Kindergarten FAQs

Registration Questions

● Is a 4 year old physical ok? This will be fine to register. We just ask that when you get your 5 year physical, please submit it to your building nurse.

● I have already completed the Online Registration. Is a second registration needed again? A representative from Central Offices will contact you to schedule a virtual or in-person registration meeting after you upload all required registration documents. The interactive Kindergarten Registration Handbook will help with this process.

● We are planning a move to the area, but won't likely know which school until after the registration period is completed. Is there guidance for this situation? Proof of residence documentation must be provided during the registration process. You will not be able to register until you have proof that you are living within the district.

● I did not see an option to choose AM/PM preference during the registration process. The AM/PM preference will be asked during your registration appointment.

● What are things to think about in regards to early entry? There are some great recommendations listed in our Kindergarten Handbook and Launching Into Kindergarten slides regarding Kindergarten readiness.

● How long does it take to schedule an in-person or virtual registration meeting after I upload all the required documents? Once you are preapproved you will get an email with the link. This process usually takes about one week.

● What if there is a change of address and school allotment changes? You would need to submit a Change of Demographic Form with two proofs of residency. You will then be able to move into the zoned school.

● Does our child have to be present for the registration appointment? No.
During in person registration, will someone be available to talk about specific special education questions? **Not about questions that might be specific to your child.** If you have questions that you would like answered prior to registration, please contact Cynthia McKenzie, Elementary Coordinator of Special Education at cmckenzie@northallegheny.org.

Will students participate in a screening assessment prior to the first day of kindergarten? **Yes, more information will be provided soon.**

If we register now, but we find our child is not ready before the school year starts, how can we withdraw the student before school starts? Please email our Central Registration Office at registration@northallegheny.org.

Does registration need to be completed before we can schedule a virtual or in-person meeting? **Yes.**

What is the pre-approval process for registration? **Go to the online registration at [www.northallegheny.org](http://www.northallegheny.org)** and begin the process. You will be informed of what to complete before you are considered pre approved and can set a virtual or in-person registration meeting.

Does the lottery system adjust for students who have enrollment in programs (like BASE through the YMCA)? **No, however, this program is run in the morning and we typically do not have a lottery for PM Kindergarten sections.**

Does AM or PM tend to be more preferred by families? **Historically, AM is preferred.**
Academic Questions

- Can kindergarten students attend after school clubs? **Yes, both AM and PM kindergarten students are invited to attend after school clubs. If AM kindergarten students participate in after school clubs, they will need to be brought back to school at the end of the school day by a parent or guardian.**

- How many teachers are there per classroom? **There is one assigned teacher to each kindergarten section.**

- When will the dates of transitional events be announced? **Each building will share the details and dates of the transition events in the spring.**

- Are the teachers the same for AM and PM sessions? **It depends. We do have teachers that teach both morning and afternoon sessions, but some half-time teachers teach only in the morning or only in the afternoon.**

- If a child is ahead of many of the kindergarten skills, are teachers able to offer the right level of challenge for the child? **Absolutely. We strive to differentiate instruction for all of our students.**

- Do you offer extracurricular activities for students who already master parts of the curriculum? **A variety of extracurricular activities are offered throughout the school year. Such activities reinforce academic, social, and emotional learning.**

- Is there a link for the after school events/programs? **After-school activities and events are shared by each building once the school year begins.**

- Are school iPads insured? **You can buy insurance yearly for the iPads. There will be an email sent out at the beginning of the school year with the link to purchase insurance.**

- For those of us considering repeating kindergarten or moving on to first grade, is there any guidance you can offer? **We recommend having a discussion with your child’s Kindergarten teacher.**
● Are students given opportunities to advance at their level if needed. **Yes, students are given opportunities to advance at their level.**

● Is there any introduction to any foreign languages? **There is not a formal introduction to a foreign language but there are discussions about other cultures.**

● Is there any additional focus on STEM in kindergarten? **STEM activities are embedded throughout the school year.**

**Bus/Transportation Question**

● Do the buses have assigned seating? **This varies per bus driver.**

● What grade levels are on the bus? **K-5**

● Can my student ride the bus to a YMCA morning program? **Parents need to drop their child off if participating in the morning YMCA program. Drop off is at 8:30. If the student needs care before 8:30 you will also need to sign up for the before school program as well. If after school care is needed you will need to sign up for the after school program.**

● Other than the driver, are there any adults on the bus for the safety of the students? **No.**

● How do we find out where the bus will pick up/drop off? **The Transportation Department will provide all information about bus schedules and locations before the first day of school.**

● How is the elementary school determined? Is it based on where the student lives? **Yes, it is based on where you reside. The [school locator](#) will inform you of your child’s school.**

● Do we have someone to escort the student from the bus to the classroom on the first day? **Yes. All staff that do not have a homeroom are outside ready to assist students.**
General Questions

● Can you talk about the before and after school program if there is one available? The YMCA has a before and after program. You can call them at 724-934-9622 for more information.

● Are there any morning/afternoon extended care/activities children can attend to make it more of a "full day" of school or closer to a typical 8 hour work day? The YMCA has a before and after program you can call them at 724-934-9622 for more information. There are additional child care programs within the community. We encourage families to reach out to child care programs directly if before or after school care is needed.

● Are you able to bring a water bottle and snack to school? Water bottles containing water are welcome. Snack is not part of the kindergarten day.

● My child currently uses a Kindle Fire. Will starting her on a different interface and operating system than an iPad be too confusing? Any introduction to technology is wonderful. Often, students pick up these skills very quickly.

● Can you provide clarity on how to identify the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) coordinator for each elementary school? You can contact your child’s elementary building or many PTOs have a website linked to your child’s elementary school.

● Is there a timeline to register for the YMCA program? Do we need to know the AM/PM preference before registering with the YMCA? Registration opens February 14th. Students who are enrolled in the morning YMCA program will attend PM kindergarten.

● Which school buildings are the YMCA programs located in? Mcknight Elementary, Marshall Elementary, and Franklin Elementary.

● How is bullying handled? We implement a PBIS program focusing on reinforcing positive behaviors. More information about this program can be accessed via your child’s school website and will be provided throughout the school year.
• Is lunch provided for either the AM or PM session? **Since Kindergarten is a half day, they do not have a lunch period.**

• How can I find my child’s kindergarten teacher? **Each school building’s webpage has classroom teacher information listed.**

• Why does NA not offer full day kindergarten? **NA has been offering half day Kindergarten for 50 years. It has been discussed, however, there are costs and space needs that have to be considered.**

• Are there class size restrictions for kindergarten? **For Kindergarten through Second Grade: The Administration shall determine the number of sections to be created for each grade level in a manner that ensures that no section exceeds 24 students at the time the determination is made. Board Policy - 126.1**

• Should a form be filled out if a vacation or trip occurs during the school year? Yes, this [form](#) should be filled out and returned to the building.

• For kindergarten, are both pickup & drop off offered by the school district? **No, transportation is only one way, in the AM it is to school and PM it is home.**

• Will school counselors be involved at registration? **School counselors are not at registration appointments but if assistance is needed, please contact the school building.**

• What are the times for each kindergarten session?
  - **AM Session:** 9:00 am-11:45 am.
  - **PM Session:** 12:45 pm-3:30 pm.