



2022 - 2023

Four Georgians Elementary



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Dear Parent/Guardians,

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to Kindergarten at Four Georgians Elementary! This upcoming school year will be a great adventure away from home for our students and it is an important milestone for them in their educational journey.

As a school, we believe that a high quality Kindergarten program provides a safe and nurturing environment. Our program helps children gain knowledge and skills in developmental areas (physical, intellectual, emotional, and social) while also helping to establish a strong foundation of lifelong learning. The goal of our program is to provide a basic foundation for your child's education and we want to make the transition from home to school smooth and make their first experience with school a successful one!

Please review our booklet and never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Your partner in education,

Four Georgians Elementary
Kindergarten Staff

Our Four Georgians Elementary Kindergarten Team

Kindergarten Teachers:

JoAnna Nelson

email: jnelson@helenaschools.org

Tasha Obert

email: tobert@helenaschools.org

Melody Wall

email: mwall@helenaschools.org

Madison Meis/Jaime Talia (Maternity Sub)

email: mmeis@helenaschools.org
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Other Staff:

Principal – Sean Morrison

Secretary – Ann Tilton & Erika Fehr

Counselor – Krystal Ferguson

Speech Therapist – Jaime Sikes

Special Education – Amy Allen

Nurse – Francis Leonard

Instructional Coach – Katie Literski

Specialist Teachers:

Music – Sarah Dramstad

PE – Gail McMahon

Library – Chelsey Davis

Office Number

(406) 324-1300

(406) 324-1301 (fax)

Email

Fourgeorgians@helenaschools.org

Website

<https://fourgeorgians.helenaschools.org/>

Facebook:

Four Georgians School

Getting Ready!

Kindergarten Jumpstart: Each Spring, Four Georgians school will invite incoming students and families to learn more about the school staff, protocols and general information. Students will also get the opportunity to interact with Kindergarten teachers and support staff.

Kindergarten Informational Form: To help our kindergarten teachers learn more helpful information about your child and family, we are asking you to complete a form found by clicking the following link. This information will just help us provide the best support for your child's educational success. If you have not done so already, please visit the following link to complete the form. <https://forms.office.com/r/Pv2QQdMFX5>

Kindergarten Speech Screenings: Every kindergarten student will receive a required speech screening before the upcoming school year. Speech Therapist, Jaime Sikes, has provided a link for you to use in order to schedule a time to bring your child in for a quick screen. If you have not done so already, please visit the following link to schedule a time that works for your family.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4fafa2aa3fa7-incoming>

Kindergarten Visits: Over the summer, Kindergarten teachers will schedule a time to come and meet with the student and families. This experience allows the teacher and families to connect and build relationships before school begins. This is a great opportunity for the family to ask questions and share your child's hopes and dreams. Make sure to check your email over the summer for a scheduling request from Sign Up Genius.

Daily Schedule

Arrival and Dismissal: Subject to change due to COVID-19. Kindergarten hours will be from 8:30 to 2:30 on Mondays and 8:30 to 3:15 Tuesdays thru Fridays. If your child does not ride to school on a bus, arrival should not be more than 45 minutes before the class starts. Playground supervision begins each day at 7:45 and ends at 3:30. Students enter and exit the building through Entry 1 doors. The tardy bell rings at 8:35, and students who arrive after 8:35 will be marked tardy AND need to be checked into the office by an adult.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and Lunch: Breakfast is offered from 7:45 to 8:25 each day. Hot lunch is also offered. A monthly menu will be sent home. Currently our prices are the following and are subject to change: Breakfast (\$1.45) and/or lunch (\$2.75) may be purchased on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Students eating cold lunch may purchase a carton of milk for \$.50. Meals may be purchased through the Meal Time link found on the Helena Public School's website. Please make checks payable to Four Georgians or pay via the website. An application for free or reduced-price meals can be obtained at the school office. Charging of meals is strongly discouraged.

Snack Time: Each classroom will also provide a snack time in the morning to help keep our bellies full and brains working. This is something we ask you to send with your child to school each day. Please keep snacks healthy and nutritious (popcorn, jerky, crackers, pretzels, veggies, fruits, cheese, etc).

School Supplies

- \$25.00 - Please bring to Open House Night (this goes towards pre-bought supplies for your student)
- Velcro PE Shoes (these will be left at school for PE days)
- A Full-Size Backpack (with a spare change of clothes... just in case!)
- 1 White or Yellow T-Shirt (two sizes bigger than what they normally wear)
- 1 Large Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 1 Package of Wet Wipes

Busing

First Student provides busing services for the Helena School District. To register your student, you will need to download the Parent Portal App and submit bus registration within this application. Information will be sent out by before school starts when registration is open.

SACC

Helena School District provides after-school childcare. To find out more information, costs, and how to register your child into the SACC program, please check out the Helena Public School website. Four Georgians is lucky to host SACC in our building, but it fills up fast. Make sure to register quickly if this is a resource you are interested in!

Home-School Communications

Call/Email: Notify the school office when your child:

- Will be absent or tardy. Please call the school before 9:00 a.m. to report it.
- Changes in daycare or personal information, such as address or telephone number (including emergency phone numbers). This information needs to be kept up to date.
- Has a communicable disease.
- Is going to move to another school.

****Messages can be left on our voicemail 24/7 and are checked frequently*****

Emails: Email the office and the teacher when your child:

- Is to be dismissed early for appointments.
- Is to go anywhere other than his/her regular destination at the end of the day.
- Is going to be picked up by someone other than yourself.
- Brings money to school; label envelope with child's name, teacher's name, and purpose of money.

Attendance: If your child will be absent from school for reasons other than illness, please notify your child's classroom teacher or the school office in advance.

