



Putnam Heights Elementary School

Hello Putnam Panther Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to the world of Kindergarten at Putnam Heights Elementary School! This is an exciting year for you and your child — a year defined by rapid growth and development. We are excited to have you and your family be a part of our school community. As September nears, the transition into kindergarten for five-year-old children can be filled with anticipation, excitement, and anxiety about the new experience of going to school. Kindergarten Orientation will help ease this transition.

Kindergarten Orientation – Friday, August 30th 8:00AM-4:00PM 15-minute Family Sessions

Instead of having a group orientation format, we would like to provide you and your family with a 15-minute Family Session to connect with your new teacher and explore the school. You could share this time with one other family. In mid-August, you will receive a letter which includes your child's teacher placement and instructions on how to schedule your 15-minute Family Session.

It is important that you and your child attend one 15-minute family visit session and that you arrive on time. Also, please bring all your child's supplies on this day.

During the session, you and your child will have:

- an opportunity to meet and connect with your child's teacher
- speak meaningfully about your child and their unique learning needs
- explore the kindergarten classroom environment
- put school supplies away
- a self-guided building tour

In addition to Kindergarten Orientation, the Eau Claire Area School District implemented a "**New Beginning**" for kindergarteners. The purpose of "**New Beginning**" is to provide a smooth transition into elementary school so that students can develop a positive relationship with their classroom teacher, learn classroom expectations, and practice daily routines in a small group setting.

Kindergarten Only

- **Tuesday, September 3rd** - Welcome Back Day for **Grades 1 through 5**. Kindergarten students do not attend school on Tuesday, September 3rd.
- **Wednesday, September 4th**- Students with a last name that starts with **letters A through L** will attend school on Wednesday, September 4th and **will not** attend on Thursday, September 5th. They will return to school on Friday, September 6th.
- **Thursday, September 5th**- Students with a last name that starts with **letters M through Z** will attend on Thursday, September 5th **and will not** attend school on Wednesday, September 4th. They will return to school on Friday, September 6th.
- **Friday, September 6th** - All kindergarteners attend school and follow the ECASD calendar for the remainder of the year.

Please start thinking about the childcare arrangements you will need to make for the day your child is not in school- either Wednesday, September 4th or Thursday, September 5th.

Families, you are an important partner of our team. We hope that you will feel comfortable and welcome at Putnam Heights Elementary. If you have any questions about Putnam Heights and/or your child's education, please call me at 715-852-4210 or e-mail me at dlesneski@ecasd.us.

Enjoy your summer!

Diana Lesneski
Principal