



# Kent Gardens Kindergarten Orientation

March 21, 2025

While you are waiting, save Kent  
Gardens' number in your phone!

**703-394-5600**

Scan the QR to view the PTA website  
to join and sign up for their weekly  
newsletter.



# Welcome to Kent Gardens Elementary

- Holly McGuigan, Principal
- Tia Hawkins, Assistant Principal
- Sarah Talley, Assistant Principal
- Gail Barnett, Instructional Coach
- Katie Altman & Elizabeth Fernandez, Counselors
- Sheri Emory, Reading Specialist

## Kindergarten Teachers

- Rabia Gilani
- Bonnie Grijalva
- Kristen Schuetz

## PTA Board

- Jenny Gregory, President
- Bethany Nguyen, Secretary
- Kelly Pidgeon, VP Enrichment
- Adrienne Denk, VP Communications
- Rebecca Neumann, VP Special Programs
- Hilary Mossburg, Treasurer/Financial Secretary

# Kent Gardens Elementary

## **Enrollment - Must be 5 on or before September 30, 2025**

- Average 25 students per class
- Typically 3 classes
  - Our staffing is based on registrations
  - Please complete registration ASAP

## **Transportation**

- Bus routes received in late August
- Kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by an adult
- Exception to Ride (ETR) needs to be submitted to school prior to school start and after completing registration
  - applicable if your student will be going to Redeemer or Westgate for after school care

## **School Age Child Care (SACC)**

- Before and After Care program run by Fairfax County Government
- More information: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/school-age-child-care-sacc>
- Contact Mr. Tim Bratcher with questions, [twbratcher@fcps.edu](mailto:twbratcher@fcps.edu)

# #KGPrize

- Patience
- Respectful
- Inclusive
- Doing Our Best
- Excited to Learn



- #strongertogether #WeAllBelong

# Early Childhood Education: Kent Gardens Kindergarten Program

- Focuses on language development
- Promotes an appreciation for diversity
- Incorporates active learning
- Provides opportunities for investigation, exploration, and discovery
- Encourages a positive self-concept
- Promotes creative expression
- Fosters positive interaction with others



# Quality Early Childhood Practices

Promote continuous progress and achievement through:

- Active, hands-on learning
- Age- and individually appropriate curriculum and instruction
- Responsiveness to diversity
- Assessment
- Flexible grouping/Differentiated instruction
- Opportunities for choice
- Safe and supportive classroom environment



# Teaching the Whole Child: Kent Gardens Kindergarten Program

At Kent Gardens we emphasize:

- Academics – love of learning
  - Social-Emotional Learning – feel safe and connected
  - Citizenship/Responsibility – care for each other and school
  - Community – friendship across class/grade level
- 
- [FCPS Kindergarten Welcome Video](#)



# A Day in the Life of a Kindergartner

- Arrival and Morning Routine
- Greeting/Morning Meeting
- Phonics/Phonological Awareness
- Reading
- Writing
- Literacy Stations
- Specials
- Recess
- Lunch
- Math Workshop
- Snack and Recess
- Science/Social Studies/Health
- Free Centers/Dramatic Play
- Closing Circle/Dismissal





