

# Voorhees Township Public Schools



## Kindergarten Informational Guide

**To the Parents of Our Students,**

**The day your child enters kindergarten marks the beginning of one of the most important of life's experiences. As you register your child, you enter the most important partnership with your child's school and teachers. The staff of the Voorhees Township Public Schools wants this to be a happy time.**

**Since it is important for your child to like school, you can help by taking an active interest in school work, friends and school organizations. Show that school is important to you, and your child will value it.**

**You can do this by helping your child look forward to school. Talk about it as a friendly, happy place. Discuss school activities, school friends, new experiences and new things to learn.**

**If your child expresses fears, don't pass them off, but try to answer all the questions in a positive, reassuring way. Stress that there will be friendly people to help on those first uncertain days.**

**Remember, a parent's reactions and attitudes continue to influence a child's feelings about school throughout his or her years in school.**

**We hope this information acquaints you with our kindergarten program and the responsibility that you as a parents and we as teachers share.**

**We welcome you and your child to the Voorhees Schools and wish you both a happy and successful year.**

**Kindergarten Teachers**

**Voorhees Township Public Schools**



## ORIENTATION

An orientation day will be held in late August for all kindergarten children prior to the beginning of the school. You will receive a letter from your child's teacher with information concerning this special day.

## ATTENDANCE

A very strong relationship exists between scholastic growth and attendance. We encourage you to see that your child misses as little school as possible. But on days when he or she must be absent or late, *a parent or guardian must call the school's absentee line, which can receive calls 24 hours/day. Calls may be made the night before, or before school on the morning of the absence. You will receive a phone call if no notice is received about your child's absence.*

## STUDENT PROGRESS

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Regular conferences are scheduled each year so that you and your child's teacher may exchange information and share ideas. If you desire a conference at any other time you may email the teacher and he or she will schedule one.

### Report Cards Through Online Parent Portal

Students in kindergarten receive progress reports quarterly. Their performance is measured on an array of skills and concepts based on the New Jersey Learning Standard. Grading comments show how each child is progressing on a development continuum.

## CURRICULUM

To learn about the skills and concepts your child will be learning in Literacy, Math and other subject areas go to:

[www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/curriculum](http://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/curriculum)

## SCHEDULE

Kindergarten is a full-day program and follows the elementary schedule. School begins at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Hours on early dismissal days for all elementary, grades K-5 is 8:55 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

When inclement weather causes the closing of school for the entire day, or a delayed opening, parents will receive a phone call and an email announcement. The district will also post information on the District Facebook Page and District Website.



# HELPFUL HINTS

### Clothing

Be sure that your child's name is on his/her jacket, boots, etc. It really helps—especially when we have 2 or 3 Phillies jackets in the coatroom and the bus is waiting! Please practice zippers, buttons, snaps and shoe lace tying at home!

Birthdays: Children are encouraged to celebrate their birthdays in school. Each teacher handles birthdays differently. Check your child's teacher's website and/or the teacher will notify you regarding procedure. If your child has a summer birthday we can celebrate during the months of May or June. Please **DO NOT** send birthday invitations to school, they are not allowed to be distributed in the classroom.

### Parent Access Portal

The Parent Access Portal is a secure website that provides you with information about your child in the Voorhees School District. You will be able to complete forms, view report cards and attendance using the portal. The email address you provide is used for all school communications and is meant to enhance the school and home partnership.

### Room Parent

If you are interested in being a room parent volunteer, look for information sent from your child's school Parent/Faculty Association. Parent volunteers organize class parties and assist throughout the school year.

## Daily Snack

Each day kindergarten students enjoy a snack brought from home. Teachers request it be a healthy snack. Please be aware that food allergies may exist in your child's classroom and the teacher may request that some food products be eliminated.

## Backpacks

During the school year, your child will be bringing home projects, notices and papers. It would deal more convenient for your child if she/he has a tote bag or backpack, labeled with his/her name, in which to carry these things home. Backpacks with wheels are NOT recommended

# TRANSPORTATION



All kindergarten students are bussed to school with stops located as close to the child's house as possible. Parents should discuss bus safety rules with their child. Any questions related to bus routes should be directed to the district's transportation coordinator at (856) 751-8446 ext. 6124.

