Kindergarten Orientation 2020-2021

Cassingham Elementary

Please post your questions through the link on Slide 21.
As our plans for next school year become more clear, we will share information through our district communications.

These include messages from our Bexley’s Superintendent, Kim Miller and Cassingham’s principal, Jeannine Hetzler.

Sign Up Here for District for District Communications
We believe Kindergarten IS...

An opportunity for children to discover who they are as Thinkers, Friends and Individuals within their class and our school.

At Cassingham, each child is welcomed. We know that your child’s learning this year, has taken a turn that you didn’t anticipate. I am absolutely certain that your child’s teachers will personalize your child’s experience. Your child’s academic, social and emotional growth and success is at the center of our work.
Meet the Cassingham elementary kindergarten team!
Ms. Tarpey- Hi! I studied Speech Pathology and Psychology at Ohio University and then received my teaching credentials through Western Governors University. I am going into my 6th year of teaching and 5th year in Bexley. Before making the switch to kindergarten, I worked in special education as a Behavior Interventionist and then an Intervention Specialist. I coach 8th grade volleyball at Bexley Middle School and can’t wait to meet all of your kids next year!

Ms. Lovingood- I have been with Cassingham for 8 years in various positions, 3 of which were teaching kindergarten. I studied psychology at Ohio Dominican University and then went back to obtain my teaching license at Ashland University. Since the day I was a guest teacher in kindergarten 8 years ago, I loved the curiosity little ones have for learning and I pride myself on continuing to foster that desire to learn!
Mrs. Montague- Hi! I have been at Cassingham for four years in different positions. This will be my second year teaching kindergarten at Cassingham. I have been teaching for 8 years. I graduated from Ohio University with my bachelors in Early Childhood Education. I am looking forward to a new school year and am especially looking forward to meeting your children!

Mrs. Kelly- I am so excited to meet you and your family this fall. I have been teaching Kindergarten at Cassingham for six years. I have my bachelors in Early Childhood Education and Masters in Reading Education. I recently graduated from The Ohio State University with my Masters in Administration. My husband and I welcomed Kennedy to our family this March and are so excited to start this new journey as parents.
Nurturing Environment

In Kindergarten, we foster independence and curiosity. At the same time, we realize that our school and classrooms will be new environments for students. We strive to help students feel safe, loved and supported each and every day.

We take the first couple months of school to establish and reinforce our routines. This ensures that students understand the flow of their day and feel secure in the school environment.

- Morning meetings (greeting, activity, share)
- Social-emotional learning and understanding others’ feelings
- Spending time together to get to know each other
- Providing ample play time
- Establishing routines
Gentle/Staggered Start

Plans for the re-opening our school are evolving.

- Our usual practice is to gently introduce students to their classrooms through a gentle, or staggered start.
- At this point, our school year is to begin on August 20th. Our usual practice is to communicate your child’s starting date in June. This year, we may not be able to do that.
- You will be included in our school’s weekly email messages in June. We will communicate any shifts in our starting dates to you through those weekly messages and direct email to rising K families.
Drop-off/Dismissal Expectations

- Our school day begins at 8:15AM - students may enter the building at 8:10 to unpack their items and make their way to classrooms
  - This is an excellent time to give your child the opportunity to be independent! It helps them start their day off feeling confident in themselves
- Dismissal is at 3:00PM
  - It is very important that you let your child’s teacher know how your child is getting home at the end of the day prior to the first day of school (pick-up, aftercare, bus, etc)
  - If you are picking up, make sure your child knows exactly where to meet you (which door to exit and where you will be standing). Please share this routine with your child’s teacher so that we can support it.
Workshop Model/Schedule

● Our schedule consists of an allied art each day along with core instruction.

● In the classroom, we structure our day using the workshop model.
  ○ Whole-group lessons then small-group or individual instruction and practice
    ■ Reading, math, writing, science/social studies
  ○ Differentiating content for students is a key focus. We strive to reach different types of learners using a variety of teaching styles and methods.

● In addition to academics, we incorporate choice time for students.
  ○ We believe play is as equally important as the core subjects, as children experience problem solving, leadership, and collaboration
What can you work on before kindergarten?

