

August 2019

Dear Kindergarten Parent/Guardian,

Kindergarten is an exciting time for students. In Springfield, our full-day kindergarten students begin on a 'staggered start' schedule. This means that we will have only half the number of students in kindergarten on the first day of school, followed by the second half of students on day two.



The staggered start is a softer, child-centered approach to the beginning of the school year for our youngest students. Smaller groups make it easier for children to gain confidence, get to know staff and become familiar with the school's expectations. Teachers are able to collect data and meet parents, helping us get to know your child better. Our goal for your student is to provide individual attention and a happier and more successful first day of school.

Your kindergartener will not be assigned a classroom teacher the first day. Rather, s/he will have the opportunity to interact with each of the kindergarten teachers, and other staff members, during the day. After meeting the students and visiting with parents, teachers will be better able to form class lists that are based on the children's academic and social needs.

On **Wednesday, September 4** students with last names beginning with **A-L** will attend school, all day, from 8:35 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Students with last names from M-Z will stay home.

On **Thursday, September 5** students with last names **M-Z** will attend school, all day, from 8:35 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Students with last names starting with **A-L** will stay home.

**No kindergarten students will attend school on Friday, September 6.** Friday is a time for parent meetings, kindergarten teacher collaboration, and the purposeful placement of students into kindergarten classrooms.

**Class lists will be posted on the office windows on Friday, September 6 after 3:00 p.m.** Parents and guardians are welcome to bring their student to visit their classroom from 3:00 to 5:00.

**All kindergarten students will attend school, all day, on Monday, September 9, and every day thereafter!**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn Williams  
Principal, Centennial Elementary