

Welcome to Preschool!

2025 - 2026



**HACKENSACK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Welcome

!



STAFFING



Our Preschool Administrative Team

**Mrs. Donna Petrin-Wall -
Director of Early Childhood**

**Ms. Saran Sinnette -
Supervisor of Early Childhood**

**Darius Pemberton -
Director of Special Services**

**Kristen Bader -
Supervisor of Special
Education (Pre-K-4)**



ECDC & Elementary Schools Administration

Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)

Mrs. Petrin-Wall, Director of Early
Childhood

Ms. Saran Sinnette, Supervisor of Early
Childhood

Fairmount School

Mrs. Nicole Adams, Acting Principal
Mrs. Anamari Servis, Assistant Principal

Fanny Meyer Hillers School

Dr. Judy Soto, Principal
Mrs. Adi Madden, Assistant Principal

Jackson Avenue School

Mr. Christopher Moran, Principal
Mr. Julio Morel, Assistant Principal

Nellie K. Parker School

Dr. Anibal Galiana, Principal
To be announced, Assistant Principal



Pre-Kindergarten Support Team

Mrs. Kasia Ferrone
Preschool Instructional Coach

Ms. Christina Rivera
Preschool Instructional Coach

Ms. Laura McBride
Preschool Intervention and
Referral Specialist

Ms. Cynthia Florencio
Community and Parent
Involvement Specialist



Private Providers Administration

Bright Adventures

Mrs. Suha Hassan,
Director

201-546-7462

Bright Seedlings

Mrs. Naina Kumar,
Director

Mrs. Angelina Park,
Assistant Director



MISSION and VISION



Our Mission



The Hackensack Public School program provides our students with a nurturing, safe, culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate environment that promotes linguistic, social, emotional, cognitive, academic, and physical growth. Our highly skilled preschool faculty nurtures the development of each child's sense of self and sense of community in an intellectually stimulating, language rich, and joyful environment.



Our Vision



We hold that preschool plays a critical role in the formation of a child's development. Our vision is to cultivate inquisitive, kind, and confident children who love to learn. We are devoted to providing a strong foundational curriculum, preparing students with the mindset, skills, and dispositions that will enable all children to have a successful transition to Kindergarten and Elementary School. We honor the vital role that families and our community play in the development of the child and seek to build strong partnerships with them. Our preschool staff continuously seeks to build content and pedagogical knowledge to improve student learning.



Creative Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is a state department of education approved comprehensive, research-based curriculum that features hands-on, project-based investigations as a pathway to learning.



Preschool Schedule

Full Day Program

Arrive 9:00 am
Dismiss 3:00 pm

Half-Day Program

AM Session

Arrive 9:00 am
Dismiss 11:30 am

PM Session

Arrive 12:30 pm
Dismiss 3:00 pm



Preschool Parent Orientation

School	Date	Time
Nellie K. Parker	Monday, August 18	6:00 pm
ECDC	Tuesday, August 26	5:00 pm
Bright Seedlings	Wednesday, August 27	4:00 pm
Bright Adventures	Thursday, August 28	6:00 pm
Jackson Avenue	Thursday, September 4	11:00 am
Fairmount	Thursday, September 4	11:00 am
Fanny Meyer Hillers	Thursday, September 4	11:00 am



Upcoming Dates

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, September 4, 2025	11:00- 11:50 am for all elementary buildings, private providers and general education ECDC: ABA 9:00 - 9:50 am	Meet and Greet with your child's teacher
Friday, September 5, 2025	Full day students 9:00 am -3:00 pm AM Half Day students: 9:00 - 11:30 am PM Half Day students: 12:30 - 3:00 pm	First full day of school
Monday, September 15, 2025	6:30-8:00 pm	Back to School Night: ECDC, Bright Adventures and Bright Seedlings
Tuesday, September 16, 2025	6:30-8:00 pm	Back to School Night: Elementary Schools (Parker, Hillers, Jackson Ave, Fairmount)



2025-2026 School Year Calendar

Hackensack Public Schools District Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2*	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15**	16**	17**	18**	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*Sept 2 - Opening Day - Staff Only 1 pm Dismissal 19 days
 **12:30 Dismissal Specified Schools Only (BTSN)

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

21 days

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17*	18*	19*	20*	21*	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

