

KINDERGARTEN

Background

Good Spirit School Division believes in building strong foundations for bright futures. The Division is committed to providing high quality early learning environments for Kindergarten students to support readiness for learning.

Procedures

1. Children who turn five by December 31 will be admitted to kindergarten for that school year. Attendance in kindergarten is highly encouraged, but not compulsory.
2. The Division provides kindergarten classes that are all-day in duration, and every second day in frequency for the entire school year.
 - 2.1. Kindergarten will begin on the first or second student day as outlined by the Division's calendar.
 - 2.2. Kindergarten teachers may implement staggered starts during the first week of school with smaller groups of children provided all students are attending all Kindergarten days by the second week of school.
 - 2.3. Kindergarten programming must provide a minimum of 475 instructional hours (86 days based on 5.5 hours/day) over the course of the school year, in accordance with provincial guidelines.
 - 2.4. The last day of Kindergarten will be the last or second last student day as outlined by the Division's calendar.
3. Evaluation of student progress will focus on the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of each child, and in accordance with the Division's *Guidelines for the Use of Learning Stories in Kindergarten*. Early Years Evaluation (EYE) results will be discussed during the first student-led conference window and Learning stories will be shared in term one and term two along with the student progress report.
 - 3.1. Learning Stories are a collection of work from each term that align with Kindergarten learning goals as well as EYE assessments. It is important in all GSSD reporting to provide evidence of the child's progress.
4. Kindergarten Orientation
 - 4.1. A Kindergarten Orientation will be held at each school in May or June, and dates will be publicized by each school. The following are options for conducting orientations:
 - 4.1.1. A full-time or half-time Kindergarten teacher may cancel one

scheduled Kindergarten day in order to host a Kindergarten Orientation in their classroom. If a Kindergarten day is cancelled for this purpose, it must be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year.

- 4.1.2. Schools with only one Kindergarten class should hold their orientation on a non-Kindergarten day and may access a half-day sub to cover the Kindergarten teacher's other assignment.
- 4.1.3. Schools may choose to hold their Kindergarten Orientation in the evening.
- 4.2. Kindergarten Orientation provides an opportunity for children and families to build relationships with school staff and to create a sense of belonging and a smooth transition into the school community. Orientation events will provide an opportunity for schools to:
 - 4.2.1. Share information with families.
 - 4.2.2. Help children and families become familiar with the school environment.
 - 4.2.3. Introduce Kindergarten teachers, support staff and administrators.
 - 4.2.4. Engage families in conversation, answer questions, and build connections.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 109, 163, 168, 175, Education Act, 1995 Registrar's Handbook for School Administrators

Updated: August 2017, September 2025