

Full Day Kindergarten 2016–2017 and Beyond

Kelli Cogan

Assistant Superintendent

Why Now?

- Foundation Funding
- Board Interest
- Parent Interest
- Teacher Interest
- Space Available
- SWC Results

What Does Research Say?

- Developmentally appropriate full-day kindergarten programs can offer a more relaxed atmosphere and more opportunities for child-centered, creative activities, as well as more opportunities for developing social skills.
- There is higher achievement for disadvantaged and low income students, and for those who may be identified as needing Title I services in reading and math.

Research Continued.

- No negative consequences for attending a full-day program.
- More time spent in free play, less time in large groups.
- More reinforcement of positive social behaviors.

How Do We Decide?

- A high quality half-day kindergarten program will offer sufficient experiences for the development of strong school readiness and social skills, while also providing time for other life experiences within the home or other community settings.
- For some students who have limited learning and social experiences, or who are at risk for later difficulties, a high quality full-day kindergarten program may offer the best opportunity to reduce the impact of these risks.

When Considering the Options:

- Parents should discuss their child's performance and needs with the staff if their child attends a daycare or preschool program and consider their own observations of the child's growth and readiness for full-day school activities.
- Parents should consider their child's typical style in interacting and learning. Does their child fatigue easily or still nap daily? Does their child enjoy different activities over a long period or does their child need some down time without structure throughout the day?

When Considering the Options Continued:

- Parents should consider, for example, the family's schedule or child care options, and how these will best mesh with the full-day or half-day kindergarten option.
- Most importantly, when making decisions about full-day or half-day programs, parents should recognize that what their child does during the kindergarten day is more important than the length of the school day.

What Do The Two Options Look Like?

Half-Day Program

7:40 to 7:55 Arrival
7:55 to 8:10 Opening
8:10 to 8:50 Math

- Number Corner
- Daily Lessons
- Stations

8:55 to 9:15 Specials

- PE
- Art
- Music
- Library Book
- Library Book Exchange

9:20 to 10:05 ELA(Science/SS Integration)

- Phonemic Awareness
- Centers
- Read Aloud
- Writing
- Poetry

10:10 to 10:20 Snack
10:20 to 10:30 Story Time
10:30 Pack Up
10:35 Dismissal
10:40 Bus Leaves

** Half-Day PM program begins at 11:30 AM
with a dismissal of 2:20 PM

Full-Day Program

7:40 to 7:55 Arrival
7:55 to 8:15 Opening
8:15 to 9:00 Math

- Number Corner
- Daily Lessons
- Stations

9:00 to 9:20 Read Aloud

- Phonemic Awareness

9:20 to 9:30 Snack
9:30 to 9:50 ELA

- Writing
- Poetry
- Shared Reading

9:50 to 10:15 Recess
10:15 to 11:00 Integrated Academic Stations

- Math
- Reading

11:00 to 11:15 Transition/Read Aloud
11:15 to 12:00 Lunch/Recess
12:00 to 12:15 Read Aloud
12:15 to 12:45 Specials

- PE
- Art
- Music
- Library Story
- Library Book Exchange

12:45 to 1:45 Exploration/Self-Directed Choice/Centers

- Fine Motor
- Art
- Creative Play

1:45 to 2:10 Integrated Social Studies/Science

- Social Skills

2:10 to 2:20 Pack Up
2:20 Dismissal
2:25 Bus Leaves

A Child in Full-day Kindergarten Will Have Increased Opportunities For:

- Extension (Independent Sink or Float science lab and science journal, for example)
- Communication (Daily journaling or sharing what s/he did over the weekend, for example)
- Practice (Math games to support development of number sense, for example)
- Collaboration (Project-based learning, for example)
- “Teachable Moments” (In-the-moment application of “bucket filling”, labeling big/small problems, or utilizing Kelso’ Choices, for example)
- Flexible grouping and “no new instruction” (For practice, re-teaching, or extension of new concepts without missing class time)
- Child-directed, adult-supported activities that will foster planning, follow through, time management, cooperation and communication with peers

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long is the full-day kindergarten program each day?

- Olmsted Falls School District's full-day kindergarten program will be a 6 ½ hour program each school day. The start time will be 7:55 a.m. and the end time will be 2:25 p.m.

2. When will full-day kindergarten be offered for free?

- This will be evaluated each year.

3. Will full-day kindergarten ever stop?

- Our goal is to maintain a full-day program for as long as there is interest.

4. Will my child receive bus service?

- Yes, currently Olmsted Falls School District provides bus service for all students in grades K-12.

5. What is the child-to-teacher ratio?

- No more than 25 students per class (looking for 22)

Frequently Asked Questions Continued.

6. Can we register for full-day, pay the deposit and then decide prior to the first day that we want ½ day?

- Yes, however the deposit is non-refundable and will not be returned.

7. Can we register for half-day and then change to full-day right before school starts?

- No, due to staffing needs, we will not accept full-day registrations after March 4.

8. How long does it take to register using InfoSnap?

- It should take about 20 minutes as long as you are prepared with the needed information. Having emergency contact information, doctor/dentist, etc. will help you expedite the process.

9. Will the full-day students be able to buy or pack a lunch?

- Yes, just like students in grades 1 through 12, full-day kindergarten students will have a scheduled lunchtime. There will be a hot meal option available for purchase, or they can bring a packed lunch from home.

Frequently Asked Questions Continued.

10. Will the full-day program run on the same calendar as the rest of the school district?

- Yes, the full-day kindergarten program will have the same start and end dates as the rest of the Olmsted Falls School District.

11. Will there be a before-care program offered on-site for parents needing to drop their child off early?

- No, there are not plans for an on-site before-care program. However, a list of private before-care providers in the local area is available.

12. Will there be an after-care program on site?

- Yes. Olmsted Community Outreach (OCO) will continue to offer its on-site after school program at the ECC.

13. Is there still a school supply fee for all-day kindergarten students or is this included in the tuition?

- The school supply fee is separate from the tuition that is paid for the year.

Additional Frequently Asked Questions:

14. Can I write off my tuition on my taxes?

- Please check with your tax services provider

15. Do we know who the full day teachers will be?

- We will not know this until closer to the start of the school year

16. Will my full-day student have the same core teacher all-day?

- Yes

17. Will AM or PM still be determined by where you live because of transportation routes?

- Yes

18. When will preschoolers with IEP's be notified about half-day or full-day options?

- This will be determined in the spring when the IEP (including the parents) meet to discuss next year

Process for Registration

Important Dates:

1. 12:00 PM on February 16th (Info Snap Opens)
2. Deadline of March 4th for Full-Day Deposit