



Lago Vista ISD Kindergarten Welcome Packet

Welcome to Kindergarten! At Lago Vista ISD, we know starting kindergarten is a big step in your child's life. We are honored to partner with our families to help our students begin a successful K-12 educational journey. This guide is intended to provide our incoming kindergarten families with helpful information so that our newest Vikings are prepared to begin a great year!

Kindergarten Enrollment

Your student must enroll before beginning kindergarten. To be eligible for kindergarten in the State of Texas, children must be 5 years old on or before September 1st.

Parents/guardians should be prepared to upload the following items to enroll their child:

- Student Birth Certificate
- Student Social Security Card (A state ID may also be used.)
- Up-to-Date Immunization Records
- Proof of Residency
- Enrolling Parent or Guardian Photo ID
- Custodial Paperwork (Required, if applicable.)

Parents enrolling a new student in the District will create an Ascender ParentPortal account and submit enrollment information to the District electronically. [Click here to access Ascender ParentPortal.](https://portals13.ascendertx.com/ParentPortal/login?distid=227912)

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Important Kindergarten Dates

- **Meet the Kindergarten Team:** August 13, 2024 4:00-4:30pm
- **First Day of School:** August 15, 2024
- **Kinder Camp:** First 2 Days of School
- **Kindergarten Classroom Placement Emails:** Friday, August 16, 2024
- **Walk Your Kindergartener to Class:** Monday, August 19, 2024
- **Kindergarten Meet the Teacher Night:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 5:00-6:00pm

Kinder Camp (First 2 Days of School)

For our kindergarteners, the first 2 days of school is called Kinder Camp. During Kinder Camp, kindergarten students will not be officially assigned to a specific teacher. Instead, kindergarteners will be initially placed in flexible groups that allow the staff to observe learning styles and social interactions. On Friday, August 16, an email will be sent home to finalize class placements. On Monday, August 19th, kindergarten parents will be invited to walk their kindergarteners to class. The campus will hold a Kindergarten Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday, August 21 for families to meet their students' teacher. This proactive approach will allow us to balance each kindergarten class to ensure the very best learning environment for every student.

What Will Kinder Camp Look Like?

During the first few 2 days of school, kindergarten students and teachers will gather in the kindergarten hallway each morning. Students will initially be placed into animal groups. Groups will be brought to a classroom where they will meet new friends, learn routines, and participate in other fine-motor activities, educational lessons, social skills, and intentional play. This will promote cooperation, problem-solving, and a sense of community with our kindergarten students. During these first 2 days, students will be observed by the teachers for different learning styles. Using teacher observations, our campus administration will collaborate with the kindergarten team to make any adjustments needed to create classroom groups that balance the academic and social strengths and needs of our kindergarten students for the school year.

What Will the First Day of School Look Like?

On the first day of school, all kindergarten students will gather in the kindergarten hallway at their assigned animal's location. Parents are welcome to walk their students to this location on the first day. Additionally, on Monday, August 19th, kindergarten parents will be invited to walk their kindergarteners to their official classroom.

Kindergarten Readiness Resources

[Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#)

[Getting Ready for Kindergarten \(Spanish\)](#)

[Kindergarten Separation Anxiety: Tips for Parents & Caregivers](#)

[Countdown to Kindergarten Skills Checklist](#)

[Kindergarten Readiness Checklist and Resources from PBS](#)

(Kindergarten Readiness Checklist downloaded from PBS LearningMedia,

[Get Ready for Kindergarten Activities from PBS](#))

Activities to Help Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten

- Read to your child each day.
- Have your child practice writing his/her name, using a capital letter only for the first letter.
- Have your child count objects around the house.
- Help your child identify and name the colors.
- Have your child look for and name letters and numbers in everyday life.
- Have your child color, cut, and glue.
- Have your child participate in physical activity outdoors and imaginative play, like dress up, kitchen, or building with blocks.
- Have your child practice buckling and unbuckling his/her seat belt for car drop off and pick up. (Remember, your child will exit and enter the door on the right, so consider moving his/her normal seat next to that door.)
- Have your child practice social skills such as sharing, taking turns, waiting, using indoor voices, asking for things they want politely, etc.
- Help your child practice following 2 step directions.
- Help your child demonstrate responsibility by cleaning up after him/herself, etc.
- Help your child practice doing things independently, such as doing all the steps of going to the bathroom, putting on shoes and coat, opening and closing lunch containers, etc.

