



## About Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten

### Who is eligible for Junior Kindergarten?

Turning 5 on or before:	General Recommendation:
December 2nd to September 1st	Eligible for Kindergarten
June 30th to September 1st	Eligible for Kindergarten, but if space allows, may apply for Junior Kindergarten
September 2nd to December 1st	Waiver window- may enroll in Kindergarten - in general, we suggest families consider enrolling their student in our Junior Kindergarten Program (a waiver will be needed for entry to either program).
December 2nd or After	Not eligible for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten is a free, optional first year of school designed for students who turn five between September 2nd and December 1st. Students who attend Junior Kindergarten go on to attend a full year of traditional Kindergarten the following school year. When space permits, students who turn five between June 30th and September 1st may be considered for the Junior Kindergarten (JK) program and there is often room within a few of the JK classrooms for these students with late summer birthdays. This is especially important to consider if your child did not attend a strong preschool program. Priority is given to students with birth dates closest to the start of the waiver window.

Students who turn five after December 2nd *are not eligible* for Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten (State of Michigan age cut off for school entry). Students in this group may be eligible for the Great Start Readiness free preschool program coordinated by Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) Early Childhood Center, depending on your family's income. Children in this age group can enroll in the tuition preschool programs at Tot Spot Early Childhood Center (Miller) as well. Call Tot Spot at 810-299-3819 or visit their page on the district website for additional information.

### Where is the Junior Kindergarten program held?

Junior Kindergarten is offered at each elementary school. Final school/room locations for the Junior Kindergarten program will be assigned after the initial round of kindergarten registration, as the number of needed Kindergarten classrooms determines the number of available classrooms at a school. The number of available classrooms for Junior Kindergarten is limited and is determined by the number of students the district is able to accept into the program based on Kindergarten registration.

## ***Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten?***

In general, we recommend children begin kindergarten with their same-aged peers. Therefore, in most cases, students who are turning five years old on or between December 2nd and September 1st should enter kindergarten. Families of students who are near the end of that window may wish to consider enrolling their child in the Junior Kindergarten program. This is especially important to consider if your child did not attend a strong preschool program.

Students who turn five years old on or between September 2nd and December 1st are considered to be in the "waiver" window. While these students are eligible for kindergarten, we normally suggest their families consider our Junior Kindergarten program or continue with preschool for an additional year.

If you are still undecided, you can reach out to the principal at your child's elementary school to discuss your child's specific needs. If you need additional days to make your decision, you have until the Junior Kindergarten enrollment deadline to do so. The deadline to apply for Junior Kindergarten is May 1st.

## ***Is transportation provided for Junior Kindergarten?***

We are able to provide transportation only for Junior Kindergarten students who are resident students. Contact the transportation department at 810-299-3890 for your specific transportation needs.

## ***When can I enroll for the Junior Kindergarten program?***

Enrollment opens February 1st for the upcoming school year. The enrollment process and all required forms/documents must be completed and submitted prior to the end of the day on May 1st for students to be considered in initial Junior Kindergarten placements. Enrollments received after May 1st may be placed on a waitlist and considered if/when space becomes available in the program.

## ***When will I know if my child got a spot in the Junior Kindergarten program?***

Our goal is that enrollments received on time will receive a confirmation (email) that your student(s) are enrolled. During busy enrollment times, please understand that responses are not immediate. Program placement may not be finalized until mid-August - watch for an email from the school with confirming information.

## ***Will non-resident enrollment be accepted for Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten?***

Please refer to the School of Choice (SOC) webpage within the Enrollment section for up to date information. General information to know:

- SOC applications can only be accepted when the application window is OPEN.
- Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.
- Acceptance would be to the District, not a particular building.
- Final notification of building assignment will be via email one week prior to school starting.
- BAS reserves the right to reassign students each year.
- If your student is accepted, you do not need to reapply each year.

Please contact the Enrollment Office should you have any questions – 810.299.4095