



Welcome to Kindergarten

Lowell Joint School District

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Elementary Schools

El Portal Elementary

200 N. Nada St.
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 902-4211
Principal - Kim Likert

Meadow Green Elementary

12025 Grovedale Dr.
Whittier, CA 90604
(562) 902-4241
Principal - Liz Kaneshiro

Jordan Elementary

10654 Jordan Rd.
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 902-4221
Principal - Cheree Montgomery

Olita Elementary

950 S. Briercliff Dr.
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 902-4251
Principal - Krista Van Hoogmoed

Macy Elementary

2301 W. Russell St.
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 902-4231
Principal - Tara Ryan





Looking Forward to a Year Filled with Learning and Excitement

Each time I painted with
paint
Or mud
Or suds . . .
I grew inside

Each time I touched
Or tasted
Or pasted
Or sang a song
I grew inside

I swung on swings,
I rode a bike.
I climbed so high
And felt the fright
Or looking down . . .
And I grew inside

Sometimes with friends
I was the whistling wind
And running free
Then just as fast
I would change into
Any animal I wished to be
But all the time
I knew I was really me . . .
Growing inside

Some day I may tell you
Of the fun I've had at school
And all the growing I've done.
But just for now . . .
Just for a while . . .
Let the growing go on . . .
Inside of me.

Author Unknown

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**“Most of what I really need
to know
about how to live,
and what to do,
and how to be,
I learned in Kindergarten.”**

Robert Fulghum

General Information

Age Requirement

Children are eligible for Kindergarten for 2009/10 if they will be 5 years old on or before December 2, 2009.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality play key roles in the success a student achieves in school. Please attempt to schedule vacations and family outings and doctor, dental, or other appointments outside of the school day. If your child is ill, please call the school's office to report his/her absence.

Class Size

Regular education Kindergarten classrooms in Lowell Joint School District utilize Class Size Reduction Option 2. An Early Bird/Late Bird schedule with staggered sessions allowing for small group instruction is in place at El Portal Elementary School, Macy Elementary School, and Olita Elementary School. Some teachers may have parents, other volunteers, or student teachers who work with their students on special projects or on a regular basis.

Beginning in 2009/10, full-day Kindergarten classes will be offered at Jordan Elementary School and Meadow Green Elementary School. These classes will utilize Class Size Reduction Option 1 and will be staffed at a 20:1 student/teacher ratio.

Field Trips

Field trips supplement and enrich classroom learning, encourage new interests, make children more aware of community resources and help them relate school experiences to the outside world. Field trips vary by grade level and school. Check with your child's classroom teacher for more information.

Kindergarten Oral Health Requirement

California law now requires that your child have a dental check-up by May 31 of his or her first school year. Dental evaluations that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school meet this requirement. Your school will give you the required form to take with

Enrollment Timeline for the 2009/10 School Year

March 10	Kindergarten Parent Meeting
April 1	Kindergarten Registration Packets Available
May 7 and 13	El Portal Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup
May 12 and 13	Jordan Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup
May 14 and 19	Macy Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup
May 18 and 20	Meadow Green Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup
May 7 and 8	Olita Elementary School Kindergarten Roundup
September 3 and 4	Kindergarten Readiness Testing at Each School

WELCOME TO THE LOWELL JOINT FAMILY!

General Information

Volunteering

You are welcome and encouraged to participate as a volunteer. Your participation will benefit all of the students and staff members at the school where you will be volunteering. The Lowell Joint School District realizes that parents and grandparents serve as valuable resources to our schools by enriching the daily learning of children. By volunteering, you will be making a direct contribution to the instructional program. Please contact your child's teacher or school for more information.

Registering Your Child

All neighborhood schools accept registration forms for incoming Kindergarten students. Parents who wish to register their child for Kindergarten must provide up-to-date immunization records, results of a Mantoux TB screening, proof of residence, and a birth certificate. Call your local school or (562) 943-0211 for more information.

Registration Checklist

- Is your child 5 years of age on or before December 2? If so, continue on to the next box. If not, your child is not eligible for Kindergarten enrollment for the following school year.
- Pick up the registration packet beginning **April 1** from your neighborhood school.
- Call your child's neighborhood school for the Kindergarten Roundup dates. If you do not know where your child's neighborhood school is, call the District Office at (562) 943-0211.
- Make sure your child has had all necessary immunizations prior to enrollment.
- Return all forms to the school office as soon as they are completed. Be sure to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of residence (such as a utility bill) or inter-district permit. Please return your registration packet as soon as possible. It is very important so school staffing and class assignments can be more accurately made when all packets are collected.
NOTE: Registrations occurring later in the spring may have implications on a child's priority placement in his/her home school vs. an overflow Kindergarten class at another school in the District.
- Attend your scheduled Kindergarten Roundup.
- Work with your child over the summer on Kindergarten readiness skills (see page 7).
- Attend the scheduled Kindergarten readiness testing date in **September**.