### *Bus Procedures Ensure the Safety of Your Children*

In order to provide a safe and efficient transportation for kindergarten students the following procedures must be followed:

1. If possible, kindergarten students are picked up on a house-by-house basis. However, the bus is not required to stop on the same side of the street as the student's house. For safety reasons, the school bus is not permitted to turn into cul-de-sacs or dead end streets.
2. Children are to be ready and waiting at the curb when the bus arrives.
3. By law, parents are not permitted on the school bus at any time.
4. To ensure the safety of your children, individual transportation schedules cannot be honored. The pick-up and drop-off address for a student must be the same everyday in accordance with Voorhees Board of Education Policy.
  - ◆ Any child being picked up early must bring a note to the teacher each time this occurs.
  - ◆ Any changes in the child's established schedule requires written notification to the teacher.
  - ◆ If a child does not ride home on a bus, or is picked up by any person other than the parent, a note must be sent in each day. The person picking up must show identification.
5. Transportation will not be provided for students enrolled in CER programs.

## Transportation Continued...

6. If your child will not be attending school, please contact the bus company. If the driver is unable to be reached, the bus will stop in front of your house and you are asked to “wave it on.” If no one is at the door, the driver will wait for a reasonable length of time, and then leave.
7. Someone must be at the bus stop to receive the kindergarten child after school. If no one is at the stop, the child will be returned to the school. The parent will be responsible for coming to the school to pick the child up.

### Safety Is Everyone’s Responsibility

Please be patient during the first few days of school. You will need to judge your child’s pick up time based on the bus’s arrival once the route is established.

Kindergarten Transportation is provided by:

First Student—Berlin Boro

856-753-0222

Hillman’s Bus Service, Inc.—West Berlin

856-753-1123

### SAFETY

**NO CHANGE IN PICK-UP or DROP-OFF POINTS will be permitted between August 25th and September 30th.**



## HEALTH SERVICES

### WHEN ILLNESS OCCURS

*At home:* when illness occurs at home, keep your child home from school. Check with your doctor for diagnosis, treatment and proper time for returning to school. Send a note when your child returns explaining the reason for the absence.

*Policy states that a student must be fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.*

*At school:* when a child becomes ill I school, the nurse may determine that he or she should be sent home. Parents should make arrangements for the child to be picked up at school as soon as possible after the nurse’s phone call to home, or the emergency number provided by the parent.

## Health Records and Examinations

You are required to have the Voorhees Medical Examination Form completed by your child's physician and returned to the school nurse *before school starts*. A certified school nurse is employed at each school and present during regular school hours.

The nurse is responsible for the following:

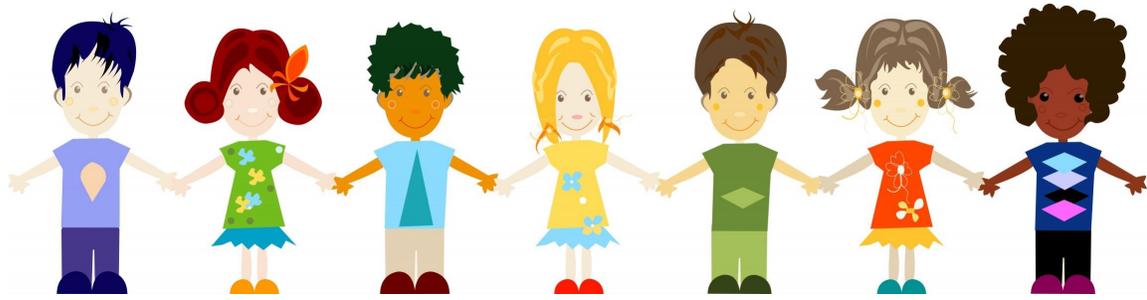
- ◆ Ensuring that all students have fulfilled immunizations and entry medical examination required by state law.
- ◆ Checking and recording height, weight, blood pressure, vision and hearing according to Board policy.
- ◆ Administering first-aid when needed under guidelines set up under the school physician.
- ◆ Acting as a health education resource
- ◆ Administering prescription medication in school to students provided the following conditions are met:
  1. Medication must be in the original container
  2. Medication must be labeled with child's name, medication name and dosage.
  3. Note from the physician and parent giving directions for dose of medication and time to be given, as well as purpose of medication and termination date.

*This applies to ALL medications, prescription as well as over-the-counter medications, including cough drops.*

## Immunizations for Kindergarten Students

In compliance with the New Jersey Department of Health, schools need medical proof with dates that a child has received specific immunizations. New Jersey State law requires that all pupils have the following:

- Varivax for Chicken Pox: one dose
- Diphtheria/Pertusis (whooping cough)/Tetanus: Children 1-6 years old—4 doses, with one given on or after the fourth birthday, or any 5 doses.
- Mumps: 1 dose (after age 1)
- Measles Vaccine: entering kindergarten or 1st grade (ages 1-6): 2 doses of a measles vaccine (e.g. MMR, MR or Measles), each given after age 1, with an interval of not less than one month between the vaccines.
- Hepatitis B Vaccine: The series of 3 injections must begin prior to entering kindergarten.



