



# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

*Roxbury's Family Guide*



Going to Kindergarten is an important step for children.

It helps them learn skills that they will build on throughout their life. In Kindergarten, children grow socially and emotionally through skill development in physical education, art, music, and interacting with others. They hone their ability to think, recognize as well use language through media and computers.

Most importantly, children discover how to become effective learners as they develop and extend their communication skills, build their self-confidence, learn to be creative, and develop skills that assist them with reading, writing and mathematics.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Age requirements:**

According to Roxbury Board of Education Policy 5112, a child is eligible for entrance into kindergarten who will have attained the age of five years on or before October 1 of the year in which entrance is sought.

- **Birth certificates:**

Parents must bring their child's original birth certificate at the time of registration.

- **Immunization and Health Assessment Requirements:**

Parents must bring their child's record of immunizations at the time of registration. The school nurse shall ensure that pupils receive health screenings as outlined below in accordance with New Jersey Department of Education Health Service Guidelines, which include screenings for height, weight, and blood pressure, visual and auditory acuity.

- **Medication Procedures:**

In order for the Health staff to provide optimum care for your child while attending school, it is vital that we have updated medical information submitted to the Health Office. Please visit [www.Roxbury.org/resources](http://www.Roxbury.org/resources) to download the necessary forms.

**Transportation:** Provided in accordance with Board of Education Policy 8600 – Transportation. The Roxbury Transportation Department can be reached at 973-584-6756. For additional information go to: [www.roxbury.org/domain/34](http://www.roxbury.org/domain/34).



## ART

Kindergarten art students take away a love of art experience. Through painting, drawing, splattering, mess-making, cutting, pasting, and collage, kindergarten artists learn how to problem-solve, think outside the box, and innovate. Art experience helps calm the mind and body, as well as spark excitement through creativity.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Roxbury provides a balanced approach to English Language Arts that addresses all of the current standards for reading, writing, and speaking & listening. Children participate in Reading and Writing Workshop. This program sparks a love for reading by introducing children to authentic literature and providing them instruction at their individual level. During Reading Workshop, children participate in the following Units of Study:

- Launching Reading Workshop
- General Fiction
- Fables & Folktales
- Nonfiction
- Compare and Contrast
- Reading Poetry

The children also experience the following Units of Study during the Writing Workshop:

- Building a Writing Community
- How Writers Work
- Lists and Labels
- Personal Narrative
- Author Study: Donald Crews

Embedded within the English Language Arts Kindergarten experience are lessons dedicated to Word Study, Phonics, Spelling, Handwriting and numerous other skills that lead to developing our young readers and writers.

## MATHEMATICS

Our mathematics program focuses on developing a strong number sense. Roxbury focuses on conceptual understanding at the concrete, pictorial and abstract level through hands-on learning with math manipulatives. Our five units of study include:

- Number Names and Counting Sequence
- Addition (“Adding To”) and Subtraction (“Taking From”)
- Compare Numbers and Shapes
- Foundations for Place Value
- Geometric Shapes

Classroom activities and lessons are strategically structured using: Investigation, Discover, Explore, Apply lesson structure. This empowers our students to think mathematically about problems and their solutions and provides children with multiple approaches to reach mastery. Children learn to use numbers to make connections and realize the relationship between them. Our students can then make connections to real life situations.



## MEDIA CENTER VISITS

During their weekly visit to the Media Center, Kindergarten students learn how a library is organized and how to access and use available resources for different information needs. They are introduced to basic literary vocabulary, and develop listening skills and independence in exploring books of their choice.

Students use the Media Center to broaden their experience and enjoyment of literature from books read aloud to books they choose for themselves. Through the sharing of literature, students are encouraged to develop a lifelong love of books, reading, and learning.

## MUSIC

Kindergarten music class is active, fast-paced, and focused the elements of music at their most basic level. All units are aligned to the Kindergarten NJCCS for Visual and Performing Arts. This course prepares students to begin reading and writing music in iconic and standard notation in first grade. Concepts such as pitch (high/low), rhythm (sound/silence), tempo (fast/ slow), dynamics (loud/soft), mood and style are presented.

Students work towards matching pitch consistently and singing with a healthy sound through vocal exploration and performance of the four voice functions.

Additionally, students learn to maintain steady beat in movement and instrument playing.

Activities include:

- Singing and chanting thematic and diverse repertoire
- Listening to a variety of styles of music and responding through



movement, drawing and discussion

- Playing various non-pitched percussion instruments
- Using music and creative movement to tell stories and represent emotions

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Including activities that maximize physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth, the Kindergarten Physical Education program focuses on individual activities to promote a lifetime awareness of fitness activities.

All activities help students use higher level thinking skills for daily problem solving. The curriculum also addresses bullying and harassment at an early age.

The Kindergarten Physical Education includes:

- Space, direction and body awareness
- Locomotor skills
- Non-locomotor skills
- Manipulative skills (large and small objects)
- Rhythmic activities/dance
- Cooperative activities
- Fitness activities.



## SCIENCE

Kindergarteners are taught Science through a series of investigations. During this early stage, the Science practices are introduced and integrated throughout the program. Children explore how the Sciences are interrelated in multiple subject areas, with a strong connection to technology, engineering and mathematical content. Students inquire about:

- Plants and Animals
- Weather
- Physics
- Our Earth
- Environment

Kindergarteners are encouraged to explore using a variety of tools, collect information from reading material, and discover answers to their questions through experiments. Teachers develop an enthusiasm towards Science that challenges children to be creative and innovative.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Roxbury Public Schools sets a foundation in social skills and concepts to help develop responsible and contributing members to our global community through an integrated approach of Social Studies.

