

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like more information about Vestal's Kindergarten program, or the process to enroll your child, please contact:

Building Principals:

African Road Elementary

Meghan Stenta, Principal, 757-2311

Clayton Avenue Elementary

Bradley Bruce, Principal, 757-2271

Glenwood Elementary

Doreen McSain, Principal, 757-2391

Tioga Hills Elementary

Jane Hashey, Principal, 757-2366

Vestal Hills Elementary

Therese Mastro, Principal, 757-2357

Administration Building, 757-2221

201 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850

Dr. Laura M. Lamash, Assistant

Superintendent for Instruction

Dodie Ainslie, Coordinator of Instruction

Rosalie Sullivan, Assistant Director of Special Education

Online Resources:

PBS Development Tracker:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/child-development/>

Eureka Math: <http://greatminds.net/support/parents>

PTA Parent Guide to Student Success:
<http://www.pta.org/parents/>

Literacy and Learning Framework: <http://www.literacycollaborative.org/docs/framework.pdf>

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Kindergarten Registration

February 27-March 31, 2017

Kindergarten Screening

ARE: May 30, 31, June 1

CAE: May 15-17

GLE: May 30, June 1, 7

THE: May 31, June 1, 2

VHE: May 22-24

Parent Orientation

ARE: April 24, 9:30 a.m.

CAE: April 26, 9:30 a.m.

GLE: April 28, 9:30 a.m.

THE: April 25, 9:30 a.m.

VHE: April 27, 9:30 a.m.

Topics discussed during orientation include:

- *Philosophy/purpose*
- *Program overview*
- *District readiness focus*

VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



A DISTRICT OF
LEADERSHIP:
TODAY'S LEADERS FOR
TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Letter from the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

We welcome you to the Vestal Central School District! We look forward to a long relationship with you and your family. Our commitment to your child is also a commitment to you. We will work with you to inspire in your child a love of learning, a strong character, creativity, and compassion. These are the qualities that fulfill our district's mission for each student to become, "a critical thinker, lifelong learner, and a responsible, contributing citizen in a changing global society."

Each of our elementary schools is a vibrant community focused on meeting students at their place of growth and development. Our kindergarten teachers will work with you on understanding your child's unique qualities and the curriculum we have in place to support them. Our elementary principals are instructional leaders knowledgeable in child growth and development, curriculum, and instruction. Importantly, you will find that they create schools where students take an active role in leadership and community building. Together, our principals, teachers, and the many support staff will work with you to sustain our schools as places of academic rigor, compassion, and celebration.

Finally, your involvement in our learning community requires open communication among all of us. Our district website maintains a range of resources you will find useful. Principals publish monthly newsletters to keep you informed. Quarterly, the district publishes the district newsletter, *Look At Us*. All our elementary schools have regular activities and events, many sponsored by our parent-teacher organizations.

This brochure gives you a glimpse of our core belief centering around a strong, positive partnership with you and your child. We believe that families have a right and a responsibility to be involved in their child's education, and that student learning and achievement are enhanced when parents and staff work collaboratively.

We look forward to working with you next year and for years to come!

Dr. Laura Lamash

Our district goals are to:

Challenge all Vestal students to meet ever-increasing standards of excellence in preparation for participation in the global society.

Support students' efforts to learn and grow by assuring all a positive educational environment.

Foster community pride in the Vestal schools by communicating openly and effectively about our students and the school program.

Invest fiscal resources responsibly and effectively to accomplish the District's mission.



Philosophy of Vestal's Kindergarten Program

- Growth is orderly and involves specific developmental milestones.
- Every child has her/his own rate and pattern of growth. Children advance through these milestones at different rates.
- Education of the "whole child" to support intellectual growth through rich social, emotional, physical, and academic experiences.
- Brain research confirms that exposure to early learning experiences improve a child's ability to advance through the developmental milestones.



Program Components include:

- Physical Education, Music, Art, and Library
- Support services as needed (Counseling, English as a Second Language, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Speech, Academic Intervention Services)

Kindergarten Program

Vestal's kindergarten program follows NYS Common Core Curriculum in English Language Arts and Math and the New York State Learning Standards in Social Studies and Science. Classrooms include hands-on, interactive learning experiences organized around an activity centered approach. Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, the Vestal district is incorporating play-based learning as a component of our primary educational program.

Kindergarten Screening:

New York State requires public schools to screen all new students entering kindergarten. The screening process helps us to learn about your student and his or her individual needs. And it is a chance for you to learn about us and meet members of the school community who will work with you and your child, including the school psychologist, speech and language pathologist, the principal, kindergarten staff and the school nurse.

This process results in a screening profile that you will receive. This profile looks at general areas of cognitive, speech, physical, and motor development. It guides us in identifying strengths as well as needs of incoming children. Information gathered during the screening process helps inform instruction and make sure all the needs of the child will be met when they start kindergarten.