



KINDERGARTEN CENTER

Megan Caughey
Supervisor of Elementary Education

August 2026

Dear Kindergarten Friends and Families,

Welcome to the Kindergarten Center! **School opens for all students on Thursday, September 3, 2026.** 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 Friday, August 28, 2026.

KINDERGARTEN HOURS

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

ARRIVAL

Doors are open for arrival from 8:30-8:45. Students enter through the lobby entrance located on the north end of the building facing Sylvan Street. Students are not permitted to enter the building earlier than 8:30 and any child that arrives after 8:45 must be signed in at the main office. Please plan accordingly to ensure prompt arrival.

For the first 2 days of school, we will not utilize the drop off line. All students should be walked to the designated drop off area. 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 Tuesday, 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, indicated by cones. Students are to exit once the car comes to a complete stop in the designated area on Sylvan Street. Please do not wait and drive your child to the furthest point as we utilize the entire span of our lane for drop off. Staff is present to monitor and provide guidance to students as they enter the school. 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.

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:	Ms. Robertson	Ms. Ruglio (Do not stand in street)
Front Lobby Doors:	Mrs. Kratzer	Ms. Sayre
Highland Cross/Playground Doors:	Mrs. McCarthy	Mrs. Witalis
Rear of the building:	Mrs. Parkinson	Mrs. Soto

BULLDOG CARE

Before School: If your child attends *BeforeCare* Bulldog Care, they must be signed in at the designated entrance at the rear of the school.

After School: If your child attends *AfterCare* Bulldog Care, they will be dismissed directly to Bulldog Care. Parents will utilize the same entrance as *BeforeCare*, located behind the school, for pick up.

Please be sure to notify both Bulldog Care and your child's teacher with any changes and communicate these in advance; however, should a last minute change be necessary, also contact the main office to ensure the information is relayed to your child's teacher. Any questions regarding Bulldog Care can be directed to Marie DeSalvo, Coordinator of Bulldog Care, bulldogcare@ruthersfordschools.org.

SNACK and LUNCH

Children need a snack, a lunch and a drink (reusable water bottles are recommended), daily. Lunch options include:

- Lunch from home including a fork/spoon as needed.
 - We do not heat or prepare lunches for students.
 - No glass containers.
 - No soda or candy.
- Order lunch through the school lunch program provided by Pomptonian (**when ordering please click LINCOLN SCHOOL**). The lunch portal, <https://payschoolscentral.com>, opens August 21 to August 31 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 located in Demographics.** Please note that information is only accessible using computer login and not via the app. **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. Information regarding PTA sponsored lunch options will be shared once it is available. This is not available for the first week of school.

SNEAK-A-PEEK

Students are invited to bring their **unlabeled** school supplies to school on Wednesday, September 2 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 3, 2026. 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 Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

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.

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 and other important information headed your way!! Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,
Megan Caughey
Supervisor of Elementary Education