



# Kindergarten Welcome Book

School starts **Sept. 3, 2019**



**Port Huron Schools**  
Advocate Innovate Educate



# Welcome to our schools

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

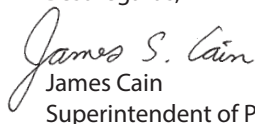
Welcome to Port Huron Schools. We are proud to share all of the exciting things our district offers to students, families and the community. As a parent, I understand what an exciting time this is for families as their children take those first steps toward their future. This booklet is designed to welcome your family and provide useful information as Port Huron Schools begins this important journey with you and your child.

Our district values the opportunity to partner in your child's education, healthy development, intellectual growth and character building. The resources, diversity and culture of excellence that Port Huron Schools offer, make our district a unique destination. Providing a personalized, world-class education experience drives our district's legacy of achievement. Our globally established alumni are leading professionals in their fields.

Port Huron Schools is completing its final phase of a complete transformation thanks to the passage of a \$105.9 million bond in 2016. Our elementary schools, along with all of the other facilities in our district, are going through floor to ceiling renovations. Our district features 1:1 technology for students, new STEAM labs and programs for 3rd through 12th grades and a new Early Childhood Center. Additionally, we have upgraded security and student learning spaces throughout the district.

Port Huron Schools are here to ensure personalized success for every student. Your choice to partner with our team is valued and your child's well being is precious to our entire district. Thank you!

Best regards,

  
James Cain

Superintendent of Port Huron Schools



## We want to stay in touch with you

Please email [superintendent@phasd.us](mailto:superintendent@phasd.us) to request to receive the weekly "This Week @ Port Huron Schools" e-newsletter.



Website:  
[phasd.us](http://phasd.us)



Facebook:  
[PortHuronSchools](https://www.facebook.com/PortHuronSchools)



Twitter:  
[@PHSchools](https://twitter.com/PHSchools)

## Kindergarten round up and registration

Port Huron Schools' annual kindergarten round up for students entering any elementary school in the district in the fall of 2019 will be held in March. These events will be hosted at all of the elementary buildings throughout Port Huron Schools. Please visit [phasd.us](http://phasd.us) for more information.

To enroll in 2019 kindergarten, your child must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2019.

Please bring the following with you to the "round up" events:

- Original birth certificate
- Two proofs of residency
- Vaccination records (immunizations)

## Kindergarten round up 2019 dates

### Monday, March 11:

- Garfield Elementary – 1221 Garfield St., 984-6509 from 5:30–7 p.m.
- Michigamme Elementary – 2855 Michigan Rd., 984-6523 from 5:30–7 p.m.
- Roosevelt Elementary – 1112 20th St., 984-6525 from 5:30–7 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 12:

- Keewahdin Elementary – 4801 Lakeshore, 984-6517 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- Thomas Edison Elementary – 3559 Pollina Ave., 984-6507 from 5:30–7 p.m.

### Thursday, March 14:

- Crull Elementary – 2615 Hancock, 984-6504 from 5:30–7 p.m.
- Literacy Academy at Cleveland – 2801 Vanness St., 984-6500 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- Indian Woods Elementary – 4975 W. Water, 984-6515 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

There will be a "make up" Round Up in April for those unable to make these dates. Or you may visit or call our Administration offices at (810) 984-3101 at any time to enroll your child.



Each of the schools also has a social media account. You may find their pages by searching on Facebook. Additional communication resources are detailed on your school's website.

## What you need to register for kindergarten

Please bring the following documentation to a Kindergarten Round Up event or to the district administration building to complete your child's registration:

- **An original birth certificate** - A photocopy will not be accepted.
- **Proof of home address** - Two documents are required such as utility bills, US postal mail, rental/lease agreements, etc. These must be current, and the name on the document must be of the parent/guardian of the student.
- **Immunization records** - At minimum, the state requires vaccines for the following potentially life-threatening diseases: DTP/DT/DtaP (four doses), polio (four doses), MMR (two doses), hepatitis B (three doses) and varicella, which is known as chickenpox (two doses or verification the child has already had chickenpox).

## If you don't have a birth certificate

If you do not have an original birth certificate, you may obtain a certified birth certificate from one of the following agencies:

- If your child was born in St. Clair County, contact the St. Clair County Clerk office at (810) 985-2200 or 201 McMorran Blvd. in Port Huron or <https://stclaircountyclerk.org/>
- If your child was born in another county, call the County Clerk office of that specific county.
- If your child was born in Michigan, you may also contact the Michigan State Health Dept. of Vital Statistics at 3500 North Logan St., Lansing, Mich. 48914; (517) 335-8656 or [www.michigan.gov/vitalrecords](http://www.michigan.gov/vitalrecords)
- If your child was born outside of Michigan, call the St. Clair County Clerk's Office for information on how to obtain a birth certificate.

## If your child has not been vaccinated

The state of Michigan requires local health departments to provide one-on-one education to parents and guardians who are requesting a non-medical waiver. Call the St. Clair County Health Dept. at (810) 987-5300 to schedule a waiver appointment. [www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health/](http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health/)

## Obtaining your immunization records

If you cannot find the proof of your child's immunizations, please contact the doctor's office or clinic where your child received the immunizations. If you cannot reach that doctor or clinic and your child was born in Michigan, his/her records may be available in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Please call the St. Clair County Health Dept. at (810) 987-5300 to inquire if they have the MCIR records on file. If they do not,

you may send a request to the MCIR by mail or fax. For more information or download a form, go to: [www.mcir.org/public/](http://www.mcir.org/public/).

If your child was born outside of Michigan, please contact the health department in the county in which he or she was born.

