

Welcome to Kindergarten at Southwest Licking Schools

Kindergarten Screening - May 10, 2021

Names to Know:

Kirkersville Principal - Brad Wehrman

Pataskala Principal - Katie Piacquadio

Pataskala Assistant Principal - Rebecca Poe

Etna Principal - Alissa Horstman

Introduction - Mr. Wehrman

- This is my 20th year in education.
- I am completing my third full year as the Principal of Kirkersville Elementary and completing my 9th year in the district.
- Licking Valley Elementary Assistant Principal
- Teacher in the Columbus City Schools
- Excited to build relationships with all K-3 students and families

Numbers and Links

1. School phone number - 740-927-7281, press 1 for attendance line, press 2 for the front office
2. Direct attendance line - 740 - 964-7141
3. Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/KirkersvilleElementarySWLSchools/>
4. Kirkersville Website

Introduction - Ms. Piacquadio - Pataskala Principal

- Finishing up my 12th year in education
 - 3 years in elementary as a special education teacher
 - 3 years in middle and high school as a special education teacher
 - 6 years as an assistant principal
- Love kids, build relationships
- Excited for next year!

School Info - Pataskala

School phone: 740-927-3861

Attendance line: 740-927-6994

[Pataskala Elementary's Website](#)

Pataskala Elementary Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pataskalaelementary>

School Day: 9:00 A.M. - 3:45 P.M.

About the Principal - Alissa Horstman - Etna

- This is my 26th year in education.
 - 13 years in the classroom, 8 in middle school and 5 in elementary
 - 13 years as an administrator, PK - 12
 - Starting my 10th year with SWL schools
- Love what we do
- I do my best to make decisions with the kids in mind
- I have never lost a kindergartener! LOL
- Can't wait to get started

School Information - Etna

- Etna is scheduled to open in January 2022.
- The process for buses and parent drop off will be completely new and will be posted and emailed to parents before Winter Break.
- The Etna Website is a good place for up-to-date information. The address is: https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/etnaelementary_home.aspx. Information will be added this summer and fall in order to share with our parents.
- The phone number, attendance line and fax number will be posted on the website as soon as they are assigned.
- An Etna facebook page will be created and the link will be publicized when it is live.

What is the difference between KG and Preschool?

- There are more students in a classroom (up to 23) with one teacher.
- Communication changes
 - Class Dojo
 - Web pages
 - E-mail
 - Written notes
 - Phone calls
 - Progress Book
 - For most situations, it is not daily like it was in preschool
 - Find out how your child's teacher communicates the best
 - Let your child's teacher know how you communicate best
- More time dedicated to academics
- Not every teacher has snack time, but free snacks

What's different? (con't)

- Students have different teachers for music, library, gym, computer and art.
- Due to the nature of some very serious allergies, we do not allow treats brought into the building that are in ANY way edible. You are welcome to send in items like pencils, erasers, small toys, etc.... Each teacher has their own way to celebrate birthdays.
- It is a full day. This is an adjustment to students.
- Some students have trouble separating at first.
- The quicker you are out of sight, the quicker they recover.
- Not all teachers take part in every activity at school.
- Preschool attendance is optional, but Kindergarten attendance is mandatory.

Transportation details and teacher assignments

Please keep an eye on the district website, and school Facebook pages to get the most up to date information.

No specific dates have been set for these announcements at this time.

In the Beginning.....

August 17, 2021 - Tuesday

- First Day of School for students with last names A-K

August 18, 2021 - Wednesday

- First Day of school for students with last names L-Z (A-K stay home)

August 19, 2021 - Thursday

- All students attend

The First Day of School

- We encourage students to ride the bus if at all possible so that we can get them into the routine as quickly as possible. (Flexible Times for few weeks)
- We are unable to accommodate parents walking their children to the classroom. We have plenty of staff to get the children where they need to go.
- If you are dropping off your children, each building will send and post their specific procedures. Here is what is the same at all three:
 - Students need to be seated in the car closest to the sidewalk where drop-off is happening. They should never have to cross in between cars.
 - Parents need to stay in their cars when in the drop-off line so that the line may move quickly.

The First Day Continued....

