



KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY PLAN 2023–2024



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 (Pifiata & 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 6, 2023 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 6—15) there will be many opportunities to personally connect with their 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.



On Friday, September 15, 2023, all Kindergarten families are invited to a Kindergarten picnic. Kallie George author of the book “I Hear You Forest” will join us to read her book. This is an opportunity for families to connect with other families and enjoy a picnic outdoors. More details to come!

What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry mean for my child?

This means your child will have focused time to connect with their 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 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 their 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 a 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 your child's emotional, biological, cognitive and social development.

When are children ready for school?

In West Vancouver Schools we believe that all children are "capable and full of potential. All children are celebrated as strong, competent in their uniqueness, and having a secure sense of belonging. Children can experiment, investigate, and inquire in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them. They are provided with opportunities to enrich and deepen their relationships with place, land, and community. Within the contexts of their individual and cultural identities, children are listened to and valued for their ideas and knowledge." (Government of BC Early Learning Framework)

We look forward to welcoming your child to school!

KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY 2023-2024

Week 1- Kindergarten Gradual Entry Begins

September 4—8, 2023

Monday September 4	Tuesday September 5	Wednesday September 6	Thursday September 7	Friday September 8
		FIRST DAY! Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session

Week 2- Kindergarten Gradual Entry Continues

September 11—15, 2023

Monday September 11	Tuesday September 12	Wednesday September 13	Thursday September 14	Friday September 15
Half day K KGE Intake Conferences	Half day K KGE Intake Conferences	Half day K KGE Intake Conferences	Half day K KGE Intake Conferences	Half day K 1:00 - 2:00 PM K picnic for all Kindergarten families (invitations to come!)

Week 3- Full Day Kindergarten Begins

September 18—22, 2023

Monday September 18	Tuesday September 19	Wednesday September 20	Thursday September 21	Friday September 22
Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	WVSD Professional Development Day School not in session