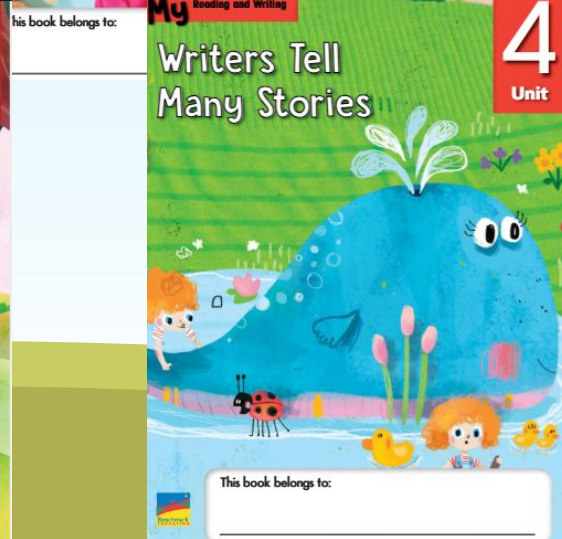
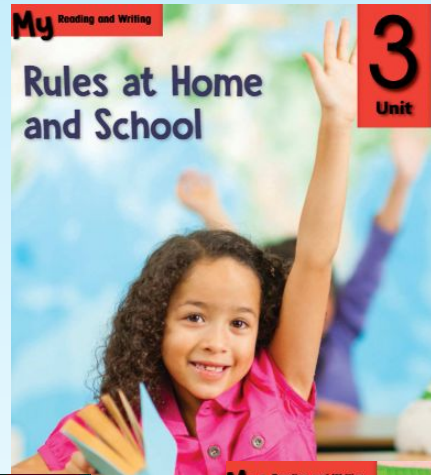
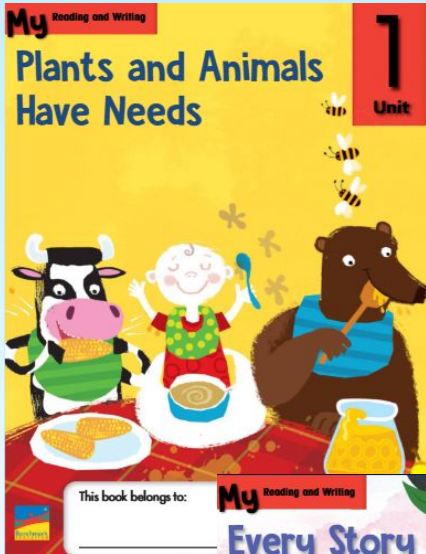
# Language Arts

Fosters literacy learning through engagement in print-rich experience to develop:

<b><u>Oral Language</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Writing</u></b>
Listening Phonemic Awareness Speaking Story Sharing Story Retelling	Print Awareness Letter Identification Phonics Read Alouds Shared Reading Independent Reading	Drawing Writing Spelling Handwriting Shared Writing Independent Writing

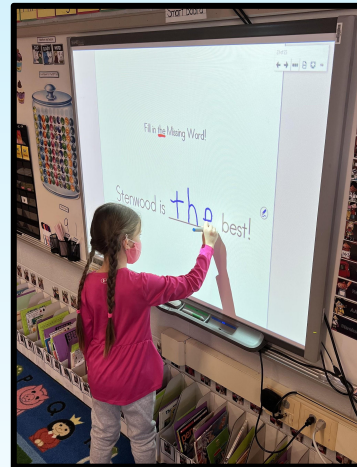
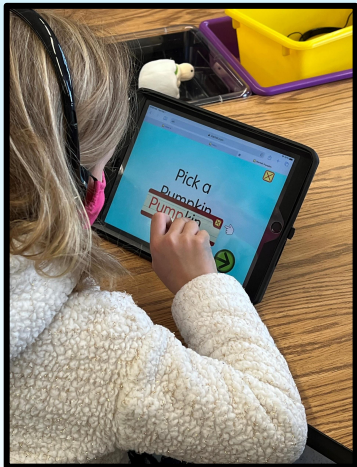
# Benchmark Advance

## Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI)



# Language Arts

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are strengthened through our Language Arts block. Students participate in whole-group lessons, small-group instruction, and literacy stations. Phonics instruction occurs every day of the week!



# VALLSS: Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System

Assesses children's knowledge of:

- Letter Names (Uppercase & Lowercase)
- Letter Sounds
- Beginning Sounds
- Phoneme Blending
- Phoneme Segmenting
- Spelling
- Word Decoding
- Listening Comprehension
- Vocabulary



VALLSS Resources for Families

# Support for Multilingual Learners (MLs)

- Support MLs with academic and social language skills
- Focus on English language development in the four language domains of reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Work with classroom teachers to help MLs access grade-level curriculum
- Recognize multilingualism as a strength!



# Mathematics

Facilitates active, hands-on learning experiences through the development of:

## Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

- Sort and classify objects
- Describe, copy, extend, and create patterns



## Geometry and Measurement

- Shapes and comparisons: size, length, weight, time, money



## Numbers and Number Sense

- Counting
- Subitizing
- Number formation



## Computation and Estimation

- Using strategies to compose and decompose numbers



## Problem Solving and Applications

- Work through word problems



## Probability and Statistics

- Represent data using graphs & charts



**VKRP:** Students will be assessed twice a year to track their progress throughout the year.

# Science/Health

Encourages investigation, exploration, and discovery of concepts in:

- Shapes and colors
- Seasonal changes/weather
- Animal adaptations
- The Five Senses
- Shadows
- Magnets
- Lifecycles



