

Kindergarten

A World of New Discovery

(January, 2012 Revision)

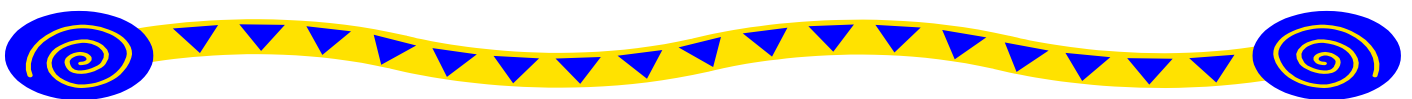


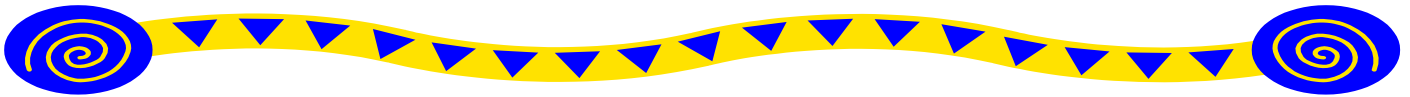
Warren Consolidated Schools
Office of Curriculum and Instruction

31300 Anita * Warren, Michigan 48093

(888) 4WCSKIDS

www.wcskids.net





Warren Consolidated Schools
BOARD OF EDUCATION

I. Susan Kattula, President

Brian White, Vice President

Elaine G. Martin, Secretary

Susan M. Jozwik, Treasurer

Loretta A. Crow, Trustee

Megan E. Papasian-Broadwell, Trustee

Clifford Terry, Trustee

Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D., Superintendent

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

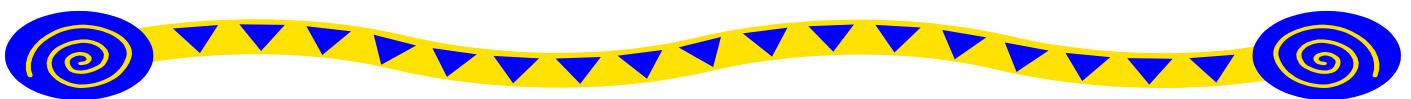
Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S., Chief Academic Officer

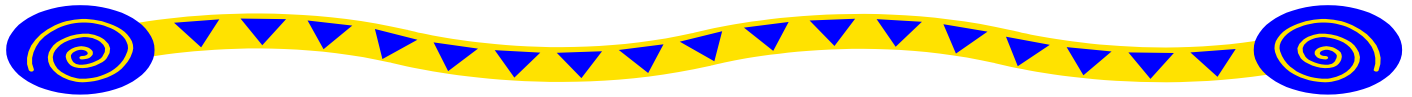
Dr. Marianne Ochalek, Executive Director of School Improvement

Dr. Robert Shaner, Executive Director of Instruction and Technology



In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, age, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Human Resource Officer, 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.





Dear Parents:

As your child's preschool years are coming to an end, your thoughts are probably turning toward Kindergarten. But is your child ready to move on to the "big" school? What skills do Kindergarten teachers expect their new students to have? To help answer those questions (and ease your mind), we've asked highly regarded Kindergarten teachers from around our district to share their insights on helping your child gain the right mix of Kindergarten-readiness skills.

The skill sets they are looking for might surprise you. Because of the national focus on improving education and meeting standards, you might think that it's most important for children to enter Kindergarten knowing their ABCs, numbers, shapes, and colors so they can keep up with the curriculum. While teachers would love children to come in with letter and number recognition, they don't want you to drill your kids on academic skills. There are equally — if not more — important readiness skills that set the stage for your child's learning. Raising an eager learner is the goal, and it can be achieved easily through play and day-to-day activities.

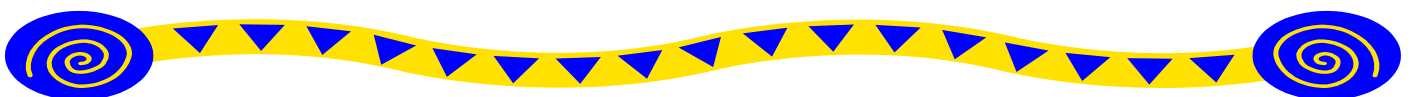
To help your child have a successful Kindergarten experience, we suggest you work on the following readiness skills with your future Kindergartener: Enthusiasm Toward Learning, Solid Oral-Language Skills, The Ability to Listen, The Desire to Be Independent, The Ability to Play Well with Others, Strong Fine-Motor Skills, and Basic Letter/Number Recognition. These skills are explained in detail on the following pages. Your child is unique, and we want to ensure that this most important first step lays the foundation for a very successful school experience. These readiness skills will help your child succeed in Kindergarten as well as pave the way for an outstanding educational career.

