

KINDERGARTEN GUIDE 2023-2024



Committed to making sure each child gets personal attention, keeping families informed and seeking their input as partners in their child's education.



CUMBERLAND
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Welcome to Cumberland County Schools!

A Message from the Superintendent: Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr.



Dear Parents & Guardians:

Welcome to Cumberland County Schools (CCS)! We are so happy you have chosen one of our fantastic elementary schools for your rising kindergartner. We have no doubt that your child will have a wonderful first year of school – learning, growing, meeting new friends and experiencing new things.

This is an exciting time for your family, and we understand that you probably have a lot of questions. This guide will help you navigate the transition to kindergarten and provide you with everything you need to prepare for the first day of school.

From health forms to school lunch menus, we hope this guide will give you the confidence to jump right into these elementary years with your child!

As a school system, we are focused on providing a safe, positive and rigorous learning environment to prepare lifelong learners to reach their maximum potential. We know parents are partners in their child's education. We will work together over the next 13 years to ensure your child is successful in the classroom and beyond.

Best of luck to your child (and you!) as this journey begins. We hope your child has a wonderful kindergarten year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr.
Superintendent



CUMBERLAND
COUNTY SCHOOLS

***We provide everything your child needs to become
confident, capable, and successful in life.***

Welcome to Kindergarten

From the very first day of kindergarten, your child will become a part of a classroom community filled with excitement for learning. Within a welcoming classroom environment, kindergarteners experience a child-centered and developmentally appropriate curriculum based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Each day is filled with whole group and differentiated small group instruction in the areas of literacy and math, as well as science, social studies, and cultural arts. On a typical day, in addition to the direct instruction in each of the content areas, your child will have the opportunity to practice, apply, and extend their knowledge through literacy and math centers. There are daily opportunities for outdoor physical activities as well as weekly instruction in physical education, art, and music. You will want to learn more as you ask your child, “What did you learn at school today?” or “What questions did you ask today?”

Mathematics

Each day, your kindergarten student will experience math in a hands-on interactive way. Kindergarteners will focus on the content and math practice standards, build on what they already know by engaging in productive struggle, use their reasoning, look for patterns and make connections in math, and apply what they learn to the world around them. Your child will become a critical thinker and a problem solver as they engage daily in math discourse.

Kindergarteners will interact in daily number routines that will develop an awareness of numbers and build their fluency and number sense. They will be challenged each day with a math task that will expand their thinking, promote the use of manipulatives to solidify their conceptual understanding of mathematics and grow their confidence and skills through interactive discussions.

English Language Arts

Students will begin to build their passion for reading by exploring printed texts, building their vocabulary skills, and learning effective reading strategies, as they learn to read and write.

Daily activities will focus on building a solid literacy foundation by learning letter sounds and recognition, high-frequency words, how to read, concepts of printed text, reading fluency, handwriting, how to recount stories, how to ask and answer questions, how to respond to text in a variety of ways, how to engage in discussion, and so much more! Activities will provide opportunities for students to collaborate and engage with their teachers and peers throughout the instructional day as they work hands-on to learn and demonstrate mastery.

Science

Every day in science instruction, students will have a rich science experience. Students will notice, wonder, and discover the world around them using science and engineering practices focusing on their observations. Students will be given multiple opportunities to explore, inquire and discover within the natural environment and using hands-on activities. Students will be exploring objects, materials, and events, asking questions, and learning to make careful observations sharing their ideas and new perspectives.

Social Studies

Kindergarten students are introduced to an integrative approach to social studies by exploring aspects of self, others, families, and communities across the world in developmentally responsive ways. This goal is accomplished through the study of geographical locations, history and its influence on daily life, wants and needs and how they affect individuals and society as a whole.