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Readiness

Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Ask yourself: Does my child . . .

- Sit still for 10 to 15 minutes?
- Listen to a story or participate in an activity and respond to questions related to that activity?
- Have confidence to separate from a parent or caregiver and stay with another adult?
- Retain information?
- Follow simple two-step directions?
- Have an interest in reading, listening to stories, letters, and numbers?
- Count to 10 and understand simple number concepts?
- Focus on an activity?
- Finish what he/she starts?
- Name colors?
- Enjoy coloring and drawing?
- Express himself/herself verbally?
- Speak in complete sentences?
- Label or name things appropriately?
- Answer open-ended questions?
- Ask questions?
- Know the correct way to hold a pencil, crayon, and scissors and work with them comfortably?
- Work individually and in small groups?
- Understand the ideas of sharing and taking turns?
- Cooperate?
- Take care of his/her own toilet needs and wash his/her hands without assistance?
- Know how to roll, throw, and catch a ball? Also, run, hop, jump, swing, and gallop?
- Respect rights and belongings of others?
- Recognize his/her own name?
- Write his/her own name?



Kindergarten Curriculum

English/Language Arts

Your child will develop foundational skills that will prepare him or her for later learning in language arts. Phonemic awareness is the ability to understand that a word is made up of a sequence of speech sounds paired with the ability to manipulate those sounds. It is the most essential element of language arts instruction in Kindergarten. Students will learn the letters of the alphabet and will match letters with their associated sounds. Vocabulary will be developed through direct instruction in specific concepts. Books will be read daily to the students in order to help them identify and use comprehension strategies. Students will learn to write letters, words, and beginning stories.

The English/Language Arts curriculum addresses the following California State Standards:

- Word analysis, fluency, and vocabulary development
- Reading comprehension
- Literary response
- Writing
- Writing and oral language
- Listening and speaking
- Speaking applications



Mathematics

Your child will understand small numbers, quantities, and simple shapes in his or her everyday environment. Students will count, compare, describe, and sort objects and develop a sense of properties and patterns.

The Mathematics curriculum addresses the following California State Standards:

- Number sense
- Algebra and functions
- Measurement and geometry
- Statistics, data analysis, and probability
- Mathematical reasoning

Kindergarten Curriculum

Science

Your child will learn that scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. To understand this concept and to address the content in the three strands; students will develop their own questions and perform investigations.

The Science curriculum addresses the following California State Standards:

- Life science
- Earth science
- Physical science

History/Social Studies

Your child will be introduced to the concepts of courage, self-control, justice, heroism, leadership, deliberation, and individual responsibility. The concept of civic behavior is reinforced through empathy for how people lived and worked long ago, and through following rules and respecting the right of others.

The History/Social Studies curriculum addresses the following California State Standards:

- Attributes of good citizenship
- Geography and economics of the school and its surroundings
- Awareness of the past

