

Kindergarten FAQs



How do I register my child for kindergarten?

Early registration for kindergarten takes place from February 2, 2015 – March 19, 2015. Those not registered by Thursday, March 19, 2015, must wait until Monday, May 4, 2015 to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten parents will receive notification of their child's placement mid-late May, along with their kindergarten orientation notices.

Registration materials can be found on the district's website (www.southorangemaplewood.org) or picked up at the Board of Education located at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood. Completed packets must be returned in person by the parent/guardian during registration hours, Monday-Thursday from 9-12:45pm.

When will I learn the name of my child's teacher?

The Maplewood South Orange School District sends teacher assignment letters to every student a few days before the first day of school. Teacher assignments are sent out on the same day for all elementary schools in the M/SO School District. The school will not release teacher assignment information before letters are mailed out.

What supplies should my child bring on the first day?

If your child's kindergarten teacher requires any supplies on the first day of school, a list will be included with your teacher assignment letter. Generally, however, most kindergarten supplies will be requested during the first week of school and the list is usually quite short and includes items like tissues and hand sanitizer.

Should my child bring a snack on the first day of school?

Kindergarten and first grade students eat a snack every day. In most classrooms, parents are responsible for sending in a small, healthy snack and drink daily. In some classrooms, snacks might be provided by one family for an entire week. On the first day it is recommended that you do send in a snack. If the teacher has different plans for snack time, you will be informed at some point early in the school year.

How do I set up a lunch account for my child?

Students may either bring lunch from home or buy lunch, drinks, and snacks using a PIN number to access their pre-paid lunch account. In order to open a lunch account, you will need your child's student ID number. This number is usually included with correspondence that is sent by the school district after you have registered your child for school. You can also obtain this number by calling Food Services. The number is (973) 762-5600 X1002. Once you have that, you can:

- Pay via check using the form for lunch accounts, which is located in your school's office;
- Go to mealpayplus.com and use your credit card; or
- Call (866) 575-5353 to give your credit card information over the phone.

What is the dismissal time on half days? Do I pack a lunch? An extra snack?

Half days end four hours after school begins (e.g. if school begins at 8:45am, dismissal will take place at 12:45pm). There is no lunch on half-days. Please include a snack in your child's backpack if your teacher normally schedules a snack period.

Will my child ride a bus to school?

Busses are provided as a courtesy to qualified students at Marshall/Jefferson, Seth Boyden and South Mountain Annex. If your child qualifies (based on distance from school), you will receive a form that must be completed and mailed back. If you do not fill out the form, you will not be eligible for transportation.

How can I stay informed about what is going on in the district?

Sign up for district e-newsletters (register at www.southorangemaplewood.org), look for flyers in your child's backpack, or even attend Board of Education meetings or watch them on TV.

Who can I talk to if I have a concern about my child?

The best place to start is with your child's teacher. In the rare event that you are not satisfied with the teacher's response, then you can contact the school principal.

How can I get involved with the PTA at my child's school?

It benefits your child and the school for parents to be involved. There are many ways to participate:

- Sign up for the PTA e-newsletters
- Attend PTA events
- Volunteer to help – the PTA looks for volunteers throughout the year. Please contact any member of the PTA to find out what you can do to help.
- Volunteer to help your child's class or participate in the field trips and other class events organized by your child's teacher and the Class Parents.

Is after care available through the district?

The district does not provide after care. However, on-site after care is available through the South Mountain YMCA, and there are also a number of off-site after care options available through various providers. The on-site programs run from dismissal time until 6:30pm and follow the district calendar.