



Welcome to Pittsburgh Phillips K-5
A Spanish Emphasis School
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Ready for School

School readiness means that a child is ready to enter a social environment that is primarily focused on education.

Research has suggested that many aspects of children's lives influence their preparation for formal school learning, including cognitive, social, emotional, and motor development, and, most importantly, early home, parental, and preschool experiences.

Consideration of school readiness must take into account the range and quality of children's early life experiences, the normal wide variation in young children's development and learning, and the extent to which the school's expectations of beginning kindergarten children are appropriate and respect individual differences.

The following list of behaviors and/or characteristics are often associated with early school success:

-  Ability to follow structured daily routines.
-  Ability to dress independently.
-  Ability to work independently with supervision.
-  Ability to listen and pay attention to what someone else is saying.
-  Ability to get along with and cooperate with other children.
-  Ability to play with other children.
-  Ability to follow simple rules.
-  Ability to work with puzzles, scissors, coloring, paints, etc.
-  Ability to write his/her own name or to acquire the skill with instruction.
-  Ability to count or acquire the skill with instruction.
-  Ability to recite the alphabet (or quickly learn with instruction).
-  Ability to identify colors and be familiar with the 6 basic shapes.
-  Ability to recognize rhyme.

What Parents Can Do to Help Prepare Children for School

A great deal of variability exists in developmental and skill levels within young children. This is normal, and many children will not have developed to the level of others at the same age. Nevertheless, parents can help their children develop the skills they will need to be ready for school. The following list is a collection of activities that parents can do with their children to increase their child's general readiness for school:

- ✦ Read books to and with your child.
- ✦ Spend time with your child, including playing, cuddling, and hugging.
- ✦ Create and enforce a routine within your home that your child needs to follow (i.e., times of meals, naptimes, and bedtimes).
- ✦ Take time to talk to your child.
- ✦ Encourage and answer questions from your child.
- ✦ Engage in informal reading and counting activities at home.
- ✦ Promote your child's cognitive development by showing and encouraging your child to think about the world around them.
- ✦ Promote play that helps develop literacy skills, problem-solving skills, creativity, and imagination.
- ✦ Familiarize children with the alphabet and with numbers.
- ✦ Ensure opportunity to develop social skills through playgroups or more formal preschool activities.
- ✦ Encourage behaviors that demonstrate respect and courtesy.
- ✦ Encourage children to accept responsibility and build competence through simple chores such as putting toys away and picking up clothes.

A Sample Day in Kindergarten

Our school day begins at 8:10AM and the dismissal bell rings at 2:51PM.

Please have your child at school on time every day.

When students repeatedly arrive 5, 10 or even 15 minutes after the tardy bell, it adds up to a significant amount of instructional time over the course of a year!



✓ Morning Meeting

The group gathers to plan the day, review the calendar, and discuss daily topics.

✓ Phonics and Phonemic Awareness

The students work in whole group, small group, and on individual activities to promote reading readiness.

✓ Writing

The students work in whole group, small group, and on individual activities to promote writing readiness.

✓ Reading

The students work in whole group, small group, and on individual activities to promote reading readiness.

✓ Small Group – Differentiated Instruction – Intervention Time

The students work in small group on individual activities to promote reading readiness.

✓ Recess, Lunch

✓ Story Time

The teacher reads a daily fiction or non-fiction book to the students.

✓ Math

The students work with a variety of hands-on math manipulatives to learn math concepts.

✓ Special Area Class


Students have one special area class a day such as Phys. Ed, Library, Art, or Music.


✓ Social Studies/Science/Spanish


A variety of Spanish, science, and social studies topics are taught through games and hands-on activities.


✓ Dismissal


Additional Notes About Your Child's Day

 Your child is encouraged to ride the bus to and from school (if provided). Your child will be escorted from the bus to his or her classroom at the beginning of the year. There are always adults helping during arrival and dismissal.

 Pittsburgh Phillips will continue to offer Universal Free Breakfast for all students. Breakfast service begins at 7:40 AM and ends at 8:05 AM.

 After School Program: Pittsburgh Public Schools will offer an after-school care program for K-5 students at Phillips Monday through Friday from 2:51PM to 6:30PM. Applications can be found at www.pps.k12.pa.us/earlychildhood or they may be picked up at the school.

 Students may not bring toys from home unless specifically approved by the teacher. Dolls, action figures, purses, lip-gloss, hand-held video games, mp3 players, trading cards, etc., do not serve an educational purpose and can cause a disruption to the learning environment. The school will not be responsible for toys and other devices that are lost or stolen.

 Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the school day. Students are expected to keep cell phones off and secured in their locker at all times or give their phones to their teacher to hold. Additionally, the school or school staff is not liable for lost or broken electronic devices, even when confiscated. This is outlined in Board Policy 218-Electronic Devices