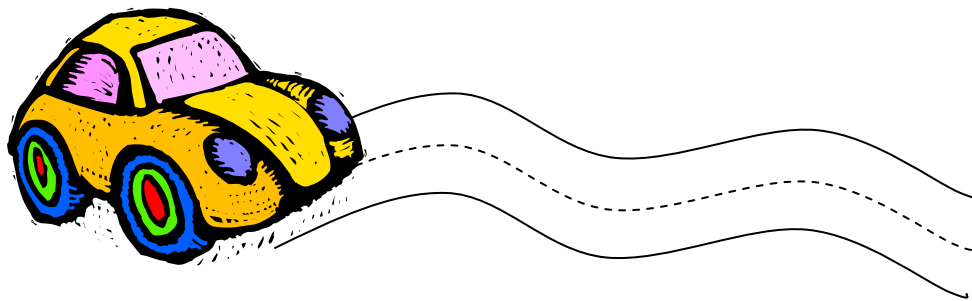
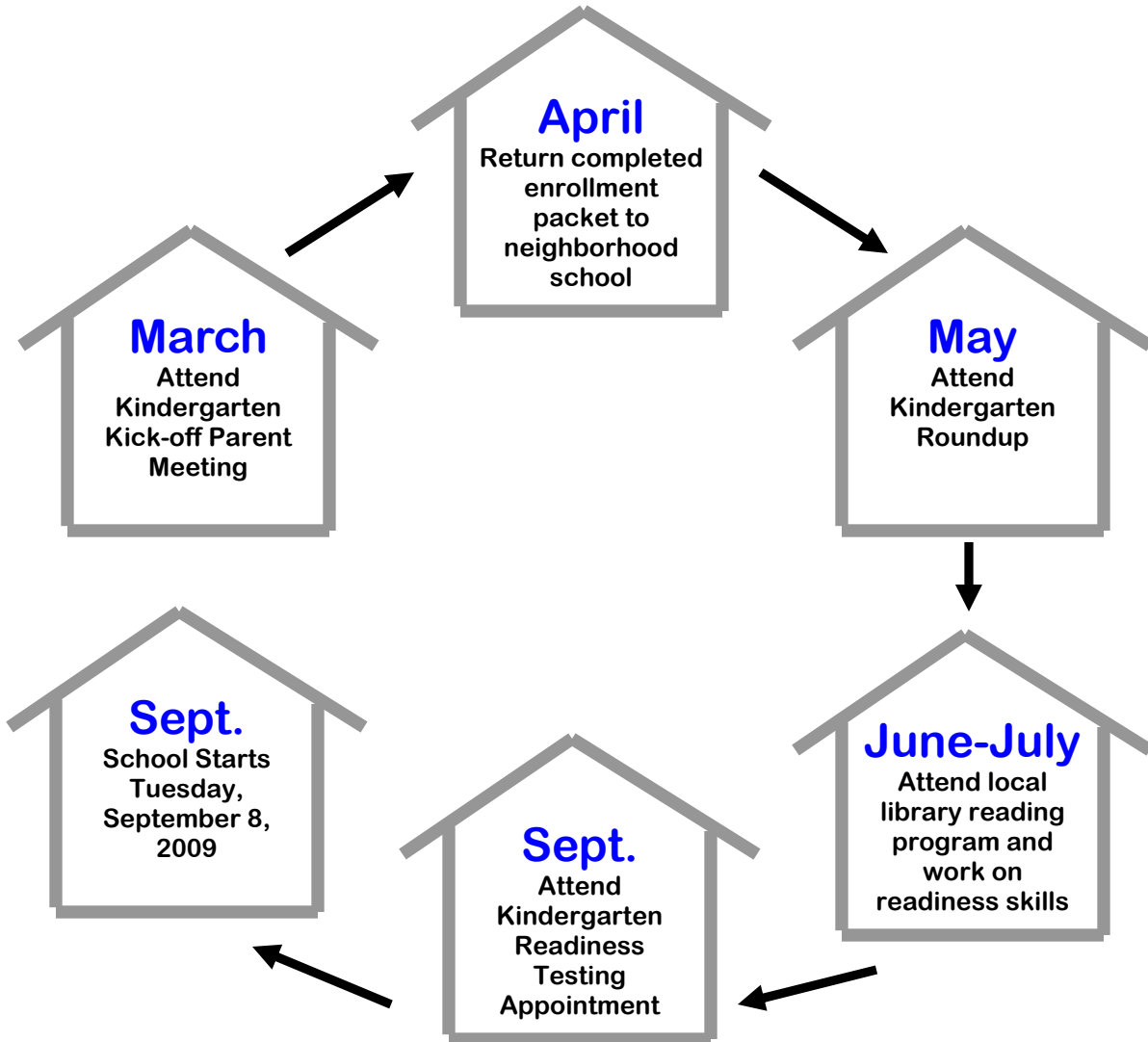


The **Lowell Joint School District** is committed to providing a strong academic program of basic skills with a well-rounded program of traditional subject offerings. At all District Schools, we emphasize the importance of academic excellence, character education, the family, and traditional American values. We stress personal integrity, individual responsibility, and an appreciation for our national heritage.

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The Road to Kindergarten

The following timeline gives you important dates to remember and activity suggestions to help your child be better prepared for school.



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How Parents Can Help

Parents are their child's first teachers. Your involvement is critical to your child's success in school. Studies have shown that when parents are involved, children feel better about themselves and learn more.

Six Things You Can Do:

1. Make sure your child is well-fed, well-groomed, and well-rested for school.
2. Encourage your child to behave in positive ways.
3. Take time to read with your child each day.
4. Schedule family vacations or outings and doctor appointments around the yearly school calendar and outside of the school day.
5. Be sure your child attends school every day.
6. Work as a partner with your child's teacher.

Other Ways Parents Can Help Their Children:

1. Create a positive attitude toward school.
2. Label all personal possessions, such as sweaters, jackets, raincoats, backpacks, and lunch boxes.
3. Read school notices and respond to the notices if requested.
4. Pack nutritious snacks and encourage your child to eat a good breakfast and lunch.
5. Encourage your child to share his/her school experiences at home. Ask specific questions about their day to encourage more discussion (e.g., What was your favorite activity today and why?).
6. Help your child assume responsibility at home.
7. Allow your child opportunities to play with other children.
8. Help your child to learn to respect the rights and property of others.
9. Show an interest in your child's work by visiting his/her classroom and talking about his/her work brought home.
10. Share an interesting hobby or collection with your child's class.
11. Encourage your child by praising him/her for efforts and accomplishments.
12. Be sure to send a note explaining any absence from school or call the school attendance line. This is a State of California requirement.
13. Take your child to places of interest and talk with him/her often throughout the day about what he/she is experiencing.
14. Attend school functions such as Back-to-School Night, parent conferences, Open House, and PTA meetings.
15. Develop a relationship with your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.



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