## Contagious Diseases

Parents of children with contagious diseases must follow the district guidelines before readmitting their child to school:

- Chicken Pox: child should remain home 7 to 10 days, or until such time all lesions have scabbed. The child must report to the school health office before being readmitted to class.
- Conjunctivitis: The child must be on medication prescribed by his/her physician for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Impetigo: Child should remain at home for at least 24 hours after the start of medication prescribed by the child's physician.
- Head Lice: Child must be treated and may not return to school until the child has been treated and all active lice are gone. The child must report to the health office before being readmitted to class.

## Food Allergies

Students with severe food allergies may be eligible for a Section 504 Plan to accommodate their needs throughout the school day. If your child has a severe food allergy and needs accommodations please notify the school nurse, principal and teacher.

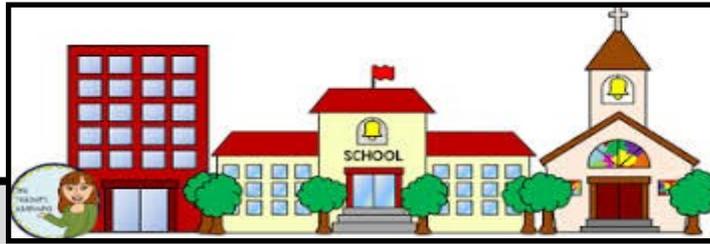
## Chronic Illness

Parents/guardians should notify the school nurse, principal and teacher if a child has any chronic illness and needs accommodations throughout the school day.



## Community Education & Recreation

Voorhees Community Education and Recreation (CER) provides School Age Care for students in k-5th grades (7am to 9:00am and 3:30pm to 5:30pm). In August all families will receive an email with additional information and instructions on how to register.



**E.T. Hamilton Elementary School**

**23 Northgate Drive**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-767-4888**

**Principal: Andrew Moskowitz**

**Guidance Counselor: Derek Myers**

**School Nurse: Heather Karbach**

**Kresson Elementary School**

**7 School Lane**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-424-1816**

**Principal: Stacey Morris**

**Guidance Counselor: Maureen Boyle**

**School Nurse: Dorrie Uscinowicz**

**Osage Elementary School**

**112 Somerdale Road**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-428-2990**

**Principal: Robert Cranmer**

**Assistant Principal: Mary Tadley**

**Guidance Counselor: Maura Abate**

**School Nurse: Vickie Crews**

**Signal Hill Elementary School**

**23 Northgate Drive**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-767-6749**

**Principal: Sharon Stallings**

**Guidance Counselor: Amanda Dariano**

**School Nurse: Ashley Phillip**

**Voorhees Middle School**

**1000 Holly Oak Drive**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-795-2025**

**Principal: Kris Calabria**

**Assistant Principals: Caitlin Holloway,**

**Idalis Kizee, Russel Winsett**

**Community Education and Recreation (CER)**

**1000 Holly Oak Drive**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-795-2025**

**Director: Michael Redfearn**

**Board of Education**

**Monica Watson, Board President**

**Rachel van Aken, Board Vice-President**

**Jason Brice**

**Kelly Cosenza**

**Dana Galiano**

**Dr. Marissa Levy**

**John Schmus**

**Andrea Stoopler**

**Voorhees Township  
Administration Building**



**329 Route 73**

**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**856-751-8446**

**Administration**

<b>Acting Superintendent of Schools</b>	<b>Michael Redfearn</b>	<b>ext. 6122</b>
<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	<b>Diane Young</b>	<b>ext. 6118</b>
<b>Business Administrator</b>	<b>Helen Haley</b>	<b>ext 6114</b>

**District Personnel**

<b>Director of Special Services</b>	<b>Dr. Melody Algeria</b>	<b>ext 6134</b>
<b>Director of Technology</b>	<b>Bruce Taylor</b>	<b>ext 6116</b>
<b>Assistant Business Administrator</b>	<b>Danielle Trucano</b>	<b>ext 6129</b>
<b>Supervisor of Special Projects</b>	<b>Susan Donnelly</b>	<b>ext 6117</b>

**Operational Personnel**

<b>Director of Nutri-Serve Program</b>	<b>Tina Artusa</b>	<b>ext 5223</b>
<b>Director of Buildings and Grounds</b>	<b>Clark Mathes</b>	<b>ext 6110</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Rob Sidor</b>	<b>ext 6124</b>