

Getting Ready for
Kindergarten
at John G. Riley Elementary



Principal: Ms. April Knight
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Lindsey Brown

John G. Riley Elementary School
1400 Indiana Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304
Phone: (850) 488-5840 Fax: (850) 922-4227

Website: www.leonschools.net/riley

Facebook: @JohnGRileyElementary

Parent ListServ: <http://bit.ly/RileyEmails>

Join our Parent ListServ and follow us on Facebook to stay informed about important activities and events at JGR!



Kindergarten Registration

We are so excited about the opportunity to teach your child and work with you to ensure your child's educational success! You're invited and welcome to become involved in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), as well as become a volunteer.

Registration Basics

- ❗ Your child must be five (5) on or before September 1 to be eligible for Kindergarten enrollment at your home-zoned school. School Zone Lookup Tool www.leonschools.net/domain/101
- ❗ No registration is needed if your child attended Pre-K with Leon County Schools. If you have any questions, contact our registrar (contact information on the next page).
- ❗ **Registration window (April - May 2020)** Registering your child during the registration window allows us to better prepare for your child becoming a part of the Riley Elementary family.

Registration Procedures

- ❗ Register for a parent portal account leonschools.net/parentportal (Google Chrome/Firefox) if:
 - ❗ Child is applying to LCS for first time **after 2015** and did **not** go through school choice
 - ❗ Child has **never** been enrolled in a Leon County school, to include Pre-K and Charter
 - ❗ Child is transferring from out-of-state
 - ❗ Child has always attended a private school
- * **Parent Portal will also keep you connected to your child's grades and attendance. ***
- ❗ Complete online student registration application
- ❗ After completing online student registration application, you will need to provide a copy of the following documents by email to poolep@leonschools.net or fax to (850) 922-4227
 - ❗ A copy of child's certified birth certificate
 - ❗ Proof of health examination from your physician's office dated **after 8/1/2019**
 - ❗ Certificate of immunization from your physician's office or county health department (Florida Form 680)
 - ❗ Court documents pertaining to custody, if applicable

(Continued on the next page)



- ❖ Two (2) proofs of physical address
 - ❖ Lease or rental agreement, mortgage payment, property tax record or homestead exemption
 - ❖ Recent utility bill, utility connection or transfer statement, or driver license, if it has your current physical address on it
 - ❖ If you live with another person and the home mortgage or lease is in their name, complete the Affidavit of Residency and Homeowner's-Renter's Acknowledgement forms, which must be notarized. Submit these forms with a copy of the home owner's mortgage or lease information, your driver license, and an additional piece of mail with your name and address on it.
 - ❖ If your child's residency situation meets the criteria of homelessness, you will have the opportunity to complete the Families in Transition (FIT) Student Residency Form.
- ❖ Once all required documentation has been received, your child's registration will be complete. Our Back-to-School Orientation is tentatively scheduled for August 6, 2020.

Bus Routes

- ❖ You will be able to find your child's bus route, if a route is available for your address, by going to the Leon County Schools Transportation website, www.leonschools.net/Domain/6070 and click on the "Find My Bus Route by School" or "Find My Bus Stop" link. Updated route and stop information for the 2020 - 2021 school year should be available in early August.

If you have registration questions or need assistance, contact Ms. Paula Poole, Registrar.

Office Phone: (850) 488-5840

Fax: (850) 922-4227

Email: poolep@leonschools.net



NOW is the time
TO REGISTER FOR
Kindergarten



Dear Parents,



We want to personally welcome you and your child to John G. Riley Elementary School. Your child's kindergarten year is a great adventure away from home. We believe that this first year is a most important step toward a successful school career! This informational packet has been prepared to assist you in supporting your child's adjustment to kindergarten as your family participates in the many valuable experiences offered by John G. Riley Elementary School. We hope that this information can help facilitate the home-school connection as we become joint partners in your child's education.

The goal of our kindergarten program is to build the crucial foundation of your child's education. Kindergarten children are encouraged to work independently as well as in cooperative groups. Our program provides opportunities for social and emotional development, stimulates academic and language development, and expands physical and mental growth.

The kindergarten curriculum includes all subject areas with a special emphasis on reading and math. Through our reading curriculum all children are taught through direct, systematic instruction with an emphasis on phonemic awareness. Children learn to identify letters, letter sounds, and to understand how they can be put together to make a "spoken" or "written" word. Students learn to form letters correctly, and to express themselves in writing. Small group workshops allow skills to be practiced and assessed. Through our mathematics curriculum children enjoy hands on learning experiences and problem solving activities while exploring the math standards.

John G. Riley Elementary School Mission Statement

Our mission is to teach and inspire students to learn in a global society!

Our Philosophy

We encourage and challenge our students to develop the knowledge and skills of life-long learners. We also promote the attitudes and profiles of teaching students to become responsible and compassionate citizens in our global society.

Every student at John G. Riley is educated as a unique individual. Each student is guided, nurtured, and inspired in a way that enables the realization of his or her potential - academically, culturally, and socially.

Here at John G. Riley Elementary, our focus is to provide an academic environment that will support the highest student achievement. Outstanding students, dedicated staff and supportive parents all work together to help our students succeed, and together we will continue to strive for excellence.

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?



Children must be five years of age **on or before September 1st** to begin kindergarten. Below are other indicators of kindergarten readiness; while these are important considerations not all must be fulfilled for a child to be considered "ready":

- ❖ Can my child be alone in a strange place outside the home without crying or being overly fearful? (Preschool, Sunday school, birthday party, with a babysitter or at a friend's home)
- ❖ Can my child keep his/her attention on a task long enough to complete the task?
- ❖ Can my child stay with a group when moving from one spot to another?
- ❖ Does my child willingly participate in group activities?
- ❖ Is my child respectful and responsive to adults?
- ❖ Can my child respond to questions? Can he/she share previous experiences?
- ❖ Can my child listen to stories in a group setting?
- ❖ Can my child willingly engage in art, music, and athletic activities within a classroom setting or outside the classroom with a different adult?

