

# Your Story Begins at Owosso Public Schools

Kindergarten Registration March 2-6, 2026



To be eligible for kindergarten in August 2026, your child must be five years of age by September 1, 2026. Registration forms and details can be found at [www.owosso.k12.mi.us](http://www.owosso.k12.mi.us). Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency, and vision and hearing screening results, if available.

**Central Elementary**  
600 W. Oliver Street  
989-723-2790

**Bryant Elementary**  
925 Hampton Street  
989-723-4355

**Emerson Elementary**  
515 E. Oliver Street  
989-725-7361

Call to schedule your registration appointment today!



# Dear Parents,

Welcome, families! Kindergarten is near,  
A brand-new adventure is almost here!  
With little backpacks and big bright smiles,  
We'll learn and grow in Trojan style.  
At Owosso Public Schools, we're proud to say,  
Our caring teachers lead the way.  
With patient hearts and helping hands,  
They guide each child as learning expands.  
We are the Trojans, strong and true,  
And there's a place here just for you.  
We'll cheer them on as they explore,  
And celebrate each step and so much more!  
So take a deep breath, you're not alone,  
Together we'll help your child feel at home.  
A future of learning, joy, and success,  
With love, support, and our very best.

**Your Story Begins at Owosso Public Schools!**

# Dear Parents,

Your Story Begins at Owosso Public Schools!

Welcome to our kindergarten registration events!



Owosso Public Schools focus on innovation, creativity, knowledge, care, and safety in our kindergarten classrooms so students receive a solid foundation to grow into lifelong learners. Our kindergarten program features nurturing highly-qualified teachers and staff who design customized learning plans for each student with the goal of advancing all students, at all ability levels. We prioritize early childhood education to ensure students thrive and become well-rounded, strong, and independent learners. Our goal is for your child to be excited to come to school each day.

**As the District of Opportunities, we focus on:**

## Safety and Security

- We employ four school resource officers, three school nurses, and have therapy dogs to support safety, security, health, and wellness.

## Academic Achievement



- Seven elementary encore classes provide a balanced education: Computers, Global Arts, Sports, Science Fitness, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM), Band, and Music.
- Specialized support staff give kindergarten students extra attention and assistance.
- Student Success Coaches

- Class sizes in elementary school average 22 students per class to allow teachers to deliver personalized instruction.



## Innovation

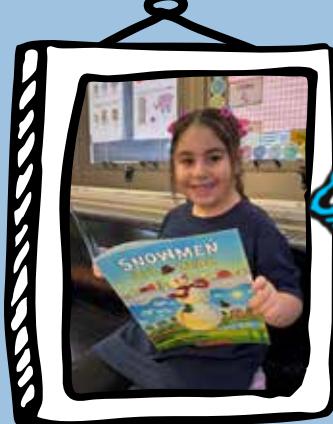
- Engineering, robotics, culinary arts, and Project Lead the Way experiences are included in the kindergarten curriculum.
- Every student has access to iPads or Chromebooks, from preschool to high school.
- International Baccalaureate teaching philosophies develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better world through intercultural understanding and respect. Owosso is the only school district in the county providing this world-class teaching philosophy.



## Students' Happiness and Engagement

- The Owosso team strives to build meaningful relationships with our students, families, and community.
- We work to create a sense of belonging and a positive school culture where learning, engagement, and joy are prioritized.





Reading with your child is a wonderful way to spend meaningful time and prepare them for kindergarten. Owosso's focus on early literacy develops reading skills and inspires a love of reading. When you attend our kindergarten registration events, you will receive another book and what we hope is a convenient way to begin building your home library.

Also, consider visiting our local library and the events they hold. Over the summer, your family is invited to Books at Bryant, a free evening event where children receive a book each week and families forge community connections. Once the school year begins, your elementary school will host book fairs and family events focused on literacy, learning, and creating a sense of belonging at Owosso Public Schools. **Strong readers become strong leaders.**

Jim Trelease said, "The best reading program is a parent's lap." Families and schools working together produce creative minds that write and illustrate exceptional stories. Enroll your child at Owosso Public Schools and savor the joy of watching them grow in a caring learning environment rich with opportunities.

We look forward to beginning a new chapter with you and your family at kindergarten registration!