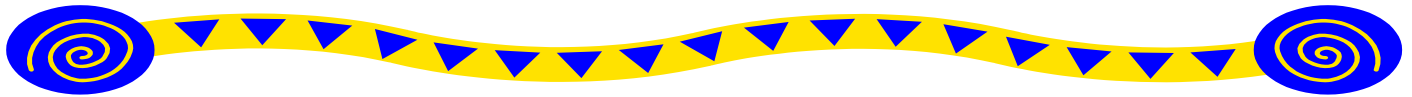
The entire Warren Consolidated community is pleased to welcome your child to Kindergarten. The communication between home and school is a key ingredient for your child's future success in school. We, therefore, cordially invite you to visit any of our schools, observe our quality Kindergarten programs, and confer with teachers and administrators.

We hope this booklet helps you prepare your child for not only an exciting first day in Kindergarten, but a rewarding educational career in Warren Consolidated Schools.

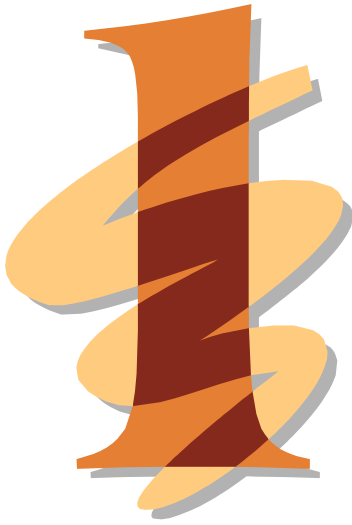
Sincerely,

Brian Walmsley, Ed.S.
Chief Academic Officer





SEVEN READINESS SKILLS



Enthusiasm Toward Learning

Does your child approach learning enthusiastically? Is he/she eager to explore and discover? Does he/she ask questions, take initiative, and persist when tasks are difficult?

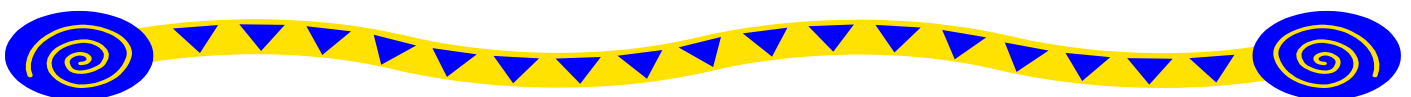
Parents can set aside a little time each day to investigate the world with their preschooler and answer those endless questions. As you drive or walk along in the park, point out your child's surroundings — the different trees or the various birds at the feeder. Demonstrate how things work. You'll help your child develop beginning science skills — the ability to form a hypothesis, test it out, and come up with new questions and theories. The more kids notice, the more curious they'll become. Kindergarten builds on that curiosity.

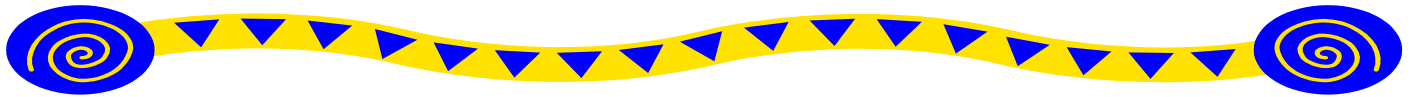
Solid Oral-Language Skills

Children need wide background knowledge about their world and the words to go with it. You can help build language skills by taking your child to many new places and giving him/her words and descriptions for what they are seeing. At the zoo, explain, "There's a tiger. See how he has stripes and looks different from the lion?" These experiences have a huge impact on literacy. If you're reading a book about zoo animals and it says 'Look at the tiger,' and you can't tell the difference between a lion and a tiger, then you won't have the background knowledge to help you tackle the word. When children come to words that they don't know, they won't be able to make a good guess because it isn't in their vocabulary.



Research shows that one of the best predictors of later reading success is a well-developed oral vocabulary in Kindergarten. Pre-Kindergarten students are learning vocabulary at the rate of five to six words a day. It's just amazing how they will retain words if you use them several times in context and conversation.