For more detailed information, please visit our website where you will find Curriculum Guides for each content area. Website: <https://www.ccs.k12.nc.us/Page/4159>

Health Services Information for Kindergarten Entry

Birth Certificate and Immunization

In accordance with state law, parents enrolling kindergarten students MUST present a birth certificate, shot record, and proof of residence to school personnel. Within 30 days of the first day of attendance, all students entering school for the first time shall have completed or have started the course of immunizations for each of the following:

Pre-Kindergarten		Kindergarten	
(4) DTP/DTap	(3) Polio	*(5) DTP/DTap with booster on/after 4th birthday	** (4) Polio 4th dose is required on/after 4th birthday and before entering school for the first time. Effective 7-1-2005
*** (1) MMR On/after 1st birthday	(3) Hepatitis-B Third dose shall NOT be given prior to 24 weeks of age if born on/after 11-17-2001	*** (2) MMR (1st dose on/after 1st birthday) at least 28 day interval needed between doses	(3) Hepatitis-B Third dose shall NOT be given prior to 24 weeks of age if born on/after 11-17-2001
(1) Varicella On/after 1st birthday	(1-4) Hib Hib vaccine is not given after 5 years of age. If the first dose is given on/after 15 months of age, series is complete. If 4th dose is given on/after 12 months of age, series is complete. (Dosage requirement may vary depending on the vaccine type and the age when received first dose.)	(2) Varicella (1st dose on/after 1st birthday) at least 28 day interval needed between doses. (As of 7-1-2015, historical documentation of disease must include approximate date of age of infection and a health care provider signature.)	Hib Hib vaccines is not required after 5 years of age. If not yet 5 years of age, same requirements as for Pre-K.
(1-4) Pneumococcal Conjugate Pneumococcal vaccine is not given after 5 years of age. If the first dose is given on/after 24 months of age, series is complete. (Dosage and interval requirements may vary depending on the age when first dose was received.)		Pneumococcal Conjugate Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is not required after 5 years of age. If not yet 5 years of age, same requirements as for Pre-K.	

Note: Four-day rule applies to all required minimum ages.

* Children receiving #4 DTP/DTAP on or after 4th birthday are not required to have #5

** Children receiving #3 Polio on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 2nd dose are not required to have #4.

*** If given separately: Two measles doses, two mumps doses, and one rubella dose required. First dose must be on or after first birthday and at least a 28 day interval is needed between the first and second dose. Second mumps dose only required if entered school on or after 7-1-2008.

North Carolina Health Assessment Transmittal Form Rev. 01/2016

North Carolina Law N.C.G.S. § 130 A 440 (a) requires a health assessment for any child entering a North Carolina public school for the first time. The health assessment must be recorded on the *NC Health Assessment Transmittal Form Rev. January 2016*. Failure to submit documentation on the proper form within 30 calendar days of the first day of attendance will result in dismissal. The *NC Health Assessment Transmittal Form Rev. January 2016* may be found on the following webpage: <https://nc50000603.schoolwires.net/Page/3645>.

Cumberland County Schools Confidential School Health Form Rev. 03/2018

Completing the *CCS Confidential School Health Form* gives us valuable information to help manage the health needs of your child while at school.

Administration of Medication

Parents must obtain a current *CCS Physician's School Medication Form* from the school for personnel to administer prescribed and over-the-counter medication. A pharmacy-labeled bottle with the correct dose, time, route, student, and medication is required and must match the information provided on the *CCS Physician's School Medication Form*. All medication must be brought in and picked up by a parent or guardian. Refer to Cumberland County School Protocol for Administration of Medications for additional information.

Registration Requirements

Note: Kindergarten Registration can be completed in person or online. For online registration visit: <https://ccsncc.scriborder.com>

Age Requirements

In order to be enrolled in a public kindergarten program in the state of North Carolina, a child must be 5 years of age **ON** or **BEFORE** August 31 of the year in which he/she is presented for enrollment.

Verification of Address

Each parent must complete a verification of address form at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment during the year. This form must be on file for each student. If a student has a change of address or phone number during the school year, the teacher and office should be notified. Please be sure to include emergency contacts so that we are always able to contact you if needed. **All students must attend the school in the attendance area in which they live.**

Exceptions include special assignment and School of Choice applications as approved by the Cumberland County Student Assignment Office.

CCS Confidential School Health Form

Completing the *CCS Confidential School Health Form* gives us valuable information to help manage the health needs of your child while at school.

Student Language Survey Card

A blue Language Survey card must be completed for all students enrolling in school. We do offer English as a Second Language (ESL) for students who qualify.