**With Owosso Trojan Pride,  
Mr. Steve Brooks  
Superintendent**



# From morning hellos to learning with glee, a kindergartener's day is busy as can be!

Owosso Public Schools' kindergarten students enjoy days filled with exploration, learning, and engagement. Special care is taken to assist with transitions such as bus loading and unloading, lunchtime, and recess to ensure the safety and happiness of our students. Safety and security are our number one priority. Secured entrances, school resource officers, and school nurses at every school support our commitment to safety, security, health, and wellness.

## School Bus Ride, Trojan Pride

We offer a school bus orientation event specifically for kindergarten students prior to the first day of school. Be on the lookout this summer for event details where you can ride the bus with your kindergartener and meet the Owosso Public Schools team members. If your child needs transportation, you will register on our website this summer. Our transportation director will reach out to you and get you set up with our My Ride K-12 app to access your student's bus information. Using this mobile app, you can see the approximate location of the bus on its route, access your student's bus number, driver's name, bus stops, and pick-up & drop-off times. Owosso Public Schools' transportation department can send notifications through the app about any changes that may impact your student's route. Parents report loving this technology!

## Grab a tray! Free meals each day!

In the 2025-2026 school year, all Owosso elementary school students received FREE school breakfast and lunch through a federal grant. We anticipate that this will continue for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten students are given more time for lunch and recess and have the option of ordering hot lunch or bringing lunch from home. While eating lunch, staff members are readily available to assist students with their meals and prepare them for outdoor recess. Students enjoy physical activity and social interaction with friends on our playgrounds, which are monitored by our caring and experienced staff.





## **Bright rooms to learn, spaces to grow, our schools are the place to shine and show!**

The new additions at each elementary school house a cafeteria and other spaces such as fine arts, robotics, media center, etc. Our 6th-12th Grade Campus features a 1,000 seat auditorium, new middle school gym, student fitness center, renovated classrooms, and collaboration spaces with state-of-the art technology. These community-supported additions to our schools provide modern learning spaces that are unmatched in this area. It is always great to be an Owosso Trojan and to be part of the Owosso community.

**Follow along so you won't miss a thing!  
Updates, photos, and news we will bring!**

Owosso Public Schools uses our website along with Facebook and Instagram to share our student's successes, unique opportunities, and important information. Follow us on Facebook by liking "Owosso Public Schools" and on Instagram @ owssopublicschools.

**International Bacclaureate means I ask and explore, then learn a little more and more!**

Owosso Middle School and Owosso High School are IB World Schools, offering the Middle Years Programme. IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

**Owosso Public Schools strives to build the foundation for lifelong learning beginning in kindergarten through IB philosophies and inquiry-based learning.**



Through dynamic relationships with instructors, lifelong learners develop at an early age. Owosso's IB Middle Years Programme supports the principles of inquiry-based learning, which goes beyond memorization and equips students with skills that enable them to problem-solve and think innovatively. IB is designed to strengthen a student's intellectual skills. Through the IB philosophy, Owosso kindergarten students learn to be:

**Inquirers:** Curious to know about everything.

**Thinkers:** Think and find solutions for problems.

**Communicators:** Share their views and express their ideas while listening carefully to others.

**Courageous:** Use determination in exploring new challenges and changes.

**Knowledgeable:** Learn and share knowledge with others.

**Principled:** Follow the rules. Be an honest, fair and responsible person.



**Caring:** Care for others and the world around us.

**Open-Minded:** Respect other's values and traditions and seek a range of points of view.

**Balanced:** Make healthy choices to keep mind, body and emotions balanced.

**Reflective:** Reflect on strengths and weaknesses to increase learning.

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Call to schedule your  
registration appointment today!



Dear Parents,

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your child to Owosso Public Schools, the District of Opportunities! Let us assure you of our commitment to provide a safe, positive, and nurturing learning environment for your child.

You are invited to Kindergarten Registration held at each of our elementary schools. To set up your appointment time, please call your school office. Our registration events are the perfect time to learn about the diverse opportunities offered at Owosso Public Schools, enroll your child for kindergarten beginning in 2026, and take home a variety of resources that will help you prepare your child for school. District representatives will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Owosso Public Schools is eager to share the wonderful learning opportunities that your child will have and introduce you to our highly skilled and compassionate staff members. Owosso Public Schools is committed to a safe and informative registration process.