The Ability to Listen

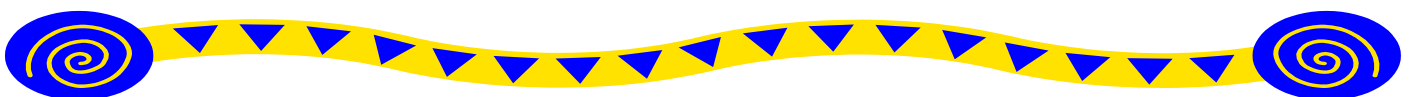
Children's literature is a rich resource for expanding language. As educators, we expect parents to be reading to kids every day. Fostering vocabulary and comprehension, reading develops the attention skills necessary in a Kindergarten classroom. Listening is a key part of school behavior. Students must be able to concentrate on what the teacher is saying, listen carefully for directions, and tune in to the sounds in letters and words.

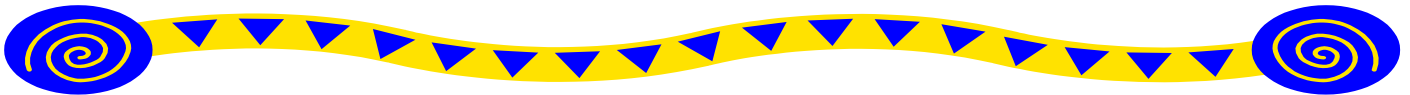
The more animated you are as you read, the better you'll focus your child's attention on what they are hearing. Use different voices for the characters. Promote critical thinking by asking questions like, "Why do you think that happened?" and "How would you feel if that happened to you?" and "What do you think will happen next?" Engage your child by inviting them to clap or stomp when they hear a rhyming word, and letting them finish sentences in familiar stories. Books with rhyme and repetitive refrains (like those by Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss) help kids predict what's coming and detect consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words, which fosters phonemic awareness—the ability to hear and break down the subtle sounds in words. Your child won't be able to read the word "cat" until they understand that it actually has three sounds: "cuh," "ah," and "tuh." Singing fosters pre-reading skills too. Take turns substituting new sounds in nursery rhymes and songs.

The Desire to Be Independent

Encouraging self-help skills is an important step to preparing your child for Kindergarten. Many kids come to Kindergarten not knowing how to hang up a jacket. It might be quicker for you to do it, but independence is critical for helping your child adjust to school. Some children are so dependent on their parents that they expect the teacher to do these things for them. Teachers expect children to:

- Get coats on and off and hang them up
- Follow simple two-step instructions such as "take off your boots and put on your sneakers"
- Go to the bathroom and wash their hands
- Blow their nose and cover their mouth when they cough
- Fasten and unfasten simple buttons and snaps
- Eat neatly and pour into a cup
- Open up a juice box and get the straw in.





The Ability to Play Well with Others

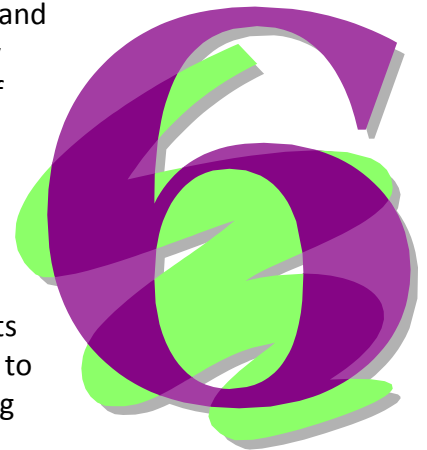
Your child will need your assistance refining essential social skills such as sharing, compromising, turn-taking, and problem-solving. Children are naturally egocentric at this age, and we don't expect them to be able to share everything. But by the time they reach Kindergarten, they should be able to express their feelings in words and begin to understand that two people can use the same thing at the same time.

If you and your child are building with blocks and he reaches for one you're using, you first encourage your child to ask, "May I have the block?" Then model sharing by saying something like, "I'm glad to share my block with you." When you notice your child sharing with others, celebrate it by saying, "I'm so proud of you. It's really hard to share your favorite doll, but you were able to do it. Good for you!"

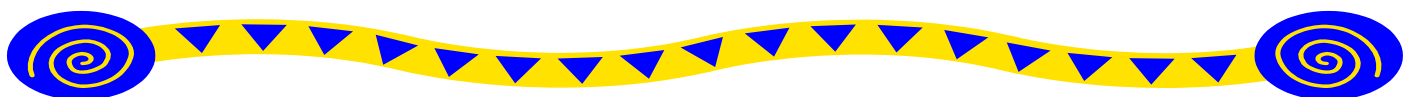
On play dates and park outings, stay within earshot so you can help kids problem-solve when conflict occurs. If your child gets in a power struggle over a toy and can't seem to work it out, step in and say, "It looks like we're having a problem here. What can we do about it?" Encourage them to come up with possible solutions, offering your own suggestions, if necessary. Help kids understand the feelings of others. Students need to know when a friend is sad by looking at their face and seeing that their mouth is frowning or eyes are crying. This nurtures compassion and empathy.

