day-care provider whether bus transportation will be provided to and from those locations. Transportation will not be provided from centers that lie outside of the school district boundaries or regularly scheduled bus routes.

School bus assignments and pickup times are available in August at registration.

Day-care is also provided at the school by Bright and Beautiful. They offer a before & after day-care during the school year. Please contact them directly at 262-878-1428 for more information. Other day cares in the area are; My Little School House – 262-878-5980, and Total Learning Childcare (TLC) – 262-878-9300.

Things to Consider When Helping Your Child Prepare for School

- ◆ The first day of school is a big event! Discuss any concerns your child may have about school before the first day. Do all you can to make your child happy and comfortable about coming to school. Show your support. Be positive. Be sure to smile as your child leaves you that first day.
- ◆ Youngsters who play with other children adjust more quickly to school life. Before school approaches, provide your child opportunities to play with others by inviting other children to your home or taking your child to parks and playgrounds.
- ◆ Young children who are often read to at home are more likely to be ready for learning to read. Surround your child with books and visit the library frequently. Children benefit from having books read to them and having them discussed.

- ◆ Young children who do things for themselves at home find it easier to get along at school. They should be encouraged to wash and dress themselves, turn lights on and off, and put away toys. The more independent they are, the more readily they will adjust to being on their own in school.
- ◆ Children should have experience in respecting the property and rights of others. Encourage your child to take turns and to get permission when using the belongings of others. Children will adjust more easily to the group life of school as they are helped to become more considerate of others.
- ◆ When choosing school clothing, remember kindergarten activities can be messy. Clothing needs to be washable, comfortable, and easy for children to manage. Please label items such as backpacks, boots, jackets, snow pants, etc...
- ◆ A few weeks before school begins, make sure your child's bedtime routine is adjusted to prepare for his/her new school schedule.
- ◆ It is important your child knows his/her first and last name, address, and phone number prior to coming to school.
- ◆ Your child should also know how to write his/her first name. Only the first letter should be capitalized.
- ◆ Positive attitudes facilitate a smooth transition from home to school. By emphasizing that kindergarten is a friendly, enjoyable place, your child will look forward to coming to school.

Kindergarten Readiness Skills

If your child has accomplished these basic kindergarten readiness skills, he/she is likely to have a smooth transition from home to school. Most children have acquired these skills before kindergarten. If your child needs added work on any of these concepts, please provide an opportunity to practice them now. This will help your child feel more secure and less stressed as he/she begins his/her school career.

Some kindergarten readiness skills expected of a 5 year old:

1. Speaks clearly in complete sentences of 5-8 words.
2. Communicates ideas and personal needs.
3. Ask questions in complete sentences.

4. Is able to listen to directions.
5. Is able to use concept and labeling words; e.g. in between, next to, middle, shorter, longer, less, more, empty, full, big, smaller, etc...
6. Follows 3-step directions in order.
Example: 1. Brush your teeth
2. Wash your face
3. Comb your hair
7. Has acquired responsibility skills; e.g. puts away shoes, hangs coat (hooks help), puts away the toys.
8. Completely dresses himself/herself, including zipping, buttoning, tying shoes, snapping, and buckling.
9. Has a firm grip on pencil or crayon.
10. Can print his/her name starting with a capital letter, followed by lower case.
11. Identifies letters in their name out of order.

Kindergarten Screening Program

School districts in the State of Wisconsin are required by Wisconsin State Statutes – Chapter 115 to screen all students entering school for the first time. To comply with this law, Union Grove Joint School District conducts a kindergarten screening program in the spring of each school year. The screening program is conducted by the kindergarten teachers, school nurse, reading specialist, among other individuals. The results of the screening will be shared with you after its completion.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should be aware that the primary purpose of the screening is to identify students with special needs. This information makes it possible to develop an instructional program that is appropriate for these children. This may be in the form of support from the reading specialist, speech and language pathologists, or other pupil services. Results are not used to label children in any way.

A secondary purpose of the screening is to establish a baseline of skill development for each child. This allows the teacher to accurately monitor each student's progress throughout the course of the year. Areas that are tested in the screening program include but are not limited to:

1. General Knowledge: Does your child know his/her whole name, birth date, address, and telephone number?
2. Gross Motor Development: Can your child bounce/catch a ball, balance/walk a straight line, and hop?
3. Fine Motor: Can your child hold a pencil and a pair of scissors correctly? Can he/she write his/her own name, copy shapes, cut on a line, and tie their own shoes?
4. Concept Development: Can your child identify colors, numbers, and letters? Can he/she count objects accurately?
5. Language Development: Can your child answer and form questions, use pronouns, and position words in a sentence?

For additional information about the screening contact Union Grove Elementary School or any of the kindergarten teachers, at (262) 878-2015.

Entrance Age

In accordance with the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, the following are the entrance age/date requirements for kindergarten and for first grade:

- ◆ A child must be 5 by September 1, to enter kindergarten
- ◆ A child must be 6 by September 1, to enter first grade.

Wisconsin statutes set the entrance for Kindergarten at five years of age on or by September 1 of the year enrolled.

Home-School Communication

Education is a partnership between home and school. During the year, there is a formal conference scheduled as well as semester report cards provided. Additional parent-teacher communication is encouraged through visitation by appointment, phone calls, e-mail, and notes.

Parent volunteers are frequently needed to assist in various kindergarten class activities. We encourage you to become involved. Volunteer registration forms (Request for Criminal History Record Check) are available during the August registration and throughout the school year.

Curriculum and instruction are appropriate to the development needs of five-year old learners. Learning activities support the intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of children. A varied curriculum is needed, since children enter kindergarten with a wide range of home and preschool experiences, learning styles and developmental readiness to learn.

Running a temperature, obvious cold/flu symptoms, or contagious rashes will require your child to be kept at home. Please notify the Union Grove Elementary School office in the event of any absence from school. The school's phone number is 262-878-2015. All absences from school must be explained in writing by a parent or legal guardian in advance or at the time of the student's return to school. If you have any questions about this please refer to the attendance section in the student handbook.

Joint School District #1, Union Grove Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Union Grove, Joint District #1 that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, national origin, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

This district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available in the school district office to address allegations of violations of the policy.

Any questions concerning this policy in the Union Grove, Joint School District #1, should be directed to Mrs. Brenda Stevenson, Union Grove Elementary School, 1745 Milldrum Street, Union Grove, WI 53182, telephone (262) 878-2015.

Contact Information

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