Some of the health topics include:

## **Living/Growing Bodies**

- Healthy food choices
- Physical activity
- Personal hygiene

## **Health and Safety Information**

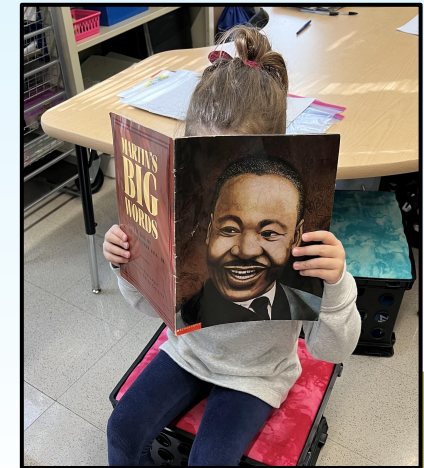
- Seeking help when in danger
- Call 911

## **Family Life Education Program**

# Social Studies

Encourages an understanding of how family life and communities change over time by developing concepts through the study of:

- Individuals who have made significant contributions to the United States and its history
- National holidays
- Various cultural traditions and celebrations





# Specials

<b><u>Music</u></b>	<b><u>Physical Education</u></b>	<b><u>Art</u></b>	<b><u>French</u></b>	<b><u>Library</u></b>	<b><u>STEAM</u></b>	<b><u>AART</u></b>
Promotes active participation and creative expression	Fosters physical development	Enhances self-expression and creativity	Promotes learning a language and the culture of Francophone nations	Fosters a love for reading and self-selection of age-appropriate books.	Enhances math and science skills with a focus on Portrait of a Graduate	Promotes critical thinking and problem solving



# Technology

Opportunities are provided to reinforce integrated learning through the development of computer skills.

- Kindergarten is 1:1 with iPads
- Lexia and ST Math (in school)
- Students have access to a variety of technology resources at home **from any device**
- Technology support information for families is also available on the Kent Gardens and FCPS website
- Schoology is our learning management system. More information on how to use this will come in the Fall. Parents will need to activate their SIS account to have access. SIS activation usually takes place in August.
- Ms. Townsend is our School-Based Technology Specialist



# Kindergarten Events

- Fall Festival
- Candy Houses
- Valentine's Day
- 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- Literacy Night
- STEAM/Math Night
- Leprechaun Day
- KG Spring Fun Run!
- Field Day
- 2 Field Trips
- End-of-Year Performance





# Logistics and Procedures



# Arrival & Dismissal Logistics

- Arrival – Classroom Doors open at 8:40 a.m.
  - Unpacking Routine
  - Final Bell 8:50 a.m. – Students should arrive by this time and are marked tardy after 8:50 a.m.
- Dismissal – 3:35 p.m. (Kinder dismisses at 3:25 p.m.)
  - Walkers are met at the cafeteria doors
  - Kiss & Ride are escorted by Kinder IAs
  - Bus riders are escorted to bus by Safety Patrols
    - Kindergartners **MUST** be met at the bus stop by an adult
      - (middle school age or older)
      - If no adult present, will be returned to school
  - SACC students are escorted by an adult

\*Parents/guardians may escort their child to their classroom on the first day of school.  
Our goal is independence!

# Kiss & Ride



# Lunch and Snack Logistics

- Snack is every day
  - Please ensure you pack a healthy snack (no candy, etc.)
- Water bottle labeled with name
- Lunch
  - students can buy or bring their lunch
    - hot lunch and a salad bar
  - can load money for lunch on [MySchool Bucks](#)
  - teachers will inform of allergies in the classroom (many nut-free classrooms)
  - allergy table in the cafeteria for students with severe allergies
  - students wash their hands before and after lunch

# Illness

- Students who have fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other symptoms of communicable diseases such as rashes or eye irritation should remain at home
- Students should not return to school until they have been symptom-free (without medication) for 24 hours or a health care provider gives them permission to return to school (please provide physician note to clinic)
- **Send change of clothes – we don't have spare clothes**
- Please call us if injured or going to be out
  - Doctor's note if out for 3 days and if need accommodations when back (e.g., broken leg)





# Health Room Information

- Public Health Nurse, **Kristina Brown**
- School Health Aide, **Ramita (Romi) Rana**

## What the SHA does:

- Care of sick and injured (S&W, BA, ICE), not full-service
- Intake Medications/forms- Daily meds, Inhalers, Epipens
- Vision and Hearing screenings for all Kindergarteners