Things Parents Can Do to Help

- Start each day right. Be sure that your child is well rested and well nourished, arrives on time for school, and wears proper clothing for indoor and outdoor activities.
- Find opportunities to begin separating from your child if he/she has never left your side. Your child could join a playgroup, spend the day alone with a relative, or play at a friend's house for a few hours without parents. This helps reduce the stress some children experience when having to separate from their parents to attend a full-day kindergarten program.
- Share your child's excitement! Visit the classroom, talk with your child about his/her school day, join the **PTA** or **PTO**, attend school meetings and programs, and attend parent conferences.

Skills to Begin Introducing at Home

Beginning school is a very exciting time for young children. The education of your child requires a partnership between parents and educators. We need your support and assistance to provide your child with the best educational experience. We encourage you to begin now by introducing your child to some very basic concepts over the summer:

- Learn date of birth.
- Identify the nine basic colors in objects around the house: red, blue, black, brown, green, orange, purple, yellow, and white.
- Talk about shapes: circle, triangle, square, and rectangle.
- Practice counting objects by putting away one at a time during clean-up time.
- Practice cutting out large pictures and gluing them onto paper.
- Play "Simon Says" to work on listening skills and following directions.
- Play "I Spy" with numbers, colors, letters, and words to build basic language.
- Play games to practice sharing and taking turns.
- Follow through when you give one or two directions.
- Read to your child to stimulate his/her thinking skills to predict what will happen next in a story.
- Recognize first and last name – If your child is eager to begin printing his/her name, please be sure to begin the name with a capital letter. The other letters in the name should be small letters.
- Draw a picture of himself/herself including head, body, arms, and legs.
- Practice tying shoelaces.
- Practice zipping, snapping and buttoning clothing.
- Correctly hold a pencil, crayon, or marker.
- Recite nursery rhymes.
- Try to write, scribble, or draw to communicate ideas.
- Read or pretend to read books.
- Tell or retell stories.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

School Meals

Nutritious meals are served in the school cafeteria daily. **All kindergarten students will pay full price for meals until approved for free or reduced-price meals.** An application must be completed and approved before a student is eligible to receive meals free of charge or at a reduced price. Free and reduced-price meal applications are available online at www.lunchapplication.com or at each school.

School meal prices will be updated on our website. If your child attends a school that is part of the CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) program, then breakfast and lunch will be provided at no charge. A list of schools enrolled in CEP is available on the Child Nutrition Services Website: cn.ccs.k12.nc.us.

Student cafeteria accounts are identified by the student's PowerSchool number. Parents may pay for student meals and a la carte items in advance by adding funds to the student's account. Prepayment can be made in the cafeteria or online at www.k12paymentcenter.com.

Transportation

Bus transportation is provided for all students living within the transportation zone for their assigned school. During the first few weeks of school, special emphasis will be placed on teaching bus safety to all students. Rules of behavior have been established to ensure your child's safety. The rules must be adhered to in order to retain the privilege of riding a bus. The following list of infractions (from the Cumberland County Code of Conduct) may result in the suspension of your child's bus-riding privileges:

- Bringing articles of injurious or objectionable aboard the bus
- Improper boarding/departure procedures
- Failure to remain seated
- Refusing to obey the driver
- Rude, discourteous, and annoying conduct
- Tampering with bus equipment
- Other behavior relating to safety, well-being and respect of others
- Destruction of property
- Hanging out of windows
- Littering
- Fighting/pushing/tripping
- Drinking/eating on the bus

Parents are not allowed to board the bus at any time or delay the bus schedule in any way. Concerns about the bus should be shared with the administrative staff and not the bus driver.

Visitor Safety Policy

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear a “Visitor” badge. You may be asked to show a picture ID. This is a very important part of the school system’s Safe Schools Plan.

Emergency Information

In the event of a serious accident or illness at school, parents will be called. If we are unable to reach you, the emergency numbers will be called. On the **Verification of Address** form, you should have listed two emergency phone numbers for people who would be responsible for your child if you could not be reached. Please be sure those individuals are aware that you have given their numbers as emergency contacts. If at any point during the school year the information should change, notify the school immediately so that records can be updated.

