Over the Summer

- Listen and talk to your child about what Kindergarten will be like. Express enthusiasm. Be positive and encouraging.
- Arrange independent time for your child to be with a relative or family friends. This gives you a window of time to see how your child reacts when you are not there.
- Visit the school playground.

Starting Kindergarten begins in the spring with a Welcome to Kindergarten event. Over the summer, you will receive a letter explaining the Gradual Entry Process with assigned attendance dates and a specific time for your family's Welcoming Conversation. All children attend for 60 minutes on the very first day of school. In the following days, children attend school for longer periods of time to ensure a smooth and successful transition into kindergarten.

Richmond Schools welcome you!

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

"The transition to school is a period of change and adjustment for children, parents and family members." (L.Harper, 2015, Early Childhood Education). While transitions can be viewed as exciting learning opportunities, making time for the child, family, and teacher to get to know each other makes the transition into kindergarten a happier experience for all.

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RICHMOND
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.38

What is Gradual Entry?

Kindergarten Gradual Entry is a developmental model of transition planning emphasizing the interconnected relationships among the child, teachers, family, peers, and community that are developed across time. (Pianta & Kraft-Sayre, 2003). All schools in the Richmond School District follow a Kindergarten Gradual Entry program.

What Does Gradual Entry Look Like?

Children and their family will have many opportunities to connect with their teachers and other key staff members during the first week of school. Your child will attend in either Group A or Group B.

All families will be invited to a Welcoming Conversation with the Kindergarten Teacher.* The purpose of this conversation is to learn more about each student from a family's point of view. The Welcoming Conversations will be guided by a series of questions.

The second week of school, children gradually attend over the lunch period and by Thursday, all children are attending a full day.

We recognize that children don't begin to speak or walk on a schedule, so it's no surprise that chronological age is not always the best predictor for ease of starting school. Gradual entry can help teachers identify which children may need help and make sure resources are available where needed.

**Schools have until September 30 to place students. Every effort will be made to have the Welcoming Conversation with your child's teacher*

What does this mean for my child?

Gradual entry provides focused time for your child to connect with their Kindergarten teacher and to adjust to the new social and emotional realities of the larger elementary school context. Teachers will be introducing the children to classroom routines and procedures, easing the transition in a more individualized way so your child feels comfortable and valued as an important new member of the school community. Your child will meet other teachers, students, staff, and the school administration team.

What does this mean for our family?

Our School District recognizes that a child's first teacher is their family. The gradual entry process gives families the opportunity to share valuable background information with school personnel at the Welcoming Conversations. We encourage you to bring your child to the Welcoming Conversation.