

KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY 2020-2021

What is 'Kindergarten Gradual Entry'?

Kindergarten Gradual Entry is a developmental model of transition planning emphasizing the interconnected relationships among the child, teachers, family, peers and community that are developed across time (Piñata & Kraft-Sayre, 2003).

All schools in the West Vancouver School District follow a Kindergarten Gradual Entry program.



What does 'Kindergarten Gradual Entry' look like in West Vancouver?

In the West Vancouver School District, Kindergarten children will be welcomed into their new school on **September 14, 2020** by their classroom teachers in small groups. During the Kindergarten Gradual Entry period, the children will attend school for shorter periods of time to ensure a smooth and successful transition. You will be contacted by your child's school regarding the assigned attendance dates and the specific times for your child's gradual entry.

During your child's first two weeks of school (September 14-25) there will be many opportunities to personally connect with their child's Kindergarten teacher and other key school staff members. Continuity between early care, preschool programs and elementary schools will be a focus for each child during the gradual entry approach to Full Day Kindergarten.

What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry mean for my child?

This means your child will have focused time to connect with his/her Kindergarten teacher and adjust to the new social and emotional realities of the elementary school context. This 'gift of time' will also allow children and teachers to work in small, personalized groups.

Teachers will be introducing children to classroom routines and procedures, easing the transition in a more individualized way so our children feel comfortable and valued as an important new members of our school communities.

What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry mean for our family?

The West Vancouver School District recognizes that a child's first teacher is his/her parent(s)/caregiver(s). The Kindergarten Gradual Entry process and in-take conferences give families the opportunity to share valuable background knowledge with school personnel.



All Kindergarten families will be invited to participate in personalized in-take conference with their child's teacher. The purpose of this conference is to learn more about each new Kindergarten student from a parental and developmental perspective. Each interview will be guided by a series of questions about a child's emotional, biological, cognitive and social development.

When are children ready for school?

Children don't begin to speak or walk on a schedule, so it's no surprise that chronological age is often not the best predictor of school readiness. How ready each child is for school depends most on his/her level of social, perceptual, motor and language development. Kindergarten Gradual Entry can help teachers identify which children may need help, and make sure resources are delivered where they are most needed.

2020-21 Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic all Kindergarten Gradual Entry (KGE) plans are subject to change. The West Vancouver School District will continue to follow all of the directives of the BC Public Health Office and Ministry of Education as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Please visit www.westvancouver.schools.ca for up to date information.

Week 1 – Kindergarten Students do not attend

- West Vancouver School District reopens on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 for grades 1-12.

Week 2 – Kindergarten Gradual Entry Begins

September 14-18, 2020

Monday, September 14	Tuesday, September 15	Wednesday, September 16	Thursday, September 17	Friday, September 18
Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session

Week 3 – Kindergarten Gradual Entry Continues

September 21-25, 2020

Monday, September 21	Tuesday, September 22	Wednesday, September 23	Thursday, September 24	Friday, September 25
Half day K KGE In-Take Conferences	Half day K KGE In-Take Conferences	Half day K KGE In-Take Conferences	Half day K KGE In-Take Conferences	WVSD Professional Development Day All schools are not in session

Week 4- Full day Kindergarten begins

- Monday, September 28th will be the first full day of Kindergarten for all West Vancouver Schools.
- Your child’s school will contact you with specific details regarding attendance protocols, including the shape of the day and required items (e.g. lunch, outdoor shoes etc.).