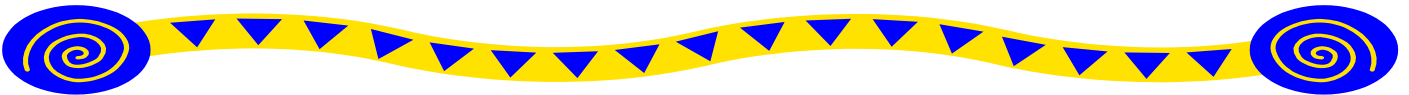
Strong Fine-Motor Skills

Your child's hands must be strong enough to master coloring, cutting, pasting, and holding a pencil — fine-motor tasks that kids use every day in Kindergarten. By week one, Kindergarten students are already writing a letter of the alphabet. If kids can't hold the pencil correctly, they will fall behind. To hold the pencil the right way, kids need to develop the small muscles in their palms and fingers. One suggestion is to give your child a pipe cleaner and some Cheerios (or similar, colorful cereal) to make bracelets. It requires them to pinch with their fingers, the same motion needed for grasping a pencil. Or ask your preschooler to mist your houseplants with a spray bottle, an activity that boosts both writing and scissor skills. Scribbling in clay with fingers is a fun alternative to doing it on paper and especially helpful for children who are resistant to writing and drawing. A child can practice cutting the clay into small strips too.



Offer writing utensils in a variety of sizes and shapes. Some people think that fat pencils are easier to hold, but that's not always true. For a child with weak hands, a smaller, shorter pencil might be easier to manage.



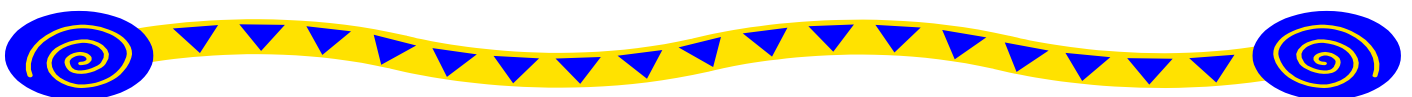


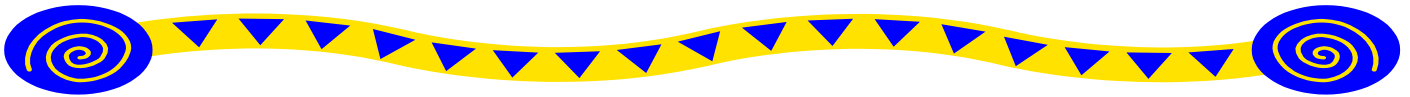
Basic Letter and Number Recognition

Kindergarten teachers believe that it is their responsibility to teach kids letter sounds and how to write, but they do hope incoming students can recognize most letters by sight. They also hope children can count to 10, identify numbers 1 to 5, and know some shapes and colors.

Teachers don't want you to quiz your child or use workbooks, flashcards, or phonics kits. So much learning can happen without quizzing or sitting down with a pencil. The lessons unfold naturally as you and your child sort Legos by color or shape. Your daughter practices counting as she doles out pretend cookies for the dolls in her tea party. Your son builds letter recognition while scrambling alphabet magnets on the fridge.


Every outing is a spontaneous opportunity to learn. Play guessing games like, "I spy with my little eye something with the number 3." Teach by "immersion" and "show kids how letters are all around us. "Say, 'Hey, that spells Target. Let's spell it together. T-A-R-G-E-T.'" Point out objects that contain the letters in your child's name. Most important, always keep the focus on fun. Relax, and enjoy your child. Read, play, and go places. And talk the whole time you're doing it!







REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS


In order to begin Kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before December 1 of the year he/she is entering school. When you come to school to register your child, please bring the following:

-
-  You child's **ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE**. If you do not have a birth certificate, you may obtain proof from one of the following agencies:
- For a child born in Michigan, contact the Michigan State Health Department of Vital Statistics, 3500 North Logan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48914
 - The web site is: www.mi.gov The link is: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-4645---,00.html>
 - For a child born in Macomb County, contact the Office of the County Clerk, Macomb County Court Building, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043
 - For a child born in Oakland County, contact the Office of the County Clerk, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48053
 - For a child not born in Michigan, call your County Clerk's Office for information on how to obtain a birth certificate.
-

-  **CUSTODY PAPERS** (if applicable).
-

-  Completed **HEALTH APPRAISAL RECORD**, including an up-to-date **Immunization Record**. (Parent fills out top & left side). Does not need to be completed by your Doctor. Make sure to list any medical issues. Immunizations are available at the Macomb County Health Department, Southwest Health Center, 27690 Van Dyke, Suite B,(North of 11 Mile), Warren MI 48093 Phone: 586-465-8537
-