- Pick-up at Kirk is different than drop-off
 - All parents need to park in the south lot, along Outville Road, or in the village and walk up to get their students.
 - You will need ID or the pick-up slip everyday.
 - If you need to pick up your child early from school, that is done at the front office. You must bring ID every time you pick up your child.
 - You can't pull into the bus lane at the end of the day, so plan accordingly or you will get stuck.
 - If you are going to change how a student gets home, please call the office by 2:45.
- Pick-up Pataskala
 - Check the Pataskala Elementary website in August for details

Things that should not be stressful....but kind of are..

- Kindergarteners are able to be independent little people.
- Students typically enjoy riding the school bus.
- They can make it to their classroom on the first day.
- They can walk the halls all by themselves.
- They can ask for help, when they need it.
- We encourage independence.
- The more you let them do themselves, the better off they are.
- But....accidents do happen. It is helpful to have a change of clothes and undergarments handy.

Kindergarten Preparation

- Bathroom skills - There is no assistance in general education for the restroom.
- Students need to be able to tie their shoes.
- Please do not send something in a child's lunch that they can't manipulate.
There is assistance, but your child may be waiting.

What we learn in Kindergarten:

- Letters, sounds, words, simple reading, simple writing
 - Point to the letters as you sing the song...
 - Know about books (cover, title page, author, illustrator, how to hold it)
 - Answer questions about what was read (fiction and nonfiction).
- Counting to 100 by ones and tens and recognizing the written version
- Addition and subtraction, comparing numbers (more, less, greater than, etc)
- Life sciences, social skills, daily living skills, socialization, patience, practice, etc, etc, etc.

Attendance-House Bill 410:

	Triggering Event	Steps to be Taken
Excessive Absences	<p>Student is absent (excused or unexcused) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 or more hours in one school month <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 or more hours in one school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School develops and utilizes a Truancy Intervention Plan for the student. School provides written notice of to the parent within 7 days of the triggering absence.
Habitual Truancy	<p>Student is absent (unexcused) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 or more consecutive hours <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 or more hours in one school month <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72 or more hours in one school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School assigns to the student to an Absence Intervention Team within 7 days of the triggering absence. School makes three meaningful, good faith attempts to secure participation of the parent and investigate whether a failure to participate warrants a report to child protective services. Absence Intervention Team develops an Absence Intervention Plan for the student within 14 days of being assigned. School provides written notice of Absence Intervention Plan to the parent within 7 days of the plan's development.
	<p>Student refuses to participate OR fails to make satisfactory progress on Absence Intervention Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance Officer files a complaint in juvenile court not later than 61 days after plan implementation.

What Are Your Students Doing Today?

- Interactive Read Aloud
- ESGI Pre-Assessment
- Table top activities
- Free Play

Food Services

- Do you qualify for free or reduced cost lunch? Check out the online application on our district website or click on the link during online registration.
- MySchoolBucks.com is where you can put money on your child's account.
- Money needs to go to the teacher in the morning so that there is no money exchanged at lunch.
- Students are warned when lunch money is running low.
- Please make sure you have your student scan their finger before you leave today.

From the Nurse

Immunizations: A complete and up-to-date immunization record is required for kindergarten entry. If your child's record is not complete you will be reminded at kindergarten screening. If your child's record is not complete please take action immediately so that your child will not be excluded from school.

Students, by law, must have a complete and up-to-date vaccine record to attend school.

If your child does not have a doctor you can obtain vaccinations at the Licking County Health Department. You can call them at 740-349-6535 or visit their website: www.lickingcohealth.org for information about their vaccination clinics.

From the Nurse (con't)

Physical Assessment: a physical for kindergarten entry is recommended but is **not** required.

Health Concerns: Please notify the school nurse if your child has a health condition such as diabetes, seizure disorder, or severe allergy (requiring use of an Epi pen). These conditions require additional information from you and your health care provider.

Medications: If your child will need medication administered during the school day, please obtain a medication authorization form. A medication authorization form must be completed before **any** medication can be administered to your child. This includes over the counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, cough drops or medicated creams. **Any prescription medication requires that the prescriber complete and sign the authorization form.**

Amy Denison-District Literacy Coordinator

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

Kindergarten Literacy

Bus Information:

- Bus information will be available in August

PTO Information

Please follow on Facebook and sign up for email updates

Please review the handout from the PTO

PTO Supported Activities:

- Fundraising
- Field Day
- Student Awards
- Santa Shops (if COVID allows)
- Other school activities

General Questions?

