

The Fox Chase Home and School Association has put together this Kindergarten Orientation Guide to assist in your child's transition into our school family. In it you'll find Frequently Asked Questions, tips and advice from teachers and other parents just like you. This guide cannot answer all of your questions so please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school for further clarification or additional questions. Welcome to Fox Chase Elementary!!!

BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS

My child and I are anxious to see what the school looks like and where his classroom is. When can we see it?

Every year Fox Chase Elementary hosts a Preview Night which is an opportunity for all families to visit and tour the school, locate classrooms and meet the Principal. Staff will be on hand to meet and greet students. Representatives of the Fox Chase Home and School Association will also be available to spotlight the activities and events for this year.



TIP: Go to Preview Night! It's in late summer, a couple of days before school begins. Watch the local paper and the school message board for exact date and time.

What can I do to get my child ready for his/her first day of school?

Be positive! If they're nervous, reassure them that they are going to have fun and learn a lot of new and exciting things.

When do I find out if my child is in morning or afternoon Kindergarten?

A letter will be sent home from the school by early August letting you know if your child is in morning or afternoon Kindergarten. This determination is primarily a transportation issue.

What supplies will my child need for school?

A list of school supplies can be found on the district's website and at some local stores. Please do NOT put your child's name on any of the supplies except their backpack/school bag as all Kindergarten supplies are pooled and shared among all the students in the class.

When do I find out who my child's teacher is?

Class lists are posted on school district website – <http://apps.oswego308.org/classassignment> – the week before school starts.

What happens on the first day of school?

Kindergarten Round-up! You and your child will both come to school on the first day. They will go to their classrooms and parents/caregivers will go to the gym for a presentation on what you and your child should expect during the first few days of school and during the year.

GETTING TO SCHOOL (ARRIVAL)

When does school start?

Morning Kindergarten hours are 8:40 – 11:15 a.m. Please drop off your child no earlier than 8:25 a.m.

Afternoon Kindergarten hours are 12:55 – 3:30 p.m. Please drop off your child no earlier than 12:40 p.m.



TIP: Keep drop off short and sweet so there's no time for tears. Be sure to say your goodbyes beforehand. We promise – your child will be O.K.!

Who will be monitoring my child after I drop them off at school (before classes begin)?

Teacher's Aides will be there to make sure that the children are safe while they wait for school to begin. Please remember not to drop off your child until 8:25 a.m. for morning kindergarten and 12:40 p.m. for afternoon kindergarten as there is no supervision before those times.



TIP: Choose one way for picking up your child and send a note only when it will vary. Dismissals can be very confusing for the little ones so try to keep it simple.

Can my child go home with a friend?

Yes, but a parent must send a note to the child's teacher saying who they will be going home with and how they will be getting there. If your child is going home with an older sibling they should not come to classrooms to pick up the younger siblings. Instead, please have them meet your Kindergartener at the appropriate exit.

Can I change how I pick up my child?

Yes, but please send a note to your child's teacher saying what the change is and for how long. The notes are kept on file in the main office for reference.

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

How should my child dress for school?

For specifics on the school dress code see the Student/Parent Handbook provided to you. A good rule of thumb, however, is to dress them comfortably in clothes that they can get messy in and can also get on and off themselves for bathroom trips.

TIP: Save the dressy clothes for special occasions – Kindergarteners can and do get messy at school.

TIP: Dress your child for the weather. Kindergarteners will only go out for recess (weather permitting) during the Fall and Spring so there is no need for snow pants and snow boots at school.



What if my child has to use the bathroom?

There is a bathroom in each Kindergarten classroom.

I want to help out at a class party but I have a small child at home. Can I bring a sibling along?

No. This is a safety issue plus having a younger child present can distract you from the help you're providing to the other children.

It's my child's birthday. Can I send a cake? Can I bring it to the classroom and help sing happy birthday?

While every child's birthday is special, if every family came in to celebrate every birthday not much learning would get done, so the school cannot allow you to come to the class and celebrate with your child. It is a district wide policy that no food items may be sent into the classroom for birthday celebrations.

What is the best way to contact my child's teacher?

The teachers are extremely accessible by either a phone call, an email message or a note sent to school. You also have the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with your child's teacher twice a year during conferences. We would urge you not to ask about specific issues with your child during drop off or pick up. Contact your child's teacher directly so that they can give you their undivided attention.

My family has a major life issue (e.g. divorce, death, illness, moving, etc.). Should I let my child's teacher know?

YES! Please let the teachers know about anything that might affect your child's behavior or ability to concentrate and learn. The school also has a social worker on staff to help if needed.

I want to see how my child is doing at school. Can I drop by the classroom?

No, having parents just drop by would be disruptive to the classroom. We ask that you schedule your visit with your child's teacher ahead of time. There are also many ways you can volunteer to help. Just by having a child at Fox Chase you are already a member of the Home and School Association which organizes many classroom and school-wide volunteer activities. Your child's teacher will also send notes home about different times throughout the year when help is needed.

TIP: Get involved! There are countless ways you can help out your child's class and the school. Even if you only have an hour to give once a year, there's a volunteer opportunity for you!





ASK THE NURSE

What if my child gets sick or hurt at school?

Your child will be brought to the nurse's office for an assessment. If the illness or injury is only minor the child will be returned to the classroom and a note from the nurse may be sent home detailing the injury/illness and treatment received. If the illness or injury is more serious, the nurse will treat your child and contact you immediately. The nurse will also call you for any serious head injury.

When should I keep my child home?

Your child is too ill to go to school if s/he has any of the following symptoms:

1. Vomiting and/or diarrhea **in the past 24 hours**
2. Shortness of breath or wheezing (not controlled with an inhaler if they have asthma)
3. A cough that interrupts his/her normal activity or wakes them, or other family members, up at night
4. Rash
5. Drainage from the eye
6. Severe sore throat
7. Fever – If your child has a temperature of 100° (or higher) now or in the past 24 hours they cannot attend school. **Children are to be fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication, before returning to school.**

If I keep my child home, how do I let the school know?

Contact the school's attendance line at 630-636-3000. You must call every day even if you know ahead of time that your child will be out sick for more than one day.

Should I let the school know if my child has something contagious?

Yes. Your child can return after they've had antibiotics for a full 24 hours.

Can my child take medication at school?

Yes, but only with a doctor's note for all medications, including over-the-counter ones. The nurse can receive doctor's notes faxed to 630-551-1395.

What if my child has a bathroom accident at school?

The nurse usually has changes of clothes and underwear that have been donated to the school. You will be contacted only if there are no clothes available or if your child seems particularly upset. Please wash any borrowed clothes before sending them back to the nurse.



TIP: Consider donating a new package of inexpensive underwear or used clothes if your child has a bathroom accident to replace the ones borrowed from the school.

A final thought...

If you have e-mail access, sign up for “Parent Connect”, the Oswego School District’s E-Mail Communication System. Just go to the district’s website at www.oswego308.org and enter your email address in the “Communicate 308” box on the main page to register. Once registered, you will receive periodic information on district-wide events plus letters and other information specific to Fox Chase School. You will also be automatically notified via email in the event of a school closing.

If you have internet access, check out the Fox Chase website at www.oswego308.org/schools/foxchase. It contains a wealth of information about the school and is an incredibly useful tool for all parents.

And again, welcome to Fox Chase Elementary!