-  A certificate of **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**. Vision and Hearing must be tested by 1st day of school. The form must be turned in stating that the student has passed or failed each portion of the testing. Vision and Hearing screening examinations are provided by the Macomb County Health Department by contacting (586) 412-5945.
-


-  **RESIDENT INFORMATION FORM**. Please bring your Current Driver's License, we will make a copy of your Drivers License at registration.
-

TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCY

1. Current Monthly Mortgage Statement, Property Tax Statement with name and address, **OR** Apartment/Home Rental Lease Agreement **OR** Notarized Statement of Residency from Taxpayer (and taxpayer's proof of residency).

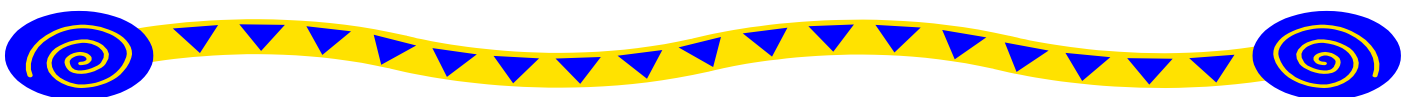
AND

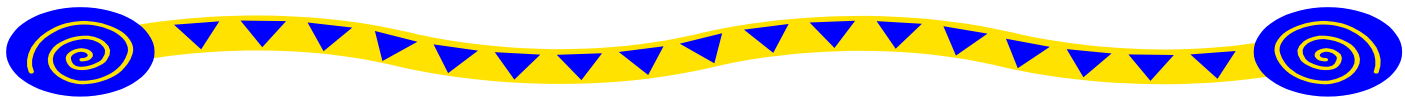
2. One current Utility Bill with name and address **OR** current Charge Statement with name and address **OR** Current bill (physician, dentist, insurance etc.) with name and address. It can not say Resident or Occupant. (Water bills are not acceptable).
 3. If you are **not** the homeowner or signer of the lease you need:
A notarized statement of residency from the taxpayer stating that you and your child/children reside in their home and the taxpayer's proof of residency as stated above. Also you must provide a current bill, or charge statement, or insurance statement with your name and address as stated for your current residence.
-

-  **WARREN CONSOLIDATED STUDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION** form with the front and top half of page 2 completed and signed. If your child was receiving Special Education Services, such as Speech, etc., please bring a copy of the latest IEP Report.
-

-  **KINDERGARTEN QUESTIONNAIRE**
-

Registration questions can be answered at Kindergarten Orientation, Kindergarten Registration, or by calling Warren Consolidated Schools' Office of Student Affairs at (586) 698-4478.





KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS

Warren Consolidated Schools provides several options to meet your child's educational and child care needs. Choose the program that best meets your child's needs.



½ Day Kindergarten

Traditional Kindergarten is a half-day program. This program is open to all students who will be five years old on or before December 1 of the year they will begin school. Literacy skills are the primary focus, and basic math concepts are developed. The use of technology is introduced. It has a comprehensive, integrated curriculum that includes art, music and physical education experiences.

All Day Kindergarten

All-day Kindergarten is a full day program. Students experience a full day of school, including eating lunch at school. This program offers students additional time to acquire academic and social skills. This program is open to all students who will be five years old on or before December 1 of the year they will begin school. Similar to Traditional Kindergarten program, literacy skills are the primary focus. Basic math concepts are developed. The use of technology is introduced. It has a comprehensive, integrated curriculum that includes art, media, music, physical education and spanish experiences.



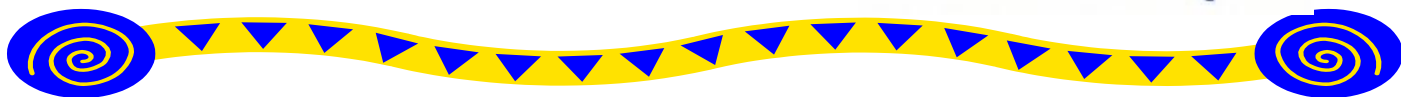
Latchkey Program

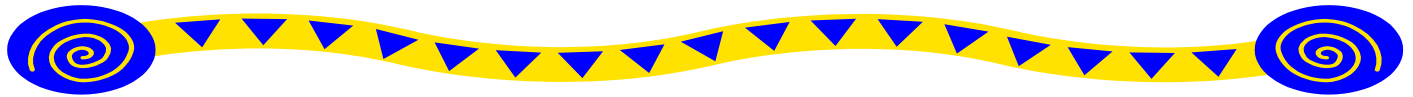
The Latchkey program is available for WCS registered students in grades K-5. Parents are required to complete the on-line registration process before services may begin. Please refer to our website: www.wcskids.net for more information.