Conferences: At the end of each trimester, student progress and achievement is reported to parents through a parent teacher conference and/or a report card. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled two times during the year (November and March). All parents are expected to attend. These conferences are planned to discuss your child's progress and offer ideas on how to help your child succeed. If you ever have

questions or concerns about your child's progress, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher by email or phone call.

School Calendar: A school calendar will be distributed in the fall when your child begins school. Dates for the following activities will be included in the calendar. You will also receive regular information from your child's teacher and the school newsletter.

- Open House
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent Teacher Organization Meetings (PTO)

HEALTH SERVICES AND EMERGENCIES

School Nurse: The district employs registered nurses. It is the job of the nurses to maintain up-to-date records on all students, conduct health screenings and maintain adequate health services for all students. Health screenings provided by the school include vision, dental, scoliosis, and hearing - Contingent upon current COVID-19 status and restrictions. Parents should inform the school nurse if their child has allergies, chronic illnesses or serious physical problems.

Medications: The School District Medication Policy is available upon request. If a student is unable to complete a school day without a medication (prescription or non-prescription), parents should contact the school nurse. Medication will not be administered in school without proper authorization from the student's physician. Self-administration by students is not allowed. Under no circumstances shall school personnel administer any medication without proper authorization. A parent has the option of coming to school to administer medication to their child.

Emergencies: If a student becomes too ill to be at school or has a severe injury, parents will be notified. If the parent cannot be contacted, the person(s) indicated in the child's Power School emergency contact list will be notified. Information can be updated in the Power School Parent Portal.

Immunizations: By state law, schools may not enroll any student without current immunizations. It is the responsibility of the parents to have their child immunized and provide the legal documents necessary to the school. Children not properly immunized will not be admitted into school. In order for your child to start kindergarten this fall, he/she will need the following immunizations as required by state law:

- DTP - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis
- MMR - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Polio
- Varicella

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dressing for School: When dressing your child for school, remember that he/she will be doing such things as painting, sitting on the floor, using the bathroom, and playing outdoors every day. Clothing should be comfortable, washable and easy to manage for your child. Tennis shoes with Velcro are recommended. Heavy boots, sandals, clogs, and shoes with slippery soles can make our activities difficult and even hazardous. Your child should be able to take care of his/her own clothing (including zippers, buttons, tying laces, etc.). With some clothing, this may mean practice at home. Clothing with alcohol, tobacco or drug advertisements or statements are not allowed. **PLEASE LABEL all coats, sweaters, hats, boots, mittens, and backpacks with your child's name.**

Cold Weather: Our students go outside to play in all kinds of weather. All students are outside before school, after school, and during recess times whenever the temperature (with or without the wind chill) is above zero degrees. Exceptions are only granted with a note from a doctor. Please make sure your child is dressed for the colder temperatures each day.

Birthdays: Children may celebrate their birthdays in school. Due to the large amount of students with food allergies, please check with your child's teacher prior to sending birthday treats.

Can You Lend A Hand? Volunteers are very important to the kindergarten program. There are many tasks for volunteers. Please let your child's teacher know if you are interested in volunteering. Our district values the rewards and benefits realized through parent involvement. Your contributions and involvement enhance our spirit of teamwork and cooperation. We hope the time you spend with us is a rewarding experience for you. With your help and energy, we will realize our goals. Contact Lincoln Center (324-2010) to find out the steps needed to be a successful volunteer candidate.

GOALS FOR THE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL YEAR

Goals: The primary goals by the end of kindergarten is to provide a learning environment where all students will:

- Experience success with early readiness concepts in reading, math and language;
- Learn to successfully interact with materials, other children and adults;
- Develop a positive self-image and a sense of achievement;
- Increase their capability for self-discipline and learn appropriate school behaviors;
- Experience continued social and emotional development.

PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ideas for helping your child have his/her best start at school:

- Start the day with a good breakfast.
- Establish regular sleep patterns (10 hours) and start the day well rested.
- Practice taking the route to school (bus or walking) before your child's first day.
- Talk about your positive school experiences.
- Have a physical that lets you know your child is healthy.
- Develop self-confidence and independence by practicing self-help skills such as putting toys away when finished, setting the table or hanging up clothes.
- Visit the school playground and become familiar with equipment.
- Practice opening lunch items ahead of time (e.g. cracker bags, juice boxes, tube yogurts, etc.)
- Independence in the bathroom.
- Provide the opportunities to look at books and hear a story daily.
- Learn to dress independently (button and zip a coat, put on boots and shoes). Buy large enough boots so the child can put them on alone.

Give your child opportunities to:

- Be separated from you.
- Play with other children.
- Practice recognizing his/her name, address and telephone number.
- Use pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue.
- Have a special place to display work.
- Play with balls and beanbags.
- Skip, hop and jump.
- Use language to make his/her wants known.
- Practice taking turns talking and listening while others are talking.
- Go on trips to the library, mountains, grocery store, museum, etc. to enrich his/her experiences and language.
- Share in home responsibilities, conversations and activities.

HINTS FOR PARENTS:

- Encourage your child to look forward to kindergarten as a happy, friendly place.
- When you bring your child to school the first day, your child's fears and tears will best be overcome if you do not linger. Sometimes the first day of school is more difficult for the parents!
- Mark your child's name on all clothes and possessions.
- Please send a backpack to school with your child each day, and check daily for papers and notes.
- When asking your child what happened during his/her day in kindergarten, ask what happened first, second and after that. If you ask to have things listed in order, it will eliminate answers of "nothing" or "we just played". Set aside time in your day to listen to your child.
- Encourage regular attendance and punctuality.
- Help your child sit and maintain attention by playing games, having conversations and reading stories.
- Please do not let your child bring weapons, chewing gum, or toys to school.