

Kindergarten Orientation
Joseph F. Brandt Elementary School
September 4, 2019

Hoboken Public Schools
Charles Bartlett
Principal



Where Students Come First

The Kindergarten Program at Joseph F. Brandt Elementary School

We have 8 Kindergarten classes. Each is limited to 21 students per section.

There are teacher assistants in each of our Kindergarten classes who also travel with students to all related arts classes and remain with children during lunch time. They also assist in walking children to the restroom.

Kindergarten lunch takes place at 11:15 AM and occurs in the classroom, family-style.

Kindergarten Program Philosophy

The philosophy of our Kindergarten program is to build a positive classroom community which supports social/emotional development while simultaneously facilitating cognitive growth. We are laser-like focused on establishing powerful learning environments which include the opportunity to learn through play. Lastly, but most crucial is the development of family partnerships to facilitate powerful connections both at school and home.

Times, Arrival, Dismissal

- The instructional school day begins at 8:15 AM.
- The instructional school day ends at 3:00 PM.
- Doors open for Kindergarten arrival at 8:00 AM. The children are dropped off at the main entrance on 9th St. They proceed into the gymnasium to line-up spots and are supervised by appropriate staff members. First grade uses the gymnasium for arrival as well.
- Students arriving after classes have proceeded upstairs may join “late trains” at 8:18 AM and 8:22 AM. After “late trains” proceed upstairs, parents must have children get a late pass from the security desk. An appropriate staff member will then escort the child upstairs as soon as possible.
- Doors will open for dismissal no earlier than 2:55 PM once all Kindergarten and First Grade classes are gathered in the gymnasium.
- Parents or caregivers must sign a child out of the dismissal line by way of the teacher’s clipboard & checklist.
- Your anticipated patience and cooperation as we learn and streamline routines is appreciated.

Comprehensive Program for All Kindergarten Scholars

- Two daily periods of Mathematics
- Two daily periods of English Language Arts
- One daily period of Science + STEM Infused Experiences (Project Lead the Way)
- One daily period of Social Studies
- Technology is incorporated into lessons as appropriate
- One daily period of Individual Learning Pathways
- One weekly period of Art
- One weekly period of Music
- One weekly period of World Language
- Two weekly periods of Physical Education
- Daily 20-minute sessions of structured recess → free play
- Additional physical and gross-motor activity throughout the course of the school day,

Gross Motor Skill Acquisition

It is very important for children at this age to be physically active and further develop their gross motor skills.

Children in Kindergarten have access to the playground equipment located on Rooftop Playground. The gymnasium will be utilized during inclement weather.

The children go outside daily, unless there is precipitation, extreme cold or extreme heat. Please dress your child appropriately. Students must wear sneakers on days when Phys Ed is scheduled.

In the event the children do not get the opportunity to go outside the paraprofessionals have specialized activities for the children, indoors.

We have also incorporated periods of Organized Play during the course of the week.

Is there before school care and an after school program available?

We open our school doors at 7:30 AM for breakfast. Certified school personnel are assigned to the cafeteria to assist and monitor students.

The **Passport To Learning After School Program** is available to all K-5 students. There is a minimal fee per semester associated with registration, based on a sliding financial scale. This is a comprehensive program that includes enrichment, academic support, structured play and optional dinner from dismissal until 6:00 PM on all full school days. Please see the flyer and our website for more information. Additionally, staff is on hand to provide more information.

If the Passport to Learning After School Program does not interest you, there are a number of other after school providers that you can research in Hoboken such as the Jubilee Center, Boys & Girls' Club, Step By Step, Mr. Roberts, and Prime Time.

Lunch and Recess

Breakfast and lunch are offered daily vary and are provided by our partner vendor, **Pomptonian**. All families will receive an application for the lunch program. It is extremely important to complete the application for each child in your home every year. The fee charged by Pomptonian for lunch is based on a sliding income scale. You are certainly welcome to send your child to school with lunch from home while being cognizant of common food allergies. Please be sure to visit our district website for more information. Click on “District Resources” and then “Food Services.” <http://www.hoboken.k12.nj.us/>

Students will have recess time immediately after they finish their lunch. Recess at Brandt happens on our rooftop playground. In the event of inclement weather, recess will happen in the gymnasium.

Certified Staff will be on hand to engage in gross motor play, jungle gym, or the many other resources that the students will have access to at this time.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday parties will take place during last period of the school day to reduce the impact on instructional time. Outside food is not allowed for birthday celebrations as we must be aware and respectful of the many allergies that affect our students and staff. Some suggestions might include, but not be limited to, reading a book, creating a class craft or engaging in a mindfulness activity (i.e., yoga and meditation).

Parent Information Corner

Information is shared with parents at Back to School Night, scheduled for September 24 from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM and Parent/Teacher Conferences slated for October 23.

At any time, parents may ask a teacher for information regarding their child's performance in the classroom. Meetings with teachers may be scheduled before school, after school, or during preparation periods, pending teacher availability.

As part of our effort to promote the home-school connection, homework and projects are intended to be a family activity.

Please be sure to connect to your classroom's Class Dojo account as soon as possible. More info will follow from your child's teacher in the coming days.

Stay in touch with us

Website: www.hoboken.k12.nj.us please see the "community relations" tab on the main page for more ways to communicate with us and stay up to date with information.

Mobile app: You can find us by searching **Hoboken School District** in the Apple Store or in the Google Play Store from any of your Apple or Android Devices. You'll be able to subscribe to push notifications for news and events from across the district, access resources such as our staff directory and district calendar, find links to our social media pages, and more.

Genesis: Please make sure all of your contact information is up to date in our Genesis system to receive all emergency info and weekly updates. A Genesis form will be sent home by your homeroom in order to review and update all contact information.

The Herald: The district's weekly newsletter is available on the website and contains a note from the Superintendent and Principals as well as specific articles from across the grade levels and schools.

Digital Backpack: Our Digital Backpack is a monthly listing of upcoming events, school calendars, and more. Be sure to check it often to stay up to date on all that is happening in our district!

Stay in touch with us via social media

Twitter: Please follow us on twitter @hobokenschools to view pictures and see live school updates.

Facebook: Visit us at www.facebook.com/hobokenpublicschools to see updates and stories from around the district. Be sure to visit and like our district page.

Word Press: This is an interactive blog that allows us to capture important and relevant district news and events, and share them on an ongoing basis. Follow our blog to stay up to date on all the latest news from our district!
www.hobokenschooldistrict.wordpress.com

Parental Involvement Activities

Parents can assist with all school functions, be a class parent and also serve in our vibrant Parent Teacher Organizations.

Parents can join the Parent Teacher Organizations on today as we have our President joining us.

We are always looking grow our membership!

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