Tips for Kindergarten Success

Start getting into the routine early. Beginning kindergarten is an important step for any family, but it is also a big change. Your child starting kindergarten will mean setting a bedtime and a wake up time, as well as putting together a regular morning routine. Starting these routines early, well in advance of the first day of school, will allow your child and your family to ease into the sometimes difficult transition to kindergarten.

Choose clothes that promote independence. Overall straps, zippers, and buttons can be tricky, so please make sure your child can manage any clothing worn to school.

Choose safe shoes that your child can put on independently. Tennis shoes are the preferred footwear at school and velcro closures are extremely helpful for this age group. Sandals and cowboy boots are cute, but they are not recommended for everyday use. Gym classes, the playground, and tiled hallways are just a few of the reasons we love sneakers. Rain boots are also a great option to have on hand.

Choose a kid-sized backpack (not a toddler-sized backpack). Please purchase a backpack for your child that is big enough to hold folders and oversized library books. Please also make sure your child can open and close it independently.

Find a reusable water bottle. Your child will need a refillable water bottle. We recommend water bottles with no-spill, closable spouts. Please be sure to label it with your child's first and last name.

Please label EVERYTHING. We recommend labeling all items with your child's first and last name. You would be surprised how many children won't claim their own sweaters, jackets, coats, water bottles, backpacks, and lunch boxes.

Look for items your child can open and close without assistance. It is very helpful if your child is independent in opening and closing their lunch containers and backpack.

Practice independent toileting, but prepare for accidents. The kindergarten expectation is that children are independent in their toileting needs. You are welcome to send an extra set of clothes/underwear in a zip-top bag labeled with your child's name in case of an accident.

Prepare for feelings of separation anxiety on the parts of both child and parent. Our kindergarten teachers are prepared to lovingly handle your child's feelings, but preparing for those big feelings is encouraged. [Learn more on Separation Anxiety.](#)

Please leave the toys at home. Unless specifically requested by the teacher for show and tell or other classroom activity, toys can be disruptive to the learning environment and cause unnecessary problems among classmates. We ask that you please keep toys, games, and trading cards at home.

Decrease nap time. If your child is still in the habit of taking naps, it's a good idea to wean him/her off naps before the first day of kindergarten.

Give it time. Please remember that it takes some children longer than others to adjust and get comfortable in a new environment. Anticipate some ups and downs during the first few weeks. If you have concerns about how the transition is going, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Kindergarten FAQs

How old must my child be to enroll in kindergarten?

In accordance with state law, students who are five years old on or before Sept. 1 are eligible for kindergarten. If a child is at least six years of age at the beginning of the current school year or has been enrolled in the first grade or completed kindergarten in a public school of another state prior to transferring to the district, they may be enrolled in first grade. (TEC 42.003(c))

What do I need to enroll my child in school?

All students entering Lago Vista ISD must upload copies of the following documents into Ascender ParentPortal:

- Student Birth Certificate
- Student Social Security Card (A state ID may also be used.)
- Up-to-Date Immunization Records
- Proof of Residency
- Enrolling Parent or Guardian Photo ID
- Custodial Paperwork (Required, if applicable.)

Do I have to live within the Lago Vista ISD boundaries for my child to attend kindergarten?

Lago Vista ISD welcomes students who reside outside our district boundaries. However, school enrollment may be limited to space availability. Enrollment priority is given to students who reside in Lago Vista ISD's boundaries. To learn how to transfer into Lago Vista ISD, [please visit our Enrollment & Registration page](#).

What are the school days and hours?

Kindergarten follows the District calendar, which is located on the [Lago Vista ISD website](#). School begins at 7:45am. Dismissal is at 3:20pm.

What will my child learn in kindergarten?

Students will learn a multitude of social and content concepts and skills. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for kindergarten identify the skills and concepts that students are expected to know and be able to do by the completion of the kindergarten year. [Click here for more information on what your child will learn in kindergarten.](#) ([Spanish](#))

When and how will I find out my child's class placement?

All kindergarten students will be placed in flexible groups on the first two days of school. Letters with official class placements will be sent home on Friday, August 16th.