## What to do if you cannot afford vaccinations

The state of Michigan covers the cost of vaccines for children from birth to the age of 18 if they are on Medicaid, are eligible for Medicaid, do not have health insurance, are American Indian or Alaskan Native or are underinsured. Please contact your child's doctor or healthcare provider to inquire if they offer state-paid vaccines. If they do not, please contact the St. Clair County Health Dept. at (810) 987-5300.

## What are the regular school hours?

The school bell rings at all Port Huron Schools elementary buildings at 8:15 a.m. with daily, free breakfast service beginning typically at that time. Procedure for breakfast may vary per building. Classes conclude daily at 3:15 p.m.

## A typical day for kindergarten students

The daily schedule for each individual classroom varies based on building schedules and teacher preferences, but generally all kindergarten students in Port Huron Schools will have:

- **50–170 minutes** of English language arts instruction including small group lessons, shared reading, shared writing, interactive read alouds, hand writing, phonics, and literacy centers
- **30–35 minutes** of writing instruction; encompassing written expression, grammar, spelling and handwriting
- **90 minutes** of math instruction in small groups, a whole group and math centers
- **40 minutes** of science and/or social studies, which is often incorporated in the reading and math instruction
- **45 minutes** of physical education (twice weekly), art, music or technology
- **10 minutes** of additional Fine Motor Skill practice
- **50–55 minutes** of lunch and recess; **30 minutes** of lunch with a short recess and another **15–20 minutes** of recess and breaks

Be sure to follow the Port Huron Schools and individual school social media sites, so you can follow and comment on the daily posts of student activities across the district.

# Common kindergarten questions

## **How can I arrange for my child to receive meals at school?**

All schools serve nutritional breakfast and lunch daily. All of our elementary schools provide these two daily meals for free to all students, thanks to a government grant.

## **I'd like to take my child on a tour of his/her new school before classes start. How do I arrange that?**

Tours will be offered during the kindergarten round up events in March. Parents may also call the school office and schedule an appointment at any time with the building principal. There will be an Open House event prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year. Please follow Port Huron Schools on social media for announcements.

## **Do kindergartners have a chance to play sports?**

All kindergartners have a morning and afternoon recess. Sports are included in their physical education class.

## **How will I know where and when to wait for the school bus?**

We do not have bus stops and routes set for this fall, yet. All bus stops will be listed this summer on [phasd.us](http://phasd.us) under the [Parent/Student](#) tab > [School Bus Info](#).

You may also call your child's building, Port Huron Schools' central administration office (810) 984-3101 or the First Student transportation office (810) 984-6567.

All kindergartners will be provided with bus tags. These tags are to be prominently displayed on the student's backpack. These help both you and Port Huron Schools staff identify which bus is the correct one for your child.

## **What are the school drop off procedures?**

Each school has specific areas for bus and car drop offs. Please follow signs the first day. Please direct questions to your school's main office.

## **What are the school pick up procedures?**

Teachers walk students out of the building at the end of each day. Children are supervised at the bus area and at the car pick up areas.

## **What do I need to do to volunteer at school?**

Our schools welcome and encourage volunteers. All parents are required to complete a volunteer form. Talk with your student's building principal about volunteer opportunities.

## **Can I have lunch with my child?**

Parents are always welcome to eat with their children. Please make sure that you sign in at the front office of the school. Some building principals may ask that you talk with them before coming to the school in case there are schedule changes.

**Where do we meet my child's teacher on the first day?**

On the first day of school, parents are welcome to walk their students into the building and show them the classrooms. Teachers will be ready to greet and welcome students and parents on that day.

**What is the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?**

During school hours, teachers must focus on instruction, which makes it challenging for them to communicate outside of the classroom. Teachers welcome notes, e-mails, phone calls and may even have professional social media accounts or websites they use for communication. Please go to [phasd.us](http://phasd.us), click on [Staff Directory](#) under the [Parent/Student](#) tab to find your child's teacher and his/her noted contact options.

**What happens if school is cancelled for bad weather or other circumstances?**

Parents are notified of school closings, delays or other unexpected schedule changes through an automated phone system. Your school office will enter the primary phone number listed on your child's registration for this notification, so it will be important for you to alert them of any change in your contact information and/or address. School closings and other unexpected schedule changes will also be posted on [phasd.us](http://phasd.us) and/or your child's school website, PHS-TV through Comcast/Xfinity Channel 6, Detroit television network affiliates (WDIV, WXYZ, etc.), local radio stations (WPHM, WGRT, etc.), plus the district's social media: [@PHSchools](#) and [Facebook.com/PortHuronSchools](https://www.facebook.com/PortHuronSchools)

A process for school closings and definitions of severe weather are posted on the District website at [phasd.us](http://phasd.us).

**I am separated from my spouse and I don't want him/her to visit or pick up my child. How can I make sure that does not happen?**

Please provide your school's main office with a copy of the most current court documents. Make sure your child's registration information is up-to-date with your most current contact information.

**My child's grandmother takes care of him/her after school, but she lives on the other side of town. Will the school bus stop in front of grandmother's house?**

Unfortunately, the district cannot provide transportation outside of a school's attendance area. In this situation, the parent would be responsible for the child's transportation. If you have questions for the transportation department, please call (810) 984-6567 or visit [phasd.us](http://phasd.us) and click [School Bus Info](#) under [Parent/Student](#).



## Children come first at Port Huron Schools



### **Vision:**

Port Huron Schools will provide a personalized, world-class education for each student today to shape tomorrow's community and global leaders.

### **Mission:**

We will advocate for our students and families in partnership with our community to assure their success inside and outside of school; continuously innovate our practices and programs to improve student achievement; and educate in ways that are relevant, relationship driven, and rigorous.

**ADVOCATE. INNOVATE. EDUCATE.**



2720 Riverside Drive  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810)984-3101 [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us)