

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Welcome, Class of 2039, to Jordan
Public Schools and Jordan Elementary!



JORDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JORDAN | MINNESOTA

KICK START TO KINDERGARTEN

WHAT IS KICK START?



- Support children transition into Kindergarten (may be child's first school experience)
- Build relationships with peers and staff
- Preview Kindergarten skills and work on becoming independent learners
- Acclimate to classroom and school routines
- Become familiar with building spaces

WHAT IS KICK START?



- Experience a typical full day in Kindergarten: learn routines, have breakfast & recess/lunch, specialists, participate in various activities, & practice arrival and dismissal procedures
- Introduce students to school setting
- Student placement process into K classrooms for school year (similar to grades 1-4)

Have FUN!

Kickstart 2026-2027 “Refresh”

Kick Start 2023 & Before

- Shifted from summer “Launching into Kindergarten” to Kick Start format in 2018-19
- Staggered start days for each bldg. w/ Kick Start, Jump Start, Freshman Focus
- BtoS Conferences same days as Kick Start (19-20; in 23-24 separated events)
- Shift K-12 BtoS Conferences/ Open House to one date (24-25)
- Notified families of K teacher assignments prior to start of BtoS Conferences (grades 1-4 in mid Aug., K day before)

“Refreshed” Kick Start 2026

- Kick Start is back after 2 yrs off (construction project)
- Kick Start same as first days of school for PK-12
- Shift from BtoS Conferences to Open House-more time spread out over course of day (10am-6pm)
- School pics during school day vs. BtoS Conf. (pressure off of families for first school exp.)
- Families notified of K teacher assignments at K Open House (grades 1-4 same for 27-28?)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my Kindergartener find their way to Kick Start from the bus, drop-off or breakfast during the first days of school?

K students will be greeted by administration, behavior team members, paraprofessionals and other JES staff for Kick Start. K students exiting cars in drop-off loops or buses will be welcomed to school in the Maroon Gym, and then transition to breakfast and K classrooms after grades 1-4 are settled in for the first day.

Students will practice a regular dismissal, with support from classroom teachers and other staff who will walk K students to the pickup loop to enter vehicles, meet families to walk/bike home, or ride their appropriate bus home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is Kindergarten different than Preschool?

The goals and purpose of each program is unique. PreK focuses on learning through play, discovery and exploration to support students' learning and social-awareness. Instruction is focused on beginning exposure to academic skills and concepts. Student/staff ratios are 1:10, with a "push-in" model for student support.

In Kindergarten, learning is more structured with academic rigor and proficiency levels increasing compared to PreK, as well as more explicit instruction in social-emotional learning. Students continue to grow in independence, responsible decision making, and self-awareness skills with adult guidance and support. Student/staff ratios are 1:23 with a "pull-out" model for student support.

TYPICAL KINDERGARTEN DAY



- Core Instruction: Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies (Technology Integration)
- JWIN (Just What I Need)- Academic Support
- KWIN (Kindergarten What I Need)- Social & Emotional Learning Support
- Project-based learning
- Play time
- Recess/Lunch
- Specials-KWIN, Art, Music, Phy. Ed. and Media/Tech
- SMART Room
- Mindfulness
- Jordan PRIDE, RAC (Recognize, Acknowledge, Connect)/PBIS



QUESTIONS?