**Please be sure to bring the following documents to Kindergarten Registration:**

- Your child's birth certificate
- Proof of residency
- Parent/Guardian driver's license or state I.D.
- Your child's immunization records
- Records of vision and hearing screening results, if applicable
- Completed enrollment form
- Dental form
- **Your child will complete a short assessment with a staff member, so please make sure they attend the registration appointment with you.**

Principals and teachers welcome the opportunity to work with you as partners to help your child develop the skills, concepts, behaviors, and habits that will ensure success throughout their school experience.

Sincerely,

Stephen Brooks, Superintendent  
Washington Campus  
989-723-8131

Bridgit Spielman, Principal  
Bryant Elementary  
989-723-4355

Amanda Rowell, Principal  
Central Elementary  
989-723-2790

Jessica Aue, Principal  
Emerson Elementary  
989-725-7361



# Kindergarten Registration Checklist

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select which Kindergarten program you would like to register your child in.

**Check one of the following:**

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten

**Documents Required for Student Registration:**

- Completed Student Enrollment Packet
- Legal Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record (see enclosed State Immunization Rules)
- Proof of Residency (valid mortgage or lease statement, utility bill, tax bill or deed, etc.), including address
- Record of Hearing, Oral, and Screening, if available
- Parent/Guardian driver's license

# Bus Transportation Information for Kindergarteners

- Owosso Public Schools offers a school bus orientation event specifically for kindergarten students prior to the first day of school. This summer, be on the lookout for event details where you can ride the bus with your kindergartener and meet the Owosso Public Schools team members.
- If your child needs transportation, you will register on our website this summer at [www.owosso.k12.mi.us](http://www.owosso.k12.mi.us). After you register for bus transportation, you will receive an email from our Transportation Director, Mr. Steve DeLong, with information about the transportation app, **My Ride K-12**, and the details you will need to successfully sign up for the app. This app provides access to real-time data, ensuring your child is in the right place at the right time and allows you to see the approximate location of the bus on its route, access your student's bus number, driver's name, bus stops, and pick-up & drop-off times. Our transportation department can send notifications via the app about any changes that may impact your student's route.
- Bus passes and tags will be available at your elementary school's open house in August or on the first day of school during orientation. After that, they will be available for pick up at the bus garage.
- Busing for kindergarteners will begin on the **second** day of school. For their safety, your kindergartener **must** use the bus pass swipe card each day to board the bus. If the access card is lost, please contact the transportation department for a replacement.
- Some students may be transported from their home school to another elementary school using a transfer bus. This shuttle system is a safe, efficient way to help students get to the correct school each day.
- **Parents/guardians must be visible** to the bus driver when their child is dropped off from school. If a parent or guardian is not visible, the child will be bused back to the bus garage and staff will contact the child's parent/guardian to pick them up.
- The Transportation Department is open 6-10 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. and ready to help! Call 989-725-7665.



# Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten Facts

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**Location:** Emerson Elementary School, 515 E. Oliver Street, Owosso, MI  
Bryant Elementary School, 925 Hampton Street, Owosso, MI (note: depending on need, this location may be added)

**Hours:** Full day kindergarten: 8:45 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.

**Specials:** Music, Global Studies, Gym, Technology, Media Center

- Developmentally appropriate curriculum prepares children for kindergarten.
- Whole group, small groups, and choice activity times are scheduled.

## CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS WHEN DETERMINING WHICH PROGRAM IS BEST FOR YOUR CHILD:

### 1. Has your child had one or more years in preschool?

If yes, your child will probably adapt well to kindergarten. Most children who are five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> go to kindergarten.

### 2. Do you think your child needs one more year to develop language or social skills?

If so, you may want to consider developmentally appropriate kindergarten.

### 3. Is your child afraid or overly worried about starting school?

Most children gain confidence and independence at five years of age, whether in kindergarten or developmentally appropriate kindergarten. Our teachers help children adjust to school in nurturing ways.

## HOW WILL YOUR CHILD GET TO SCHOOL?

Children may take the bus to developmentally appropriate kindergarten from their home school or be dropped off by a responsible adult. Bus transportation is available to rural areas in the a.m. and p.m.

## HOW TO REQUEST DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE KINDERGARTEN

Register your child. Mark the developmentally appropriate kindergarten request box on the Kindergarten Registration Checklist Form and return it, with other required forms, to your home school. Age, assessment results, and space availability are all factors that our educational team considers when placing students in developmentally appropriate kindergarten. You will be notified of your child's placement by mid-June.



