



FLORIDA RUFFIN RIDLEY SCHOOL
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Work Hard, Be Kind, Help Others

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Hello Kindergarten Families and Friends,

This is certainly an exceptional start to you and your child(ren)'s journey with us at the Florida Ruffin Ridley School. Not only does this year's kindergarten class have the honor of being the first class to join our school under our new name, but they also will join us in the midst of a pandemic as we together forge our path forward. We are committed to working alongside each of you in supporting your child(ren) through this year. There is no doubt that we will continue to face many challenges as the year progresses, and it will only be by working together as a team that we will be able to meet each of those challenges and move through them successfully.

Below and attached to this email are some important pieces of information to help you and your child(ren) get prepared for the start of school next week. Please take the time to carefully read this letter and the attached health and safety guidelines.

Class Placement and First Days

Later today you will be receiving notification of your class placement. Attached to the email you will find a welcome letter from your child(ren)'s classroom teacher. Shortly after you receive the placement letter your child(ren)'s teacher will reach out to share more information about opportunities to connect before school begins and which day your child will begin school.

Each year we welcome our youngest learners to the building in smaller groups to help with the transition and learning of new routines. This year it is more important than ever to have these smaller cohorts with us on the first two days of school so we can be sure students understand and are comfortable with all the additional safety protocols and procedures. Half of our kindergarten students will begin on Wednesday, September 16th and the other half will have their start on Thursday, September 17th (as outlined in the Public Schools of Brookline Calendar). On each day students will be dismissed at 12:00noon. **There is no lunch on the first two days.**

All kindergarten students will have a full day on Friday, September 11th from 8:00am - 1:40pm. (Every Friday we have an early dismissal at 1:40p, Mondays - Thursdays school ends at 2:30p) In the follow up email from your child(ren)'s classroom teacher tomorrow you will receive information about which day your child(ren) will start.

It is quite possible that your child(ren) will experience some strong feelings on the first few days of school. They may have a hard time separating from their adult dropping them off to school. We encourage you to read and review the attached social story a few times prior to arriving at school on Wednesday or Thursday. You may also want to create a fun ritual or routine that will signal to your child(ren) that it is time to say goodbye. This could be a special handshake or hug, a verse of a song to sing together, a transitional object they can bring inside, or something special you create together. On the first days we will have plenty of staff there to support the separation but please know that caregivers and family

members will not be able to accompany children into the building. You may even consider having a couple practices prior to Wednesday where you walk through the routine and practice saying goodbye if you know that your child has a hard time with transitions.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival Procedure for Kindergarten

There are three main entrances for students and staff to use when arriving at the building or entering from scheduled outdoor time. Students must arrive to their assigned entrance every morning

- Stedman Street (KC, KBC, KH)
- Playground Entrance (KF, KG, KM)
- Main Entrance on Harvard Street (KP, KN)

Students will be required to hand sanitize when they enter the building through their designated entrance at a hand sanitizing station right at the entrance.

- Staff will be staggered throughout the hallways and at each entrance to ensure students remain at safe distances and follow hallway guidelines

Dismissal Procedure for Kindergarten

We will be using the side exit doors for students and staff when leaving the building.

- Kindergartners will exit the building each day using the following doors
 - KC, KBC, KH: PreK Door
 - KP, KM, KN: 2nd Grade Door on Stedman
 - KG, KF: Door 10

Kindergarten students will be walked out to designated areas and are dismissed to their caregivers. All adults and caregivers who arrive to the building to pick up students must remain behind the designated line 6 feet away from the assigned student/teacher outdoor area.

- Kindergarten students will walk to their caregivers when dismissed by their teacher

Caregivers may not approach the designated pick up area outside containing students and staff.

What to Bring to School Each Day

- a mask and 1 or 2 extra masks
- a water bottle
- a backpack large enough to fit your child(ren)'s snack and lunch bag
- a snack and lunch that your child(ren) can manage with as much independence as possible
- a change of clothing in case of accidents

I know there is a lot of information here and that there will be many questions that you have after reading through all these communications. I will be holding a Kindergarten Only Family Forum on Tuesday, September 15th at 8:00pm to help review information and address any of your questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84935837089?pwd=alNwWEZtYkVzcXlDell2RW9KalhUdz09>

Meeting ID: 849 3583 7089

Passcode: Welcome

We are so excited to welcome your child(ren) to the building next week. It has been so long since our hallways were filled with the sounds of laughter and joy and we are eagerly anticipating hearing these sweet sounds once again soon.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Jen