



KINDERGARTEN CENTER

Megan Caughey
Supervisor of Elementary Education

August 2025

Dear Kindergarten Friends and Families,

Welcome to the Kindergarten Center! **School opens for all students on Thursday, September 4, 2025.** It has been a very busy summer at the Kindergarten Center. I am confident that the start of school will certainly be a positive experience for our kindergarten community. The information in this letter and the additional attachments will provide you with the necessary information to help start the year. Additional information, specific to your child, will be sent to your home via USPS. Please contact the school office if you do not receive it by Thursday, August 29, 2025.

KINDERGARTEN HOURS

Daily: 8:30 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

ARRIVAL

Doors open for arrival at 8:30 and remain open through to 8:45. Students enter through the lobby entrance located on the north end of the building facing Sylvan Street.

For the first 2 days of school, students should be walked to the designated drop off area. Teachers and staff will greet and supervise students as they enter the building. Parents/Guardians may not enter the building and must say their good-byes on the sidewalk or behind the cones as indicated.

Starting Monday, September 8, we encourage parents to utilize the drop off lane and continue to do so on a daily basis. The drop off lane spans the front of the school and is indicated by cones on Sylvan Street, which can be accessed via Highland Cross. There is absolutely no parking in the drop off lane and at no time are parents to exit their vehicles. Children **MUST** be able to independently exit the car on the passenger side of the car. If your child is unable to open the car door, unfasten their seatbelt, and exit the car with their belongings independently and in a timely manner, please park legally and walk your child to the entrance.

ATTENDANCE

It is essential for your child's academic and social, emotional growth that your child attends school consistently and arrives on time. Any child that arrives after 8:45 will be marked tardy and must be brought directly to the main office by an adult and signed in. If your child will not be attending school, their absence must be reported via email kcenterattendance@rutherfordschools.org or a call to the main office at 201-438-7675 ext. 6219. Documentation substantiating any absences must be provided upon your child's return to school or included in the email. Students exceeding 18 absences will not be promoted without a promotion/retention hearing.

DISMISSAL

Please be sure to give yourself adequate time to park to arrive promptly for dismissal. Students will be dismissed directly to their parent or designee at 2:35 from the following locations:

Front Center Doors:	Mrs. Bomzer	Ms. Ruglio
Front Lobby Doors:	Mrs. Kratzer	Ms. Sayre
Highland Cross/Playground Doors:	Ms. Cole	Mrs. Witalis
Rear of the building:	Mrs. Parkinson	Mrs. Soto

If your child attends Bulldog Care, they will be dismissed directly to Bulldog Care.

BULLDOG CARE

Before and After school care, known as Bulldog Care, are offered on site at the Kindergarten Center. Those attending can be dropped off (morning care) or picked up (after care) using the indicated door in the back of the building. A Bulldog Care staff member will let you in. Please be sure to notify both Bulldog Care and the school at 201-438-7675 ext. 6219 or erizzi@rutherfordschools.org with any changes. Any questions regarding Bulldog Care can be directed to Marie DeSalvo, Coordinator of Bulldog Care, at bulldogcare@rutherfordschools.org

SNEAK-A-PEEK

Students are invited to bring their **unlabeled** school supplies to school on Wednesday, September 3 between 1:30 and 2:15. This drop off will allow your child a sneak peek of their classroom before school starts on Thursday, September 4, 2025. Parents will walk their child through the school to their classroom, drop off their supplies, and take a peek around the classroom. We ask that parents/students do not linger in the classrooms or near the entrances/exits of our building to avoid overcrowding and overwhelming our students. The Sneak-a-Peek is aimed to help your child by previewing their new environment and not an information session. Teachers will be sharing a general overview of your child's classroom specific experience with parents/guardians at **Back to School Night** which is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

SUPPLIES

A list of requested supplies is on our [website](#) and any items needed, specific to your child's teacher, will be shared at a later date. Please bring school supplies to the Sneak-a-Peek. Please do not label items other than your child's bag of clothes, scissors, and white-board eraser.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Your child's Access ID and Access Password have been mailed directly to your residence. It is essential that you create the parent portal account in a timely manner to access your child's student number needed to create payment accounts to order lunch or to pay for Bulldog Care. The parent portal will also allow you to complete the Returning Student Enrollment verification and access your child's teacher (on or after August 25).

LUNCH

Children need lunch and a drink, daily. Parents have 3 options for lunch:

- Send a lunch from home including utensils. Please do not send glass and make sure your child is able to open and close their containers independently.
- Order lunch through the school lunch program provided by Pomptonian (**when ordering please click LINCOLN SCHOOL**). The lunch portal, <https://payschoolscentral.com>, opens August 22 to September 2 to order for September. Information on how to order is attached; **however, an account can not be created until you have created a Parent Portal account to retrieve your child's Student Number in Demographics/Student Information. Information on how to create the parent portal was sent directly to each child's home via USPS.**
- PTA sponsored lunches will also be available. This information will be shared with parents and tentatively will begin the week of September 29. Information regarding PTA sponsored lunch options will be shared once it is available.

COMMUNICATION

School/District to home communication may be done via our website, emails, or daily folders. The Kindergarten Center and the Rutherford Public School District utilize a public [Google Calendar](#) for your convenience.

The Kindergarten Center is a welcoming community where your child will grow, learn, make new friends, and create new memories that will stay with them forever! Enjoy the last few moments of summer and be on the lookout for the letter from your child's teacher! Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,
Megan Caughey
Supervisor of Elementary Education