## Comparison Between Kindergarten and Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten

Kindergarten	Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten
<b>Who May Attend:</b> Children who are five years old on or before September 1, 2025.	<b>Who May Attend:</b> Children who are five years old on or before September 1, 2025.
<b>Purpose:</b> Promote learning for children ages five-six that establishes the foundation for success in first grade.	<b>Purpose:</b> Promote learning for children ages five-six. Accommodate parents who believe their child is <b>not ready</b> for kindergarten.
<b>Hours:</b> Full day kindergarten Monday – Friday.	<b>Hours:</b> Full day kindergarten Monday – Friday.
<b>Transportation:</b> Students who reside within the city limits will be transported from their home school only if needed. Bus transportation is available to rural areas.	<b>Transportation:</b> Students who reside within the city limits will be transported from their home school only if needed. Bus transportation is available to rural areas.
<b>Students:</b> Have various levels of experience, interests, and abilities.	<b>Students:</b> Have various levels of experience, interests, and abilities.
<b>Classroom:</b> Provides a safe and developmentally appropriate environment where all children are valued as individuals.	<b>Classroom:</b> Provides a safe and developmentally appropriate environment where all children are valued as individuals.
<b>Curriculum:</b> A balanced program that focuses on social skills, self-confidence, speaking, listening, beginning reading and writing, thinking skills, concepts, math and science, social studies, foreign language, art and music, creativity, physical development, and health.	<b>Curriculum:</b> Focuses on the same learning areas as kindergarten but recognizes the “gift of time” provided by Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten.
<b>Instruction:</b> Instruction occurs in whole group, small groups, and individual activities using indoor and outdoor play, learning centers, hands-on exploring, field trips, and computers.	<b>Instruction:</b> Instruction occurs in whole group, small groups and individual activities using indoor and outdoor play, learning centers, hands-on exploring, field trips, and computers.



# Vaccines Required for School Entry in Michigan

Whenever children are in group settings, there is a chance for disease to spread. Parents must follow state vaccine laws in order for their children to attend school. These laws are the minimum standard for preventing disease outbreaks in group settings. The best way to protect children from serious diseases is to follow the [Immunization Recommendations for Michigan](#). When following the recommended schedule children are fully protected and any school vaccination requirements are met.

	<b>All kindergartners and 4–6-year-old transfer students</b>	<b>All 7th graders and 7–18-year-old transfer students</b>
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)<sup>1</sup></b>	4 doses DTP or DTaP 1 dose must be at or after 4 years of age	4 doses diphtheria and tetanus or 3 doses if 1 <sup>st</sup> dose given on or after 1 year of age 1 dose Tdap at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 <sup>th</sup> grade or higher
<b>Polio<sup>1</sup></b>		4 doses or 3 doses if dose 3 was given on or after 4 years of age
<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)<sup>1, 2</sup></b>		2 doses at or after 12 months of age
<b>Hepatitis B<sup>1, 2</sup></b>		3 doses
<b>Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY)<sup>1</sup></b>	None	1 dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 <sup>th</sup> grade or higher
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)<sup>1, 2</sup></b>		2 doses at or after 12 months of age or current lab immunity or history of varicella disease

<sup>1</sup>Vaccines should be given at certain ages and at certain times (follow the [Immunization Recommendations for Michigan](#) for the recommended number of doses, correct spacing, and ages); this chart is based on Michigan school immunization requirements. We strongly encourage parents and providers to follow the AAP recommended schedule because school requirements are the minimum for protection. Follow this chart when assessing immunization status for school immunization requirements.<sup>2</sup> If the child has not received these vaccines, documented immunity/waiver is required. During disease outbreaks, incompletely vaccinated children may be excluded from school. Parents and guardians choosing to decline vaccines must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department. Read more about waivers at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, national origin, color, sex, disability, religion, age, height, weight, familial status, partisan considerations, or genetic information. Sex-based discrimination includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, and pregnancy.



645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867  
Phone: 989-723-8131

### **Kindergarten Waiver Request for 2026-2027 School Year**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

According to Michigan Law, if a child residing in the Owosso Public School district and is not 5 years of age on September 1, 2026 of the school year but will be 5 years of age not later than December 1, 2026 of the school year, the parent or legal guardian of that child may enroll the child in kindergarten for the current school year if the parent or legal guardian notifies the school district in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten. A school district that receives this written notification may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian of a child described in this subsection that the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. The parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten if the student is 5 years of age not later than December 1, 2026.

