

**Brookfield LaGrange Park
School District 95**



**Superintendent's Round Table for
Kindergarten Programming at SEG**

NOTES

****Please note that parents may check the Brook Park (BP) website for kindergarten information. February 27, 8-1 is kindergarten enrollment at Brook Park****

Three parent meetings were held relative to the kindergarten classes being held at S.E. Gross Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year due to construction at the Brook Park Campus.

Four major themes emerged from the meeting:

1) Busing for kindergarten students.

The major focus of the conversations centered on how students might be transported to the S.E. Gross Campus. It was also noted that a major concern of the District is the incredibly limited parent drop off space that will be available at the SEG campus during this year. The District is committed to using busing as a solution to reduce parent traffic coming to the campus as well as to help parents with kindergarten students that also have siblings attending Brook Park. Some of the solutions include, but not limited to:

- A) Providing a kindergarten only shuttle from BP to SEG (currently there is a middle school shuttle that services grades 6-8) both in the morning, midday, and afternoon.*
- B) Allowing kindergarten students to ride the normal bus routes to BP and then transfer to the shuttle bus once they arrive at BP that would bring them to SEG.*
- C) Providing a mid-day modified bus route*

Busing Continued:

Limited parts of this conversation included some concern about kindergarten students riding a bus with middle school students, cost of the busing, and the timeliness of knowing bus information so that before and/or after care can be arranged. The district indicated that, when reasonable, it would provide for kindergarten only transportation (i.e. shuttle service). The superintendent indicated he would ask the board, per its policy, to do a one-time, one exception review of the bus service fee for kindergarten students for 2018-2019. The superintendent indicated it was his goal to have the busing confirmed by February 1 in time for the February 27 enrollment date.

2) Making Kindergarten students feel part of the Brook Park Family.

As implied by the above statement, some questions arose as to how we make a group of students in one location feel part of the family at another. This is a priority for the BP administration. Students will be included in BP events, the teaching staff from BP will be coming to SEG offering an already developed connection with the BP family, and we will enlist the help of the BP parent organization to develop the opportunities for students to feel welcomed. Further, the current use of social media at BP will also be used for kindergarten students to help remain connected (currently each grade level has a classroom Facebook page).

Limited parts of this conversation included the confirmation that BP staff (administration, secretaries, etc.) is still the main point of contact for parent questions/concerns. Second, the superintendent has indicated that there will be a time in the summer for parents to do a "Mini Orientation" to view the rooms and allow their child to become familiar with the school. This is followed by the fact that each room will have its own bathroom (inside the classroom) and every effort will be made to make other necessary spaces age-appropriate. Parents were reminded that we have held our Early Childhood Program (program for students 3-5 years of age) at SEG for better than the last decade. A young child at SEG is not a new concept.

3) Start and end times for kindergarten.

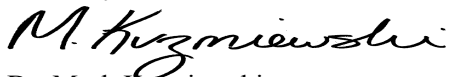
A number of factors require a review, and almost certainly, a change in the start and end times for kindergarten students. How busing is resolved, the desire to reduce parent traffic to the campus, and a consideration for parents with students in multiple buildings will all drive the start and end time determination. Our initial thought is that kindergarten will start around 8:10 (give or take a few minutes) and may end as late as 3:10 (give or take a few minutes)---It is also possible that the day could end as early as 2:45. Once we resolve the issues, we can better detail this time. This information as a rough estimate only! The superintendent's goal is to have this detail confirmed by February 27.

4) How does a parent balance her work schedule and kindergarten?

In short, this issue occurs regardless of where the kindergarten program is being held. It is a stress for working parents as they first begin navigating the education world and making it fit within their professional world. There are a number of area programs that offer different ranges of services including the YMCA, St. Louise, and ABC learning to name a few. The superintendent is working with these agencies with the desire to provide the District 95 information AT THE SAME TIME AS announcing what each of these programs will offer. The hope is that by knowing what before/after school care is available coupled with knowing the start/end times of school and how busing will work, parents can plan their schedule and request the kindergarten session that best fits their family dynamic (YES! You can request am or pm kindergarten. However, the best chance of having your request met is to do so at the enrollment day of February 27).

As always, I invite you to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns about kindergarten.

Sincerely,



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