Before-school Latchkey is designed for families who need childcare before school starts each morning and is available at all elementary locations until the start of school. After-school PM Latchkey is designed for families who need childcare from the time school ends until 6:00pm. PM Latchkey is only available at the six elementary locations as listed below. If your child attends an elementary school other than the schools listed, and will be participating in the PM Latchkey program, your child would be transported at the end of the school day to one of six designated PM Latchkey sites.

PM LATCHKEY SITES

- Angus Elementary School
- Fillmore Elementary School
- Green Acres Elementary School
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Siersma Elementary School
- Wilkerson Elementary School





TRANSPORTATION

Students living one (1) or more miles from the school are eligible for transportation. Students can be expected to walk up to one mile to a bus stop.



STOP TIME: Students must be visible at the stop five minutes before the scheduled stop time. If the bus does not arrive within twenty minutes after the scheduled stop time, students should return home and attempt to provide their own transportation to school. Once at school, take home will be by bus.

HALF-DAY POLICY: On days when school is scheduled for early dismissal, such as in-service days, parent-teacher conference days, etc., students will ride home on the regular P.M. take home bus. A.M. Kindergarten children will also ride home on the P.M. bus and will be assigned to the stop closest to their home. The school office will help Kindergarten parents determine the correct bus number and stop.

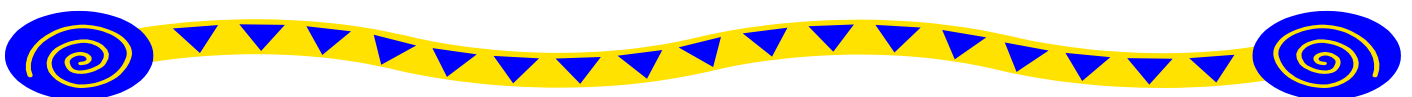
NUTRITION SERVICES

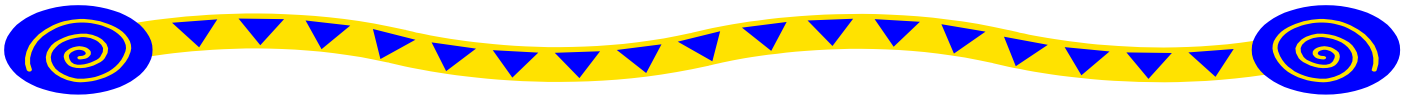
The mission of Nutrition Services is to offer a variety of quality, healthy food choices with excellent service in a friendly environment. A nourished student is a learning student. The department of Nutrition Services takes pride in "feeding" the minds of the future.

Each day, students have the opportunity to participate in federal breakfast and lunch programs that provided students with a balanced and nutritious meal that meets all federal nutrition guidelines. Please go to the Warren Consolidated Schools Nutrition Services website: www.wcs.k12.mi.us/foodservices for information such as menus and prices for the breakfast and lunch programs.

SendMoneyToSchool.com allows parents to gain access to the activity of their child's Nutrition Services account. There is no minimum requirement to make deposits online and the fees have been eliminated!! This service is now FREE to all parents. **Deposits can be made at school with CASH ONLY. Checks will no longer be accepted.** Prepaying for meals is convenient for you as a parent, for your child, and for the cashiers during meal service. Monies are drawn from the account ONLY when your child eats; and if your child moves to another WCS school, the funds follow them.

Warren Consolidated Schools also offers both breakfast and lunch at a reduced price or free for low income household families. If your child is enrolled at a school, you can apply on line at www.lunchapp.com and you will receive a response within a week.