Verification of Age (circle one)

Birth Certificate  
Court Record

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Government Record  
Citizenship Paper

Hospital Record  
Other

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of School Readiness Provided by Parent

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Owosso Public School's Recommendation**

Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ agrees with the recommendation of the parents to enroll in Kindergarten.

Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ recommends that \_\_\_\_\_ begins kindergarten in September of next year for the following reasons:

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# OPS Student Enrollment & Emergency Form

Parents/Guardians: Please complete both sides of the form, sign, date, and return the form to the school's main office. Note that all fields titled, "Primary Phone" and "E-mail" are used when the district automated alert system is activated for school messages.

## Student Information:

Student Legal Name: (Last First Middle):		Date of Birth:	
Student Mobile Phone:		Gender:	
Primary Phone:		Grade:	
District of Residence:		Country of Birth:	
Student's Address:			
Mailing Address: (if different)			
Student Resides with:			

## Legal Parent/Guardian Information:

	Legal Parent/Guardian	Legal Parent/Guardian
Name: (Last First)		
Relationship to Student:		
Street Address: (if different)		
City, State, Zip:		
Primary Phone: (if different)		
Mobile Phone: (if different)		
Day Phone: (if different)		
Employer: (if applicable)		
E-mail Address:		

## Legal Step-Parent/Other Guardian Information:

	Legal Step-Parent/Other Guardian	Legal Step-Parent/Other Guardian
Name: (Last First)		
Relationship to Student:		
Street Address: (if different)		
City, State, Zip:		
Primary Phone: (if different)		
Mobile Phone: (if different)		
Day Phone: (if different)		

►Check all that apply:  Regular Education  Special Education  Speech & Language  504 Plan

Yes  No My child attended Owosso Public Schools previously. If yes, year? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No My child attended a pre-school program prior to entering kindergarten. If yes, name of last school attended (including preschool): \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No Has your child been suspended or expelled by the Board of Education of any district?

Yes  No In case of an emergency, I authorize the School to seek medical attention for my child.

## Emergency Information: (Other than the Parents/Guardians)

	Emergency Contact #1	Emergency Contact #2	Emergency Contact #3
Name:			
Relationship:			
Day Phone:			

**Medical/Special Needs:** (Please check and describe any medical condition, medication or disability that would be important for the school to know.)

Asthma  Diabetes  Seizures

Seasonal Allergies - \_\_\_\_\_

Allergic Reactions (i.e., insect bites, bees, etc) - \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide any other information you feel will assist the school, including health or other conditions:** (If more space is needed, please attach information.)

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**Siblings:** (Other children from oldest to youngest)

Name (Last, First)	Birthdate	School / District	Name (Last, First)	Birthdate	School / District
1 )			5 )		
2 )			6 )		
3 )			7 )		
4 )			8 )		

**Race and Ethnicity:** (Part A and Part B **MUST** be completed. Please select an answer for both parts. If either part [A or B] is not answered, the U.S. Department of Education requires the school district to supply an answer on your behalf.)

**Part A: Is this student Hispanic/Latino? (choose only one)**  **No, not Hispanic/Latino**  **Yes, Hispanic/Latino**

The above part of the question is about ethnicity, not race. No matter which box you selected above, please continue to answer Part B by marking one or more boxes to indicate what you consider your student's race to be.

**Part B: What is the student's race? (choose one or more)**

American Indian or Native Alaskan  Asian  Black or African American  
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

**Language:** Answer the two questions below. If your response to either question is a language other than English, the school district will give an assessment to see if your student may benefit from English language support.

What language is used most at home? \_\_\_\_\_

What language is used most by the student? \_\_\_\_\_

**Living Circumstances:** Do you currently find yourself in any of the situations below?

In a shelter  
 Living with friends or other family members due to loss of housing or economic hardship  
 In a hotel/motel Living in other locations (e.g. in a car, park, bus, train, or campsite)  
 Foster care placement  
 Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency:** In case of an emergency school closing and students are released early, my child has been instructed to:

Drive self Walk -to Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ride the bus Walk-to Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wait to be picked up \_\_\_\_\_  
 Walk home Walk-to Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guardianship:**

- In the case of separated or divorced parents, are there any legal restrictions on the release of the child or information to either parent or step-parent?
- If yes, please explain below/ and provide court documentation to the school office.

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→ **Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

It is the policy of the Owosso Public School District that no person shall on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination as a student in Owosso schools or any of its programs or activities.