Encourage curiosity and a love for learning!

- Read with them
- Explore letters and numbers
- Practice name writing

Build self help skills

- Shoe tying
- Bathroom skills
- Snaps/zippers
- Opening/closing food containers

Build your child’s confidence by fostering their independence!

- Provide opportunities for your children to try and fail. It’s okay to fail!
Allied Arts

● Music
● Physical Education
● Guidance
● Art
● Library
Every Cub Counts

- Known as ECC to students!
- Your child will be put in an ECC family at the beginning of kindergarten. This family will include 2 parents (teachers) and kids across all grade levels. This will be their family throughout their entire journey through CS!
- Service Learning
- Social/Emotional Learning
- Team Building
- Interpersonal Skills
**Summer Screening - getting to know our Students!**

- You have selected session times for your child to participate in Summertime Screening.
- These sessions typically allow us an opportunity get to know students and their readiness for instruction.
- We are hopeful that we’ll be able to move forward with this sessions in some way, and are also mindful that public health conditions will determine whether or not this is possible.
- Please know that we will take intentional steps to personalize your child’s learning.
- We will meet them where they are and design our instruction to meet their needs.
Random tidbits of info!

● Lunch
  ○ Your child will be assigned a lunch number and will scan their fingerprint to buy lunches.
  ○ Pack lunches for the first week of school until children are comfortable in the lunchroom and understand lunchroom routines and expectations.
● Pack a change of clothes on your child’s first day of school to keep in their locker. We like to be prepared just in case! :)
● Information on school supply lists will be coming to you electronically in your Kindergarten Packet - we are planning to get these materials to you the week of May 4th.
● Plan to pack 2 snacks a day with your child’s lunch. We have an AM snack and a PM snack. Everyone learns better on a full stomach!
Class Lists in August

Class lists are typically shared the week before school starts.

We will communicate how this information will be shared through our district email messages.

Sign up Here (for district email messages)
Back to you Ms. Hetzler!

4 important supports

★ Mary Poczik, School Secretary
  ○ mary.poczik@bexley.us
  ○ Mary is a source of helpful information

★ Erica Hecker, School Counselor

★ Ms. Boyer and Ms. Poling; Our School Nurses

★ Cassingham’s Parent Teacher Organization
School Counselors Make a World of Difference!

Dear Families,

Welcome to Cassingham! I am your child’s school counselor. Did you know that elementary counselors …

…teach classroom lessons on skills for learning, emotion management, problem solving?
…work with individual students and maintain confidentiality?
…work with small groups of children with similar concerns?
…consult with teachers and assist them in meeting student needs?
…provide support for all students to be successful learners?

I am looking forward to partnering with you and your child as you.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns. I am here to help. I can be reached at 614-237-4266 ex. 2212 or email me at erica.hecker@bexley.us

I’m looking forward to getting to know you and your child.

Sincerely,

Erica Hecker
Mrs. Erica Hecker
Licensed Professional School Counselor
Click on each rectangle to view welcome messages from Ms. Boyer and Ms. Poling, the Cassingham Complex nurses.
Our Parent Teacher Organization exists to support our school’s efforts. It is an invaluable partnership.

My name is Veronica Bradley, and I am the rising President of the Cassingham PTO. My husband, Tony, and I have a son finishing 2nd grade this school year. I have truly enjoyed our experience at Cassingham, and the PTO and I are excited to welcome the next group of kindergarteners and their families!

The executive officers for the 2020-2021 school year are myself, President; Gina Fiorino, Vice President; Katie Brunner, Treasurer; Courtney Karn Hanna and Sophia Mayfield, Fundraising Chairs; Elizabeth Garrett, Volunteer Coordinator; and Allison McGrath, Secretary.

Welcome to our wonderful school community, and we look forward to seeing you!

Best,
Veronica Bradley
PTO President 2020-2021

CSPTOPrez@gmail.com
Facebook @CassinghamPTO
A Place to Log your Questions...

Please share your questions for any members of our team including PTO, Nurses, School Secretary, School Nurse, Teachers or Principal with us by completing the quick form available in this link:

Parent Questions, Rising K Student