How Parents Can Help:

- ❖ Let your child share in household decision-making, conversations, and activities.
- ❖ Give your child duties at home to foster self-confidence & responsibility.
 - ❖ Putting away toys
 - ❖ Setting the table
 - ❖ Caring for pets
- ❖ Establish a regular pattern for sleep; 10-12 hours of sleep per day is recommended for most 5 year old children.
- ❖ Teach your child to take care of his/her personal needs independently.
 - ❖ Fastening clothes
 - ❖ Tying shoelaces
 - ❖ Toileting
 - ❖ Expressing physical needs (thirst, hunger, illness, etc.)
- ❖ Supervise and limit screen time.
- ❖ Read, Read, Read!
- ❖ Discourage "baby talk" and model appropriate speech.
- ❖ Provide your child opportunities to interact with same-age peers.
 - ❖ Sharing
 - ❖ Turn taking
 - ❖ Playing fair & "losing" gracefully
- ❖ Teach your child his/her full name, parent's name, address, & phone number.
- ❖ Encourage your child to look forward to kindergarten as a happy, friendly place.



Skills for Successful Beginning Kindergarteners

If the preschool-age child is exposed to the skills listed below then his/her progress & pace in Kindergarten can be greatly enhanced. If your child has not mastered the skills below, he/she will be learning these & other skills in Kindergarten.

LANGUAGE

- ✿ Describes a picture verbally
- ✿ Communicates ideas and needs verbally
- ✿ Verbally identifies common objects
- ✿ Speaks in complete sentences of at least 5-6 words
- ✿ States his/her full name

MATH

- ✿ Counts at least 5 objects, as each is touched one at a time
- ✿ Recognizes numbers from 1 to 10 in random order
- ✿ Calls numbers from 1 to 5 in the correct order
- ✿ Names the following basic shapes: circle, square, rectangle, and triangle
- ✿ Understands concepts such as: more/less, same as, above/below, between, in/out, over/under

READING

- ✿ Opens a book from front to back and follows print from left to right
- ✿ Identifies their own name from a list of names
- ✿ Names basic colors: red, blue, yellow, green, purple, orange, black, brown, white

WRITING

- ✿ Grips pencil correctly
- ✿ Traces letters and shapes accurately
- ✿ Controls pencil and forms letters by making strokes in the correct sequence

SPELLING

- ✿ Writes first name using a capital for the first letter only

LISTENING

- ✿ Answers questions *who, what, when, where, why & how* after listening to a story
- ✿ Identifies the difference between real and make-believe stories
- ✿ Sits and pays attention for a minimum of 10-15 minutes



ALPHABET

- ✿ Knows the difference between numbers and letters
- ✿ Matches two letters that are alike
- ✿ Names $\frac{1}{2}$ of the letters of the alphabet presented in random order

FINE MOTOR

- ✿ Is able to appropriately manipulate pencils, crayons, scissors, glue bottles
- ✿ Legibly copies a three word sentence
- ✿ Cuts on straight and large curved lines
- ✿ Copies a circle, square, and rectangle accurately
- ✿ Draws/paints a recognizable simple picture

BEHAVIOR

- ✿ Asks for adult help when needed
- ✿ Uses words to solve problems rather than physical aggression
- ✿ Treats classmates and teachers with kindness and respect
- ✿ Follows multiple step directions
- ✿ Respects adult authority
- ✿ Willingly goes to and stays in assigned areas (playground, lunchroom, art, music)

INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING

- ✿ Puts materials back in the correct spot
- ✿ Keeps up with personal belongings
- ✿ Accepts responsibility for cleaning up materials used
- ✿ Ties shoes, zips, buttons, snaps, and dresses him/herself
- ✿ Takes care of personal hygiene (wipes nose with tissue, proper bathroom and hand-washing habits)
- ✿ Uses good table manners

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- ✿ Plays and works cooperatively with others
- ✿ Functions in a group without arguing or fighting
- ✿ Respects others' personal space
- ✿ Controls anger; appropriately expresses anger and frustration to others

GROSS MOTOR

- ✿ Runs, gallops, and rides a tricycle without falling
- ✿ Hops on one foot without losing balance, balances on one foot for 3 seconds
- ✿ Takes off in a jump with two feet and lands two feet together

The Florida Standards

The Florida Standards are expectations for student achievement in the state of Florida for which the state holds public schools accountable. The standards identify what students should know and be able to do after completion of each grade level from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The subject areas are organized by standards and benchmarks.



The subject areas that apply to elementary school are language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and physical education. Your students' report card will be based on the satisfactory achievement of specific grade-level benchmarks for each of these subject areas. For more information, visit www.fl DOE.org/academics/standards.



Riley Sample Kindergarten Schedule

7:45-8:15	Arrival/ Breakfast*/ Playground
8:15-8:20	Morning News
8:20-8:30	Sanford Harmony/ Essential 55
8:30-10:00	Reading/ Writing
10:00-10:40	Reading Intervention
10:40-11:05	Lunch*
11:05-11:35	Science
11:40-12:25	Special Area (PE, Art, Music, Media)
12:30-1:30	Math
1:30-1:50	Recess
1:55-2:25	Math Intervention
2:25-2:45	Social Studies
2:45-2:50	Staggered Release/ Dismissal



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