14 Things I Wish I Had Known Before Starting a Kindergartener...

These are written by Mr. and Mrs. Smith after their third kindergartener attended Kirkersville Elementary.

1. **Lost & Found** – Even the most responsible of my kids lost things at school, never to be seen again. Sometimes things got left on the bus. My neighbor's daughter lost a North Face jacket. Don't buy the expensive lunch "systems", coats, gloves, etc. and expect that everything will not make it back home. Put your child's name in everything they own, and buy Gladware and the \$1 gloves from Walmart.
2. **Transportation** – The buses were really late at first. I learned to be patient with the bus drivers. They are doing the best they can. If it's a long ride, send a magazine or something for them to look at on the way (a subscription is a good birthday present idea).

3. **Drop-off** – The drop-off line comes in on the side of the school, and it can be long. Do your best to pull all the way up and have your child exit on the right side of the car. Say goodbye before you get in. It usually moves pretty fast once the doors open. My friend moved her daughter from Kirkersville to 2 additional schools and said that the system at Kirkersville is far better than anything else she has seen.

4. **Bathrooms** – Many kindergarten classrooms have a bathroom in them. The other teachers dole out bathroom passes willingly. It may not matter--on the first day of school, none of my kids used the bathroom for an entire day (or week). Talk to your kids about this and let them know what to expect. Also, pack an extra pair of underwear/pants. My daughter who hadn't had an accident in years just wet her pants in the last month of school.

5. **Skirts** – Don't send your child to school in a skirt on Gym day. At the very least, they don't make it easy to play kickball. At the very worst, they get caught underneath the scooters. Also, don't send them in expensive clothes on Art day because paint happens. Teachers will send home a schedule for "specials".

6. **Shoes** – Flip-flops are not allowed. I am the kind of parent who buys things at the end of the season for next year. Do not bother loading up on matching flip-flops for all your child's outfits. They are not allowed at school. Save that money and buy a good pair of tennis shoes.

7. **Drinks/Snacks** – My kids were allowed to bring a non-spillable water bottle and a healthy nut free snack every day. Not every teacher allows this, but it really helped my kids make it through a long morning or afternoon, especially when it's hot.

8. **Birthdays** – No birthday snacks. If you fantasize all summer about sending the perfect cupcakes or Dr. Seuss-themed birthday treat, start thinking about pencils instead. Nothing edible.

9. **Volunteering** – My kids' teachers welcomed volunteers. I found out that one of them came in for hours on Sundays just to get ready for the week. If you have an hour a week to help out in the classroom, it's a great way to meet your child's friends and teacher. (You will need to get a background check done through the district.) If you have an hour at night to cut out construction paper items, your child's teacher may be willing to send projects home for you. There are also plenty of opportunities to volunteer throughout the year at PTO events, book fairs, field day, class parties, etc.

10. **Gifts** – My kids’ teachers did not need mugs or wall art. They spent loads of their own money on supplies for crafts, snacks, and teaching. Have your child write a note and get them a giftcard to Target or Walmart instead--they will be genuinely grateful.

11. **Breakfast** – Breakfast is available for purchase. Free for 2021-2022 School Year

12. **Lunch** – Eating lunch with them is allowed, and you can meet them in the cafeteria after signing in. Otherwise, you are not allowed to go to their classrooms (unless you are volunteering or arrange that with the teacher). Also, you cannot go outside to recess with your student.

13. **Teachers** – The teachers at Southwest Licking are wonderful. They truly want what's best for your child and are willing to work with you to make it happen. Don't overload them with emails, but if you have a question, be sure to ask them. Check your child's backpack every day. Read with them at night. A little parental support goes a long way.

14. **Relax** – They will be fine. Really! As a volunteer, you see them working and learning and making friends at their little tables. When they come home, you will hear all sorts of stories if you know what to ask (our go-to question is “What did you do in specials today?”). Even my kids who didn't make friends right away were able to find someone else to connect with after a few weeks. It can be rough at first, but eventually they will settle right in.