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Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow

October 18, 2021

Dear Prospective Reading Public School Parents/Guardians:

We are reaching out today to share information with you about registering for kindergarten or first grade in the Reading Public Schools for the 2022/2023 school year. We know beginning elementary school is a milestone in a child's development and can represent a transition period for families as they learn about the public schools. We are eager to support families and students during this important and exciting time!

A question some families have is, "When should my child begin attending school?" In Reading, the School Committee Policy JEB – School Entrance Requirements for admission to school is as follows:

To be eligible for admission to the Reading Public Schools a child must have reached the age of five on or before August 31 of the entering year to enter kindergarten or must have reached the age of six on or before August 31 of the entering year to enter grade one. Under no circumstances will children younger than five be admitted.

Currently, the Reading Public Schools offers two kindergarten programs: a tuition-based full-day program and a free half-day program. Parents/guardians may select either program. The cost for the tuition-based full-day program for the 2022/2023 school year will be determined in the coming months. There is no cost for the half day program. Students whose families complete the necessary forms and qualify for free or reduced lunch will receive a reduced tuition or have the tuition waived.

Registration for both kindergarten and first grade for the 2022/2023 school year will begin in early 2022. At that time, all registration information will be posted on the district website, including all the required forms. The kindergarten tuition schedule for the tuition-based full-day program will also be included. If you wish to be emailed directly with any registration updates, please go to the link listed at the bottom of this letter to sign up for email updates.

For the families of our incoming kindergartners, we anticipate questions will arise as you start to think about and plan for next school year. We are always available to answer any questions you might have and will offer multiple opportunities over this school year for you to begin interacting with school staff as your student prepares to enter kindergarten. The first opportunity we will offer is a Family Information Night on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM. This event will

be held at the Killam Elementary School, 333 Charles Street, Reading, MA. The presentation will be recorded and available for viewing following the event. We will also offer a virtual option for families who prefer to join via Zoom. You can sign up to receive the Zoom link by filling out the quick form linked at the bottom of this letter.

At Family Information Night we will discuss the registration process and share information about the half and full-day kindergarten programs. School and district administrators will be on hand to answer questions.

Whether entering kindergarten or first grade, we look forward to working with you to ensure a successful school experience for your child. If you have any questions, please contact the Reading Public Schools Administration Offices at 781-944-5800 or by email to Samantha.lapierre@reading.k12.ma.us

Link to the Reading Public Schools website: <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/>

Link to sign up for email updates and/or link to virtual Family Information Night:
<https://forms.gle/eBoi9gcebBhM7YXXA>

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Hardy, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching
Dr. Thomas Milaschewski, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jennifer Stys, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services