* 12:30 Dismissal Elementary Schools Only 15 days

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6
7	8	9	10**	11**	12**	13
14	15**	16**	17**	18**	19**	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

* 12:30 Dismissal ECDC Only 17 days
 ** 12:30 Dismissal Middle School Only
 *** 12:30 Dismissal High School Only

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19 days

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

18 days

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

19 days

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

19 days

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20 days

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17*	18*	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

* 12:30 Dismissal Elementary Schools Only 16 days

SCHOOL CLOSINGS						
Sept	1	Labor Day				
Oct	2	Yom Kippur				
Oct	13	Indigenous Peoples' Day				
Nov	6-7	NJEA Convention				
Nov	27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday				
Dec-Jan	24-2	Holiday Recess				

SCHOOL CLOSINGS (continued)						
Jan	19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day				
Feb	16-17	Winter Recess				
Mar	20	Eid al-Fitr				
Mar-Apr	30-3	Spring Recess				
May	25	Memorial Day				
Jun	19	Juneteenth				

Opening Day - For Staff						
Sept	2	Staff Only 1:00 pm Dismissal				
Professional Development - No Students						
Sept	3	Professional Dev Staff: No Students				
Nov	4	Professional Dev Staff: No Students				
12:30 Dismissal - Staff & Students						
Nov	26	12:30 Dismissal Staff/Students				
Dec	12 & 23	12:30 Dismissal Staff/Students				
Jun	22 & 23	12:30 Dismissal Staff/Students				

New Teacher Orientation						
8/25/25 - 8/28/25						

Total Student Days: 183
 Total Staff Days: 186

1st Day of School for Students - 9/4/2025
 High School Graduation - 6/23/2026
 Last Day of School - 6/23/2026

12:30 Dismissal Students Only						
Sept	16	Back to School Night ELEM ONLY				
Sept	17	Back to School Night MIDDLE ONLY				
Sept	18	Back to School Night HIGH ONLY				
Sept	15	Back to School Night ECDC ONLY				
Oct	21	Professional Dev Staff 1:30 - 3:00 pm				
Nov	17	Parent/Teacher Conf. ELEM ONLY				
Nov	18-21	Parent/Teacher Conference ELEM ONLY				
Dec	1	Parent/Teacher Conf. ECDC ONLY				
Dec	2-5	Parent/Teacher Conference ECDC ONLY				
Dec	10-12	Parent/Teacher Conference HIGH ONLY				
Dec	15	Parent/Teacher Conf HHS ONLY				
Dec	16-19	Parent/Teacher Conference MIDDLE ONLY				
Jan	20	Professional Dev Staff 1:30 - 3:00 pm				
Feb	24	Professional Dev Staff 1:30 - 3:00 pm				
Mar	17	Professional Dev Staff 1:30 - 3:00 pm				
Apr	21	Professional Dev Staff 1:30 - 3:00 pm				
Jun	17-18	12:30 Dismissal Students at Elem				

EMERGENCY CLOSING DAYS: If more than three (3) days are used for emergency closings, days will be made up during spring recess.

Should emergency closing days not be required, these days will be applied to the Memorial Day weekend and in June. Should more than three (3) days be used for emergency closings, days will be made up during spring recess.

The Board of Education reserves the right to change this calendar pending contract negotiations and ratifications.

Board Approval Date: 05/14/25 REVISED 8/20/25



Attendance Policy for Preschool

Regular attendance plays an important role in your child's social, emotional and cognitive development. When children consistently attend school, they build strong relationships with peers and adults while also engaging and participating in enriching and meaningful experiences. Chronic absences may hinder your child's success and academic performance in later years. For this reason it is imperative to develop regular attendance habits early on in preschool years.

If your child accumulates 10 consecutive unexcused absences at any given point during the school year, he/she will be removed from the program and your child's place will be offered to a child on the waiting list.



Important for reporting absences!

Please notify the classroom teacher, our Main Office or the school nurse (medical updates) when your child will be absent from school. Please note how absences are defined below:

Excused Absences

- Observance of a religious holiday recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education
- Take Our Children to Work Day
- Participation in observance of Veteran's Day

Unexcused Absences

- Absences for reasons other than the above are considered “unexcused.”

