

REGION 10 SCHOOL DISTRICT

HARWINTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
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VISIT OUR WEBSITES: www.region10ct.org



Welcome to Kindergarten and to the beginning of your child's journey through the Region 10 schools. Entering kindergarten is an exciting time for every child. We look forward to working with your child in an engaging and contemporary educational setting.

This booklet is designed to provide you with some of the practical information that pertains to our school and kindergarten program. The booklet, along with the district calendar, student handbook, newsletters, emails and our website (www.region10ct.org) will keep you well informed. We encourage you to use this information to communicate with your child about his/her school day.

You will find our kindergarten staff to be knowledgeable and hard working as they continuously strive to meet the varied needs of children. It is our goal to provide a quality learning experience that is child-centered. Our hope is that you will join with us in helping your child have a positive and rewarding experience this year and in all of the years ahead.

*The Harwinton Consolidated School
& Lake Garda School
Staff and Administration*

KINDERGARTEN... Growing Together



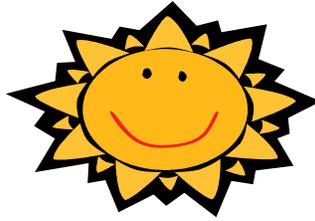
The Regional School District #10 philosophy regarding kindergarten is derived from established theories of child development. This developmental focus recognizes varying levels and rates of individual physical, social, emotional, intellectual and creative growth. We encourage parents to enroll students of appropriate kindergarten age. Each child is unique! Instruction is designed to meet students' needs, as well as foster enthusiasm for learning.

Communication is the key to a successful kindergarten program. Parents and teachers are partners in the educational process. Communication between families and teachers helps develop a mutual understanding of program goals and objectives. Teachers have formal conferences with parents twice a year but are always available to discuss each child's progress.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about your child or the kindergarten program, please contact the school. Working together we will provide the best possible educational program for your child.

You will also receive a school-specific Student Handbook during the first week of school. Please consult the school handbook for additional information about school procedures and district policies. The handbook is revised annually to serve as a resource and reference guide for families.

A NEW BEGINNING



It is vital that children have opportunities to do the following: be read to on a regular basis, read to someone else, be encouraged to use written expression, witness reading and writing as essential activities in our lives, and explore everyday numeracy activities.

- **Enjoy reading to your child.** Reading time doesn't need to be long. Research has shown that children who are read to during early years become better readers themselves. Try to set aside some time for reading aloud each day or evening. Have fun! The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading.
- **Explore numeracy together.** Our daily lives provide many opportunities to engage children in the fascinating concepts of numbers, shapes, and counting. From setting the table for dinner to helping with a recipe and counting the stairs as you are climbing them, your child can be introduced to the world of numeracy. Please encourage this daily exploration. Ideas for ways to encourage numeracy are available on the parent section of our math web site.
- **Playtime is learning time!** Provide your child with opportunities to draw, paint and play with a variety of creative materials.
- **Establish routines** well ahead of time concerning the type of going-to-bed, getting up, resting, playing and bus schedules that your child can expect when starting school.
- **Communicate your enthusiasm!** Show excitement about your child starting school. Help your child make an easy transition from home to school by discussing your child's concerns. Children may worry about many situations including leaving home, making friends, or riding the school bus. Focus on the positive when discussing these concerns.

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW THAT:

Our School Hours Are:

The school Day: Students can enter the building at 8:50. They should be in their classroom by 9:05. Dismissal is at 3:35.

Delayed Openings: All delayed openings will be 2 hours - students can enter the building at 10:50 & should be in class by 11:05.

Scheduled Half Days & Early Closing Due to Inclement Weather: School will close at 1:00. (The Superintendent may decide to close earlier when we are expecting inclement weather. This would be announced by phone and email.)

Region 10 has an established emergency notification phone system through which each family will receive an automated phone call in the event of a school delay or closing. The local television and radio stations will also announce delays and closings.

Emergency Contact Information: It is important that all contact information, including emergency contact information, that is kept on file for your child is up to date at all times. Please notify the school secretary of any changes.



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

A detailed student transportation record is kept in the main office. You will receive an email from Region 10 during the summer asking you to complete your child's registration information and outline their weekly transportation arrangements before the start of the school year. Please submit this information as soon as possible. This information is critical for the assignment of bus routes. It is important to notify the office of any changes in your child's schedule during the school year so that our files remain current at all times.

Please Note: "Bus routes and stops are developed taking into consideration safety and efficiency. To this end, the Board of Education may accommodate one permanent Monday through Friday pick-up and drop-off schedule for each child per school year provided it is along established bus routes. In the event a permanent change to a pick-up and drop-off schedule is needed during a school year, a written request must be submitted to the school principal at least three weeks in advance of such change. School administrators and office personnel will work with families to support last minute emergencies that impact childcare arrangements and transportation." (*Region 10 BOE Policy 3541.2*)

Region 10 contracts with All Star Transportation for bus service. Bus routes are available on the Region 10 website: <http://www.region10ct.org> All Star Transportation can be reached at 860-605-9285.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Cafeteria: Kindergarten students enjoy eating lunch in the cafeteria! We have built in a number of transitional supports to help them learn the routines in the cafeteria and gain independence with the management of their lunches. During the first week of school we ask that parents send their children to school with a lunch and drink (no glass bottles please). Students can begin buying milk and hot lunch during the second week of school. We will provide extra time and additional supervision during the lunch block at the beginning of the year as the students are gaining independence.

In order to maintain a structure for the students, and as a safety measure, parent access to the cafeteria during lunch periods is limited. There are instances where we can make exceptions for a parent/guardian visiting their child/children at lunch. Special occasions (ex. - unexpected parent/guardian day-off after time away, return from military service, etc.) are instances where we will grant exceptions from the lunch visiting rule. The parent/guardian in this case can call the principal at their child's school prior to visiting. After arriving and signing-in, the parent/guardian will join their child in the café.