## What the PHN does:

- Creates Individual Health Care/Action plans
- Sends out medical flag list – confidential
- Health Promotion lessons for all K classes
- Train staff on procedures
- Participate in medical 504 and IEPs as needed



# Health Room Information

## When to reach out:

- Chronic condition that impacts child during school day – best to reach by email
- Physical form with immunizations – over summer
- HIF/ECC annually – send in note if new contacts or new conditions diagnosed
- Forms for medications available online and in health room
  - <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/forms>



# Health Room Information

- **Emergency Care Card** AND the **Health Information Form** forms are important! This information will be shared only with staff members who need to know. Emergency Care Card should include the names of neighbors, friends, or family members who would be able to pick up if needed
- **Parent Vue** - This **link** supports families with access to various FCPS and Kent Gardens tools.



# Medications

- If medication needs to be given in school, either on a regular basis or occasionally as needed, it needs to be provided by the parents (no medications are on-hand in school).
- Authorization forms for medications are [available online](#). There are Medication Authorization, Inhaler Authorization, and Epinephrine Authorization forms available.
- Parents can authorize over-the-counter medications for treatment of headache, muscle aches, orthodontic pain, or menstrual cramps. Most other medications need a health care provider's signature.
- Medications **must** be transported to and from school by a parent.
- Medications **must** be kept in the health room or other school-approved location.



# Immunizations

- For the 2025-26 school year, each student needs to have all of their immunizations (or at least the first if it is a series) completed before they are allowed to start school.
- If you are new to the county/country and do not have a primary care provider for your student, you can call the Annandale District Office Clinic at **703-246-7100** to set up an appointment.
- For a list of which immunizations are required please visit <https://www.fcps.edu/immunizations>
- For any other immunization related questions, please contact the Student Information Assistant, Annie Joseph, in the front office.



# PHN / SHA Contact Information

**Public Health Nurse (PHN) - Kristina Brown**

**Phone:** 571-460-8931

**Email:** [kbrown6@fcps.edu](mailto:kbrown6@fcps.edu)



**School Health Aide (SHA) - Ramita (Romi) Rana**

**Clinic Phone:** 703-394-5610

**Email:** [rrana2@fcps.edu](mailto:rrana2@fcps.edu)

**Clinic Hours:** Monday-Friday from 8:30am-3:30pm





# What You Can Do Between Now and the First Day of Kindergarten

- Practice cutting, coloring, and pasting
- Tying shoes, zipping jackets
- Opening lunch containers and tearing open food packets
- Drawing and describing detailed pictures
- Buckling seat belt (K&R)
- Blowing noses & washing hands
- Playdates with same-age peers
- Writing first and last name
- Upper and lowercase ID and writing
- Letter sounds
- Counting to 30
- Pencil grip



# Kindergarten Helpful Information

- Backpack – please make sure your child’s full-size backpack is large enough to hold lunch bags, daily folder, snack, and a library book.
- Label, label, label – jackets, lunchboxes, water bottles, coats, mittens, hats, etc.!!!



# Getting Ready for Reading

Suggestions for:

- Games and Activities
- Readiness Checklist
- Resources and Book

**The most important thing you can do before Kindergarten is READ and TALK about books!**



**Reach Out & Read** **READING TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY**

**Read aloud every day!**  
It's **FUN**. It's **SPECIAL TIME** with your child. It helps children learn **LOTS** of **NEW WORDS**.

**IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START!**  
Babies love to be held and to hear your voice. Cuddle up together and look at board books.

**MAKE THE STORY COME ALIVE**  
Read with fun and excitement in your voice. Try loud, or soft, or silly voices.

**A FEW MINUTES IS OKAY**  
Young children may sit still for only a few minutes. They will listen longer as they grow.

**TALK ABOUT THE PICTURES**  
Make up stories to go with the pictures. Let your child join in!

**LET YOUR CHILD TURN THE PAGES**  
Babies and toddlers need help to turn board book pages. A three-year-old likes to turn paper pages without help.

**READ ANYWHERE, ANYTIME**  
Read at playtime, bedtime and naptime. Read any place you have to wait. Read at the playground or under a tree, in the car or on the bus.

**READ FAVORITE STORIES OVER AND OVER**  
Children love to hear the same stories again and again. This is how they learn.