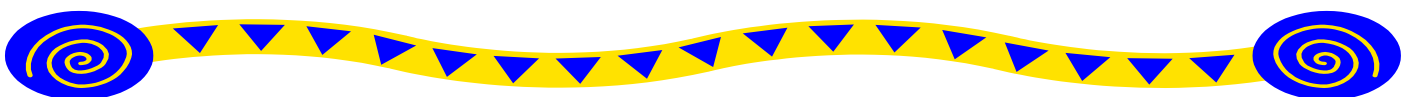
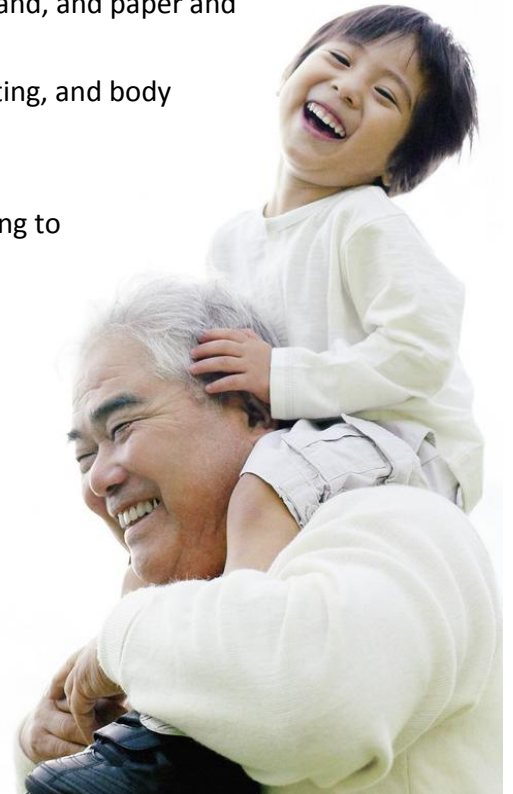


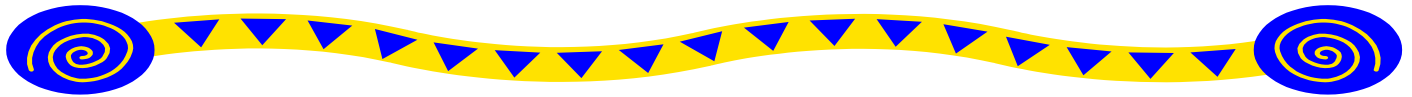


READY FOR SCHOOL?

The following points should be considered as your child prepares to begin his/her school experience. A child should:

- Be able to be away from parents for short periods without getting panicky. If not, now is the time to let the child spend the night at grandmother/father's or the afternoon with a friend.
- Assume some responsibility for self and for a few chores around the house. Don't forget that a Kindergarten teacher may be responsible for 24 children during a full day. That's 24 top buttons to button and 48 mittens to put on.
- Show an interest in and play with other children cooperatively.
- Knows the rules of street safety.
- Knows their first and last name and be willing to give it when asked.
- Be able to dress and care for themselves.
- Be able to follow simple directions.
- Be able to enter into activities and enjoy them.
- Show a desire to experiment with materials such as paints, clay, sand, and paper and to make things from these materials.
- Participate willingly in new experiences (e.g., scissor cutting, painting, and body movements) and exhibit perseverance with new tasks.
- Shows pride in efforts well done.
- Be able to express thoughts fairly well. Parents can help by working to improve their child's vocabulary.
- Be attentive when listening to a story.
- Respond with appropriate comments after a story or during general discussion.





GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

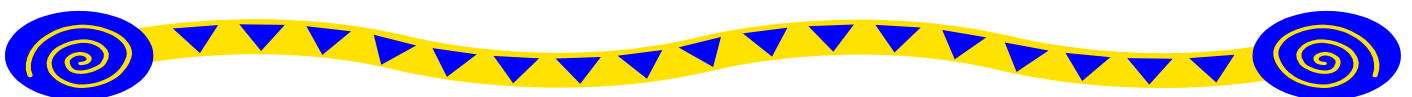
It takes more than new clothes to get a child ready for school. Your child will do better in school if he/she is physically, socially, and emotionally ready for school. It is a big event in your life and in your child's life. The habits developed since birth is part of getting off to a good start. The way your child gets along with other children is part of it. So is a sense of well being. But even at best, some children may be a little fearful if it is the first break with home. They may feel lonely at first. You can make it easier by talking positivity about the school experience and letting them know that you look forward to hearing about their day when they return home.

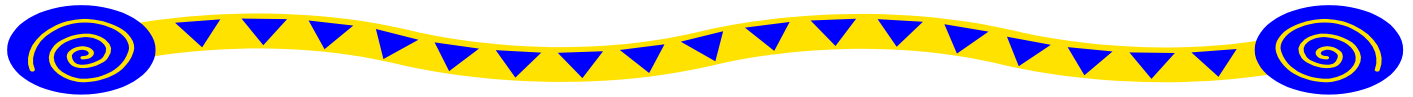
Tell you child what to expect. Your child needs to know about the teacher, the nurse, the principal, and others who want to help. Talk to your child about being a friend and the kind of things your child will do in the classroom.

Show an interest in what your child does. Learning is fun. The things your child does at school and the drawings and paper brought home are important. Your child wants you to show an interest in them, too.

Get acquainted with your child's teacher.

To strengthen the link between home and school, visit the school as often as you can. The teacher/principal, nurse and other members of the schools staff take a personal interest in your child's physical, mental and emotional growth. If you are worried about your child's progress in school, talk it over with the teacher, teamwork makes for happy learning and happy living.





THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL

WHO YOU WILL MEET AT SCHOOL

Principal

The principal works with teachers, parents, and community members to provide the best program for each individual child. The principal is interested in how the school can best serve the needs of the community and will help you access the services the school offers.

Kindergarten Teacher

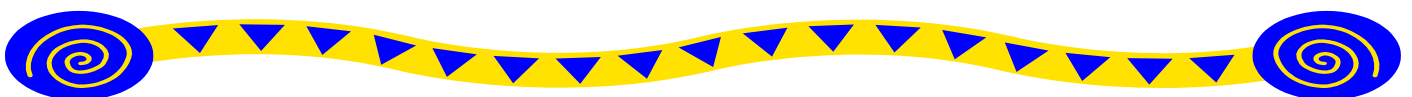
Your Child will feel happier about school realizing that you and their teacher know each other and are friends. Share with the teacher any information about your child that is important to their success in school. The teacher will welcome your interest in school.

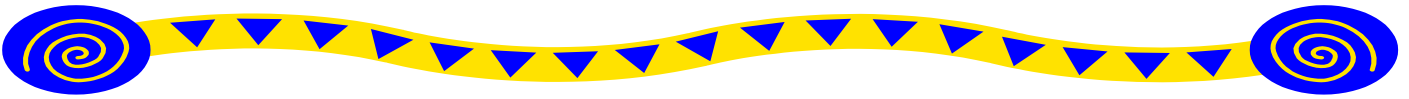
School Nurse

The nurse is concerned with the health of each child in school. The nurse works with principals and teachers to provide a safe and healthy school environment. If your child has health problems of which we should be aware or health concerns you wish to discuss, the school nurse will be glad to talk to you.

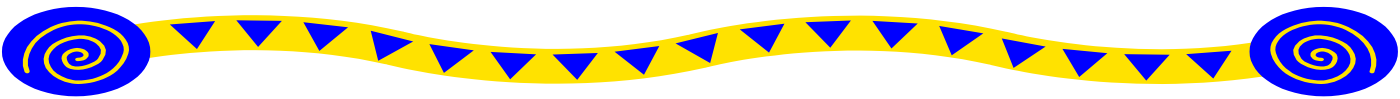
School Secretary and Pupil Accounting Clerk

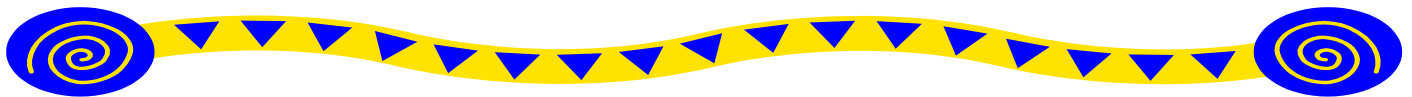
Your first contact with the school is often through the school secretary or pupil accounting clerk. In the main office or over the telephone, the office staff has most of the answers and will be happy to assist you in any way possible.





A series of 20 horizontal black lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a writing area.





WARREN CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Angus Elementary School

3180 Hein
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2780
Lisa Fisk, Principal



Jefferson Elementary School

37555 Carol
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2680
Jennifer Davis, Principal



Black Elementary School

14100 Heritage Road
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312
(586) 825-2840
Mary Caruso, Principal



Lean Elementary School

2825 Girard
Warren, MI 48092
(586) 574-3230
Mark Corless, Principal



Cromie Elementary School

29797 Gilbert Drive
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 574-3160
Ellen Kozich, Principal



Siersma Elementary School

3100 Donna
Warren, MI 48091
(586) 574-3174
Vera Ivezaj, Principal



Fillmore Elementary School

8655 Irving
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
(586) 825-2860
Heather Shubnell, Principal



Susick Elementary School

2200 Castleton
Troy, MI 48083
(586) 825-2665
Pat Cavanaugh, Principal



Green Acres Elementary School

4655 Holmes
Warren, MI 48092
(586) 825-2890
Stacey Byle, Principal



Wilde Elementary School

32343 Bunert
Warren, MI 48088
(586) 294-8490
Matthew Guinn, Principal



Harwood Elementary School

4900 Southlawn
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2650
Kerry Keener, Principal



Wilkerson Elementary School

12100 Masonic
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 825-2550
Keith Karpinski, Principal



Hatherly Elementary School

35201 Davison
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2880
Joseph Konal, Principal



Willow Woods Elementary School

11001 Daniel Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
(586) 825-2850
Melissa Hardy, Principal



Holden Elementary School

37565 Calka Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 825-2670
Cheryl Priemer, Principal