The Social Studies program builds on the child's genuine interest for the world around them. Our children focus on four themes throughout the school year. These include:

- Me and My Community
- My World and Beyond
- The Way My World Works
- Traditions and Celebrations

Students learn about these areas through project-based learning, assemblies,



sharing time, literature, and other events held during the school year.

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology in kindergarten helps set the foundation for what today's Digital Natives need to know. Using computers and iPads, students become familiar with basic functions in order to develop the skills and tools necessary to behave in digitally challenging environments.

Students use engaging, age-appropriate, software and websites that integrate with classroom learning and are aligned to the NJCCS Technology standards.



## ROXBURY SCHOOLS + PARENTS = A GREAT PARTNERSHIP!

At Roxbury Public Schools, we believe parent involvement is instrumental to student success. In Kindergarten, your child progresses in developing his or her language, learning about the world and gaining new friends at school.

We look forward to partnering with you and supporting your child's growth. By providing opportunities to engage in play that enhances their growth, you can support your child's success. Reading aloud, playing board games, and working with puzzles are some of the many activities you can do with your child that enhances their growth.

### 15 WAYS TO BE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN:

1. **Talk with your child often.** Talk about what you see and do. Make up stories. Sing songs. Rhyme. Tell jokes. These things help your child learn about words, language and the world.
2. **Read to your child daily.** It's key to helping your child learn how to read. It can be a great part of a bedtime routine, too. As you read each word, point to it. Ask your child to guess what might happen next or to retell the story. Go to the Library together. Let your child help pick books. Choose some on kindergarten.
3. **Teach the ABC's.** Help your child learn the alphabet and the sound for each letter. When you see an "A", for example, point it out. Say, "A is for apple and ant." Also point out words you child sees often in the world. For example, look for common words at the grocery store.
4. **Count together.** Count birds on a wire, people in a checkout line –anything! Point out numerals, too. If you see a "3," for example, say, "Show me 3 fingers." Compare things. Use the words - more/fewer and bigger/smaller. Talk about what happens if you take 1 item away – or add 1.
5. **Explore shapes, colors and more.** Teach your child basic shapes and colors. Sort and match, too. For example, have you child help you sort laundry and match socks. Or ask your child to spot 3 things that are red or square. Have your child guess what comes next in repeating patterns, such as red, blue, red, etc.
6. **Encourage coloring and scribbling.** These are pre-writing skills! Along with using safety scissors, this exercise fine motor skills and you child's creativity. Encourage your child to copy letters and numbers and write his or her name.
7. **Learn about the school.** Go to Kindergarten Round Up. Meet the teacher and school staff. Read the school handbook.



## 15 WAYS TO BE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN (cont'd):

8. **Put your child at ease.** Discuss what the school day will be like. Encourage questions. Let your child know it's OK to be nervous. Stress the fun things your child will do and learn and the friends he or she will make. Be upbeat!
9. **Use instructions.** Help your child practice following simple instructions. For example: "Please hang up your coat. Then, wash your hands. Then, meet me in "the kitchen." Responsibility is also important. Give your child simple chores. Teach him or her to take care of things. Also let your child make some choices, such as what to wear.
10. **Work on making friends.** Teach how to share, take turns, say "please" and "thank you", respect other people's things and solve problems without hitting. Help them learn words to use when they are frustrated.
11. **Use routines.** They're good for you and your child. Create routines for bedtime and waking up, laying out school clothes the night before and eating breakfast. Give your child three healthy meals plus healthy snacks, each day.
12. **Get your children moving.** Children need plenty of physical activity. Encourage running, dancing hopping, climbing and catching balls. Make it a family affair! (Consult your child's health care provider before starting an exercise program.) To ensure time for activity and schoolwork, limit "screen time" (TV, internet or video games) to no more than two hours per day.
13. **Teach good Hygiene.** Help your child learn to use the restroom without help. Get him or her into the habit of washing hand often and well. Also teach him or her to sneeze and or cough into their shoulder or the back of his or her hand.
14. **Teach safety.** Make sure your child knows his or her full name, address and telephone number and how to contact you. Teach your child to only cross a street with an adult and to look left-right-left before crossing.
15. **Get your child immunized.** Call your health care provider to arrange for their Kindergarten checkup and shots.



## STAY CONNECTED:

### Honeywell Alerts:

Roxbury Public Schools utilizes Honeywell Instant Alerts to give parents the ability to control the way they want to receive emergency communication and inclement weather closings, delayed openings or early dismissal.

Sign up at <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>.

## PARENT NEWSLETTERS:

In addition to regular school updates from your principal, Roxbury Public Schools sends a bi-weekly parent email newsletter, giving insight to programs, events and district news. Sign up for the district newsletter by going to [www.roxbury.org/Page/3878](http://www.roxbury.org/Page/3878).

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:

[www.Roxbury.org](http://www.Roxbury.org)



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## ROXBURY'S K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Elementary School  
25 Meeker Street  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
973-584-5549  
[www.Roxbury.org/FES](http://www.Roxbury.org/FES)

Nixon Elementary School  
275 Mount Arlington Boulevard  
Landing, NJ 07850  
973-398-2964  
[www.Roxbury.org/NES](http://www.Roxbury.org/NES)

Kennedy Elementary School  
20 Pleasant Hill Road  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
973-584-3938  
[www.Roxbury.org/KES](http://www.Roxbury.org/KES)

Jefferson Elementary School  
35 Cornhollow Road  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
973-584-8955  
[www.Roxbury.org/JES](http://www.Roxbury.org/JES)