



## Full Day Kindergarten “Soft Start”

Dear Full Day Kindergartner Parents,

**This just in!** We have been approved to pilot a soft start for our Full Day Kindergartners this year.

**What does this mean?...** It means that our Full Day Kindergartners’ start to school will look a little different than our half-day Kindergartners and grades first through fifth.

**How is it different?...** Full Day Kindergartners will start school on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

- During the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – Full Day Kindergarten teachers will be contacting all Full Day Kinder parents and scheduling a one-on-one parent conference and time with your student.
- During the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> - Full Day Kindergartner teachers will conference with parents and students.

**What does the approximate one hour conference look like?...** The parent/student/teacher conference will allow teachers to...

- 1) Take your child through the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment that is given to all Kindergartners.
- 2) Provide each child with a resource binder that will be built with each family. The binder will include relevant materials, activities, and resources for parents to not only assist in understanding your child’s Kindergarten experience, but to provide purposeful and timely literacy, math, and writing practice that you can do with your child at home to support their learning.
- 3) Discuss concerns, share celebrations, take a classroom and school tour, look closely at the daily schedule, review growth portfolios, and provide other pertinent “school and classroom” information.

**When is the first day of school for Full Day Kindergartners?...** The first day of school following the individual conferences and administering of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is on **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**What if I need Day Care during the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> due to this change?...** If this soft start creates a situation where you will need day care due to the change in plans, Templeton and the current YMCA Day Care staff, will be providing free day care on an “as need” or “all day” basis for any of these four days.

Please call Templeton’s main office (503) 431-4850 or 4852 and indicate if you will need childcare during the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> so we can plan staffing. Thank you in advance.

**Why the “soft start”?...** This start to the school year will allow for teachers to better understand your child going into the full day learning environment. It will allow your child’s teacher to better communicate and build relationships with you as a Kinder parent, and it will also provide our school district with a structure for offering our next years’ Kindergartners the very best start possible as every school moves to Full Day Kindergarten for all students starting in 2015-16.

We value this opportunity and hope that you will as well. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call and ask. Our Kinder teachers, Mrs. Albaugh and Mrs. Farquhar will be contacting you soon to set up your conference.

Hope to see you at the August, 26<sup>th</sup> Kinder BBQ from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Templeton and I look forward to a great Kinder start and school year for your child.

Thank You,

Todd Robson  
Principal, Templeton Elementary  
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(503)431-4858

## **Getting To Know Kinder Readiness**

- DIBELS
- LAS – parents got to meet with ELD specialists (as needed)
- Speech or Sped – parents got to meet with these staff as well (as needed)

FDK teachers coordinated specific conference times with speech/sped/ELL staff to be available to assess and/or meet parents of student who would be accessing specific supports.

## **Resource Binder – A Living Binder**

- Student name, Kindergarten Practice Binder, Templeton Tiger Mascot
- Information about school
  - Important phone numbers (school and district)
  - Welcome to Kinder letter
  - Schedule – Framework – in kid writing – prepared kids prior to start of school with typical day
  - How to prepare for first day
    - good breakfast -lay out clothes -brush teeth -come prepared -healthy snacks -etc.
- All About Me sheet – parents and kids fill out to provide important information about child
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment pamphlet – Kinder Assessment Information
- Common Core Handout – Math and Reading = Essential skills Kindergarteners will be learning
- Covering how they are going to be getting home – bus and bus tag, parent pick up, day care, etc.
- Tour of school – meeting key staff and getting familiar with the building

## **Three Academic Resource Sections**

### **Reading**

- DIBELS Next (English and Spanish) Information
- Alphabet from Journeys (chant)
- Nonsense word fluency practice – added later
- Letter naming practice – added later
- Lexia information = log in, access, progress reports

### **Math**

- Missing numbers (in October at conferences)
- Number writing practice

### **Writing**

- Writing paper in sleeves and expo markers
- Examples of writing (anchor papers) and stages of writing to see progression of writing on the writing continuum.

## **Other Relationship Building Events**

- Kinder BBQ – took place a week prior to soft start week, allowing parents to sign up for the one hour parent/student/teacher conferences during soft start.
- October parent/teacher conference sign up took place at the BBQ as well to establish dates and times early with parents to solidify and confirm commitment to attend.