All other absences, which are not State recognized Excused Absences according to the above, shall be considered “Unexcused Absences” regardless of the reason or documentation.



Breakfast & Lunch

- Children will eat in the classrooms.
- Hackensack Public School menus.
- Please fill out a Lunch Form. It can be found on our website.
- Please keep in mind that we are a peanut free district as you send your child to school with the afternoon snack.



Items Children Will Need in School

- Backpack
- A water bottle labeled with the child's first and last name.
- 2 complete sets of clothing and 1 pair of shoes (comfortable and safe for your child to participate in daily gross motor activities) to be kept in school.
- Clothing should be put in a ziplock bag labeled with the child's first and last name.
- Each set should include:
 - shirt
 - pants
 - underwear
 - socks



Items Children Will Need in School

Crib-size fitted sheet, small blanket, small pillow in a plastic bag.

- Please label the sheet, blanket and plastic bag.
- Please do **not** send in sleeping bags.
- These will be used during daily rest time.
- The sheet and blanket will be sent home every Friday for laundering at home.
- Please return a clean set the following Monday.
- You may want to purchase two sets to give yourself more time to launder.



Items Children Will **Not** Need in School

We will supply all other items children will need.

- Notebooks – please do not send in
- Pencils, Markers, Crayons – please do not send in
- Toys – please keep all toys at home or in the car for your child to play with on their way home.



Morning Drop-Off Procedures

- Each class will enter through a specific entrance.
- Doors will be open from 8:55 am to 9:04 am
- After 9:05 am only the Main Entrance will be open.



Dismissal Procedures

- Students must be picked up promptly at dismissal time:
 - **11:30 am** for AM session
 - **3:00 pm** for PM and Full Day students
- Students will be dismissed at same door as arrival.
- Our district does not offer before or after-care supervision.
- However, students who attend Bright Adventures and Bright Seedlings have the option for paid morning and after-care. This is a separate service directly with the private providers. Please reach out to the private providers for additional information.



Important for Student Pick ups!

- Always update your contact information with us. That is how we communicate with you.
- Please fill out the **Authorization for Student Pick up** form that we will send you on the first day of school.
- Please ensure that anyone picking up your child that is not the parent or guardian has an ID.



Monthly Drills

Per New Jersey Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, we will conduct a **Fire Drill** and a **Security Drill** every month.



Visitors



If you need to come into the building for any reason, please call the school and make an appointment ahead of time.



Tips for the first day of school

- Your child may have separation anxiety on the first day of school. Please be assured that we will do everything to help your child transition into the school building.
- If your child has a difficult time on the first day of school, we will communicate with you during the day to update you on how she/he is doing.
- *Consider packing a meal you know your child will eat on the first day of school in case they are not used to the school meals.*



Hackensack
Public Schools
Website



Contacts

Mrs. Donna Petrin-Wall, Director of Early Childhood dpetrin_wall@hackensackschools.org

Ms. Saran Sinnette, Supervisor of Early Childhood ssinnette@hackensackschools.org

Mr. Darius Pemberton, Director of Special Services dpemberton@hackensackschools.org

Mrs. Kristen Bader, Supervisor of Special Services PreK-4 kbader@hackensackschools.org

Mrs. Nicole Adams, Fairmount Principal nadams@hackensackschools.org

Mr. Chris Moran, Jackson Avenue Principal cmoran@hackensackschools.org

Dr. Judy Soto, Fanny Meyer Hillers Principal jsoto-holland@hackensackschools.org

Dr. Anibal Galiana, Nellie K. Parker Principal agaliana@hackensackschools.org



Contacts

Mrs. Kasia Ferrone, Preschool Instructional Coach
kferrone@hackensackschools.org

Ms. Christina Rivera, Preschool Instructional Coach
crivera@hackensackschools.org

Ms. Laura McBride, Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist
lmcbride@hackensackschools.org

Ms. Cynthia Florencio, Community and Parent Involvement Specialist
cflorencio@hackensackschools.org



Contacts

Mrs. Suha Hassan, Bright Adventures Director
brightadventureshackensack@gmail.com

Mrs. Naina Kumar, Bright Seedlings Director
director@brightseedlings.com

Mrs. Angelina Park, Bright Seedlings Assistant Director
a.park@brightseedlings.com