**GO TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY TO GET MORE BOOKS**  
Your local library has lots of free books. Let your child choose which ones to bring home.

**ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY**  
Where is the moon? What do you think will happen next? Be sure to give your child time to answer!

**When children are read to by people they love, children learn to love books!**

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

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# What Can I Do to Help?

- READ, READ, READ! Ask questions and do some think-alouds while reading
  - I remember...
  - I learned...
  - I wonder...
- Encourage and promote independence in small tasks (e.g., provide options and encourage them to make choices, give age-appropriate chores, allow them time to struggle and problem-solve)
- No screen time at meals and two hours before bedtime

# Registration Information

- Student Information Assistant, Annie Joseph [ajoseph@fcps.edu](mailto:ajoseph@fcps.edu)

## What You Need:

- Birth Certificate
- Parent Photo ID
- Proof of Residency (deed, lease or mortgage statement)
- [FCPS Enrollment Forms](#)

# Educating Your Child – Together as Partners!

Tell us about your child!

- Join us for the school tour on Tuesday, April 1 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. - [sign up here](#)
- Tell us about your child - Complete [Google form](#) by June 4
- Register by emailing Annie Joseph, [ajoseph@fcps.edu](mailto:ajoseph@fcps.edu) ([info](#) on KG Website)
- Health Information – share when registering and complete appropriate [Health Care forms](#) from FCPS website
- FCPS [registration forms](#)

# Becoming Familiar with Kent Gardens

- Once registered, you will receive News You Choose and The ROAR (PTA announcements)
- You can enroll now for News You Choose by going to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and self-enrolling by choosing Kent Gardens
- Kindergarten Play Dates –
  - Saturday 5/17 10am-12pm
  - Saturday 6/21 9am-11am
  - Wednesday 8/13 6pm-7pm
- Follow on Facebook @KentGardensES



# Important Dates

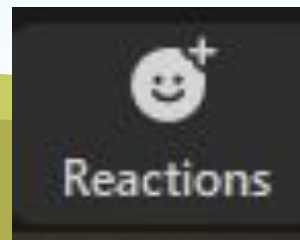
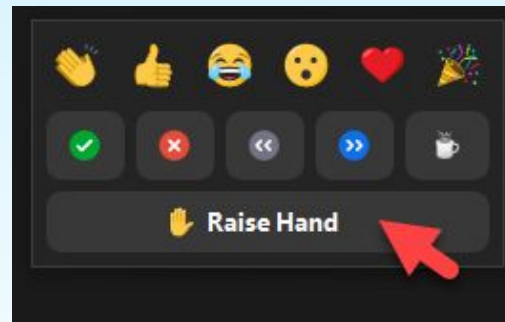
- **Register Now!** (Ask your friends to do this, too!)
- Class Assignments – Week prior to August 18
- Bus Schedule – Week prior to August 18
  - Transportation will text/email parents
- **School Calendar 2025-26**
  - New Family Tours - **August 6** ~ 5 - 6 p.m. Rain or shine
  - Open House - **August 14** - 2 p.m. Rolling times based on last names
  - Return to School - First Day - **August 18**
  - Back-to-School Night – Tentative 8/26



# Questions?

## Raising Your Hand!

Hover your mouse toward the bottom of your Zoom screen







# Thank You For Coming!

## Welcome to Our Amazing Kent Gardens Family!

### Questions?

Holly McGuigan, Principal [hsmcguigan@fcps.edu](mailto:hsmcguigan@fcps.edu)

Sarah Talley, Assistant Principal [sjtalley@fcps.edu](mailto:sjtalley@fcps.edu)

Tia Hawkins, Assistant Principal [tnhawkins@fcps.edu](mailto:tnhawkins@fcps.edu)

Annie Joseph Student Information Assistant [ajoseph@fcps.edu](mailto:ajoseph@fcps.edu)

Aliceson Wirth, SPED [ajwirth@fcps.edu](mailto:ajwirth@fcps.edu)

Ramita Rama, Clinic Aide [rrama@fcps.edu](mailto:rrama@fcps.edu)

Kristina Brown, Public Health Nurse [kbrown6@fcps.edu](mailto:kbrown6@fcps.edu)

Elizabeth Fernandez and Katie Altman, School Counselors

[emacdonald@fcps.edu](mailto:emacdonald@fcps.edu); [kaltman@fcps.edu](mailto:kaltman@fcps.edu)