Volunteering

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed in various capacities throughout the school year. There are many opportunities to become involved at your child’s school. If you wish to become a volunteer, please register online at ccsvolunteers.com. Talk with your child’s teacher or the principal and let them know that you are available to help.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parents are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher before or after school to schedule a conference. Call the school to request an appointment with your child’s teacher.

Transferring to Another School

Students who move to another school in the system because of a promotion to a higher grade will be automatically registered in the assigned school in the attendance area. Students transferring from another school system should take their immunization record, report card, and withdrawal slip from the previous school when enrolling at the new school. Students who relocate within Cumberland County after the first 30 days of enrollment may remain in the school in which they are enrolled until the end of the school year. In such instances, parents must provide transportation.

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students receive four progress reports each year (one at the midpoint of each 9-week grading period) and four report cards (one at the end of each 9-week grading period). Please feel free to discuss your child’s progress with his/her teacher at any point during the school year.

Cumberland Family Academy

Cumberland Family Academy (CFA) provides FREE workshops and educational events for the families of Cumberland County Schools (CCS). As part of its strategic plan, CCS launched CFA during the 2020-21 school year. From research, we understand that students achieve more when families are involved in their education. The purpose of the CFA program is to provide families with tools to support the success of their children’s education and to bring schools, parents/guardians, families, and community organizations together as equal partners. For more information on CFA, visit www.familyacademy.ccs.k12.nc.us.

Attendance

All students are expected to be in attendance every day throughout the 180-day school term. Principals may excuse an absence for the following reasons:

- Illness or injury
- Quarantine
- Death in the immediate family
- Medical or dental appointments
- Religious observances
- Court or administrative proceedings
- Educational opportunity
(prior approval from the principal is required)

A written excuse is required from the parent each time a child is absent or tardy. A written note is also required should your child need to be dismissed early. School attendance is important; however, for the welfare of others, please keep your child home if he/she has any of the following:

- Sore Throat
- Chills and Fever
- Nausea
- Skin Rash
- Diarrhea
- Inflamed Eye

*The child may not return to school until he/she is free of fever for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication.

Special Programs Offered by Cumberland County Schools

Curriculum and Instruction - 678-2420

The Curriculum and Instruction office can provide information regarding school readiness, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Healthful Living - 678-2406

Contact the Health Services office to obtain specific information regarding health assessment and immunization requirements for school enrollment.

Student Assignment - 678-2616

For specific information regarding which school your child would attend, contact the Student Assignment Office.

Schools of Choice - 678-2616

The Cumberland County School System is committed to providing options for the families of Cumberland County. The Governed Choice initiative provides an opportunity for students to apply to designated schools outside their assigned attendance area. Governed Choice options include a variety of calendar and theme-emphasis schools. Calendar options include the traditional school calendar and year-round calendar choices. Information on choice programs is available by calling the Student Assignment Office or by accessing the website at www.ccs.k12.nc.us.

Multi-language Learner - 484-1176

Resources are available to assist students whose first language is other than English. Contact the ESL Office for more information.

Early Childhood Programs

A variety of services are available to meet the needs of students prior to entering kindergarten.

- **Early Intervention (484-6761)** Services are provided to eligible preschool children. Special education services are provided to qualifying three, four, and five-year-olds who are not eligible to attend kindergarten.
- **CCS Pre-Kindergarten (483-7370)** Classes are provided for students who meet admission criteria and are four years old by August 31st of the school year. Registration is online at www.letsgetenrolled.com.
- **Cumberland County Partnership for Children (867-9700)** This committed community partnering agency offers a focus on support for families with children birth through five years old.

Child Nutrition - 678-2502

For students who qualify, breakfast and lunch are provided daily either at no cost or at reduced prices. Applications for free and reduced-price meals may be obtained at individual schools or through the Child Nutrition Office.

Prime Time - 678-2451

The Prime Time program provides comprehensive before-and after-school care. Contact the Prime Time office for enrollment or additional information.

Child Care Solutions - 860-2277

Child Care Solutions is a childcare resource and referral service designed to offer assistance and develop activities to improve the quality, availability, and affordability of child care in Cumberland County.