

The District's Kindergarten Acceleration Program (KAP) is an extended-day kindergarten program which provides students with the opportunity to preview information and build on their prior knowledge, increase background information, and acquire the vocabulary necessary to understand new concepts and skills.

KAP will:

- Integrate new learning with past experiences.
- Offer a balance of small group, large group, and individual activities.
- Emphasize language development and appropriate pre-literacy experiences.
- Develop children's social skills.
- Work with parents to share information about their children, build understanding of parent and teacher roles, emphasize reading to children in school and at home, and set the stage for later parent-teacher partnerships.
- Assess student progress through close teacher observation and systematic collection and examination of student work and ongoing curriculum-based assessment.



WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Revised 9-2016

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten **A**cceleration **P**rogram



**Watch student
achievement soar!**

For additional information, please contact:

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 West Shore School District
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 New Cumberland, PA 17070
 (717) 938-9577

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between KAP and full-day kindergarten?

Full-day kindergarten is designed to provide more kindergarten for all students. KAP is designed to meet the individual needs of selected students in a small group setting.

Is this a special education class?

No. KAP follows the kindergarten curriculum and provides additional instruction in language and literacy.

How will students be selected for KAP?

KAP students will attend the regular half-day kindergarten class in their home school for the start of the school year.

During the first two weeks of school, a team comprised of the classroom teacher, reading specialist, and KAP teacher will use DIBELS Next and observation data to select children most likely to benefit from an extended-day program providing additional instruction in language and literacy.

Twelve students will be selected for the morning KAP session and 12 students for the afternoon KAP session being held at each school site. Students attending the morning KAP session will participate in the regular kindergarten program for the afternoon session and visa versa.

If my child is recommended, does it mean I somehow failed to prepare them for kindergarten?

No. Language and literacy skills develop at different rates, just as children lose teeth at various times. KAP allows children who are developing those skills at a slower rate to receive additional support.

Can I opt out of the program, even if my child is recommended for it?

Yes. The final decision lies with the parents and parental permission will be required before students can join the extended-day class.

However, if your child is recommended and you do not take advantage of the program, your child will miss an opportunity to build a stronger foundation for success in first grade.

Can I request my child be enrolled?

No. A detailed process including specific assessments has been developed for the selection of students.

Where is KAP located?

KAP is offered in each of the District's elementary schools with the exception of Fairview Elementary School. Students from Fairview will be transported to and from Highland Elementary School to participate in the KAP program.

Will the longer school day be tiring for young children?

At first it may be, but children easily adjust to the schedule in a very short period of time and teachers take the possibility of fatigue into account in their daily planning of activities.

Will eating in the cafeteria be an overwhelming experience?

Most young children enjoy the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria. KAP students will be monitored and helped through the process by the staff. They will have lunch during the same time period as other classes and may choose to pack or purchase their lunch.

Free and reduced lunches are available based on need.

What transportation arrangements will be made for students?

Students will come to school and go home from school on the same bus that picks up other children in their neighborhood

How can I support KAP?

Teachers will keep in contact with parents through regular newsletters.

Parents need to support their child by providing time to complete activities that are sent home and attending parent workshops throughout the school year.