Clothing: Children are happier and more secure when they can manage their clothing without assistance, i.e., when boots fit properly, when zippers are workable, when buttons are manageable, etc. Also, labeling your child's outerwear and accessories is requested so that loss and confusion are minimized. Each school has a lost and found location.

Backpacks and School Supplies: We request that every child bring a regular-size backpack each day to carry notes, paper and books to and from school. Also, have your child's name written on the bag to identify it easily. Make it a daily routine to check your child's backpack as this is our most frequent means of communicating with you. *(Please Note: Due to the number of stairs at HCS, please no rolling backpacks.)* We will provide all of the supplies that your child needs for Kindergarten.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: These meetings are considered the highest priority in establishing and maintaining the vital communication bond between home and school. Each fall and spring, certain days are set aside specifically for conferences. Your child's teacher will inform you of how to arrange a conference on the designated dates. In addition, you are invited to request a conference with your child's teacher at any time when you feel it would be beneficial and/or desirable.

Snacks/Classroom Celebrations: Details concerning snacks will be sent home by your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. The Region 10 Board of Education has established a wellness policy. We ask that you assist us in promoting healthy lifestyles by sending healthy snacks to school such as fruits, vegetables, whole grain crackers, etc. Children are not allowed to share food at any time.

Classroom birthday and holiday celebrations will include non-food celebrations only. Suggested activities or items include bookmarks, pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.

For more ideas and information please visit:

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Student/NutritionEd/Healthy_Celebrations.pdf

Volunteering: Many of our school activities depend on the contributions of volunteers. You are encouraged to join our P.T.O./P.T.A. and learn about the various volunteer programs available. Volunteers are also welcome in our kindergarten classrooms. Teachers typically invite parents to partner with them to support students once classroom routines are established. Your child's teacher will send home information about volunteer opportunities in the fall.

All parents, guardians and community members that come into our school to volunteer in our classrooms and other areas will need to have a background check. You can complete and turn in the consent form at any time. We simply ask that the form is turned in at least two weeks before you plan on coming into our schools to volunteer your time so that the process can be completed prior to your scheduled commitment. The form is accessible on the school websites:

HCS - http://harwinton.region10ct.org/school_information/h_c_s_office_notes

LGS - http://lakegarda.region10ct.org/school_information/l_g_s_office_notes

Visitors: Regional School District #10 utilizes the Raptor visitor management system to screen visitors. All visitors who enter the school with the intention of traveling beyond the main office, volunteering in a classroom, staying for a meeting, etc. will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. Once entry is approved, the system will issue a sticker that identifies the visitor, date, and the purpose of the visit. The sticker must be turned in at the conclusion of the visit.

HEALTH INFORMATION:



Absence: When your child will be absent or tardy, you are asked to telephone your school's health office or email your school nurse as soon as possible to report the absence. This includes any planned days off such as vacation, medical appointments, etc. The school nurse checks attendance lists each day and calls those parents who have not telephoned regarding an absent child.

Connecticut State Law requires a complete physical examination within a year prior to the first day of school. A hemoglobin or hematocrit must be included in the assessment as well as a complete current immunization record. Month, day and year of immunization are necessary for the health records. A basic vision and auditory screen should also be performed. A complete dental exam should also be performed. This information should be recorded on the State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record, must be signed by the physician, and sent to the nurse prior to the first day of school.

Immunization requirements for school entry are:

- **DTaP:** At least 4 doses with the last dose given on or after 4th birthday.
- **POLIO (IPV):** At least 3 doses with the last dose given on or after 4th birthday.
- **MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days with the first dose on or after 1st birthday.
- **HEP A:** 2 doses given six calendar months apart with first dose on or after 1st birthday.
- **HEP B:** 3 doses. The last dose given on or after 24 weeks of age.
- **PNEUMOCOCCAL (PCV):** Children less than 5 years of age on entry need at least one dose on or after 1st birthday.
- **HIB:** Children less than 5 years of age on entry need at least one dose on or after 1st birthday.
- **Varicella (chicken pox):** 2 doses separated by at least 3 months with first dose on or after 1st birthday **OR** verification of disease.

Children who have a claimed medical exemption must present written explanation from their physician. Children with a claimed religious exemption must present a notarized letter from the parent(s) or guardian as outlined in the state statute.

Students having difficulty obtaining a physical due to lack of medical insurance should contact The Husky Plan - toll free at 1-877-284-8759.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE GUIDELINES

Listed below are communicable diseases, which must be reported to the school nurse, and the length of time the pupil should be excluded from school:

- **Chicken Pox** - until all scabs have dried.
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye)** - 24 hours after antibiotic treatment and no purulent drainage.
- **Fever** - children must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.
- **Streptococcal infections** of the upper respiratory tract- until clinical recovery or a minimum of 24 hours after the onset of antibiotic treatment.
- **Head lice** - until treated and no live lice or nits remain.
- **Ringworms**- until treated
- **Scabies** - until treated
- **Impetigo** - until treatment has been started and all scabs have dried.
- **Diseases such as infectious mononucleosis, hepatitis, etc.** require a physician's certificate before returning to school.
- **Vomiting and Diarrhea** - 24 hours since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.



CARE OF SICK CHILDREN

Parents will be notified if a child becomes ill at school and need to go home. Emergency contact information, including home, cell and work phone numbers of parents and the names and phone numbers of two other individuals to contact in case of emergency are required for this purpose.

Parents are requested to list instructions to be followed in the event of a medical emergency. Please do not send children to school if they are ill, especially if they have had a fever the previous evening or in the morning prior to coming to school.