

# **Summit Hill School District 161 Full Day Kindergarten FAQ**

## **April 11, 2023**

**With Kindergarten moving to a full day, what are the times Kindergarten students will be in school?**

- 9:00am-3:30pm, the same duration as current 1-4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Half Day Kindergarten will continue to be offered as well, by request.

**What will the times of the Half Day Kindergarten Program be?**

- Half Day will be offered, by request, from approximately 9:00am-11:10am. The current length of the Half Day Kindergarten school day is also 2hours and 10 minutes.

**Where will Kindergarten be held?**

- Dr. Julian Rogus Elementary School, the same as currently offered.

**How will the Kindergarten students be transported?**

- Lincoln-Way 210 has offered their help in routing buses so that we can move forward with the full day change for Kindergarteners. Routes will be established this summer and then communicated to families when available.

**Do any of the other LW area feeder schools have full day Kindergarten?**

- Yes, Frankfort, Mokena, and Manhattan each offer a full day program.

**Families who have a student at an elementary school other than DJR, and a Kindergarten student at DJR, have concerns about pick-ups. What advice can you offer?**

- If there is an elementary student at Indian Trail, Frankfort Square, or Arbury Hills who is being picked up by a family member as a car rider...and the family also has a Kindergarten student at DJR, who are all being dismissed at the same time; the District will provide bus transportation for the Kindergarten student home to help avoid conflicts.
- We will also make adjustments to help families with special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

**Did this decision arise out of a transportation contract with LW210?**

- No, LW210 and SHSD161 have a wonderful working relationship and we also have an intergovernmental agreement, signed in 2021, in place through June 30, 2026. This was not a factor in the move to Full Day Kindergarten.

**Why is this so important for next year...why not wait?**

- We have the ability to move to a Full Day Program for our Kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year, including the classroom space, teaching staff, curriculum, and resources. Our overarching goal is to provide a deep, rich learning experience with as many opportunities as possible for all students, especially to our youngest learners.

**What schedule enhancements will Kindergarten students realize by being in school longer?**

- Increased opportunities for Art, Music, PE, academic time, group work, and overall school readiness.
- 10,000+ additional minutes of school time per student during their Kindergarten school year.

**Will the District make adjustments if Kindergarten students ride buses with 1-4<sup>th</sup> graders?**

- Much will come down to the number of routes needed to pick-up and drop-off students. There is a possibility that Kindergarten students in the DJR area will ride the 1-4 buses, while Kindergarten students residing in the Frankfort Square School, Arbury Hills School, and Indian Trail School areas will ride their own Kindergarten bus to school.
- This is yet to be finalized.
- We are also exploring assigned seating on buses with younger students sitting in front, the concept of student ambassadors on buses, and more. Once routing is determined, additional information will be communicated.

**Is there any research that is available on the topic that could be shared?**

- [https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/18001\\_Full-Day\\_Kindergarten\\_Policy\\_Brief-final.pdf](https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/18001_Full-Day_Kindergarten_Policy_Brief-final.pdf)
- <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/full-day-kindergarten-the-pros-the-cons-and-the-growing-public-school-debate#:~:text=Additionally%2C%20when%20examining%20the%20various,to%20reports%2C%20when%20children%20are>
- <https://naspcenter.org/assessment/kindergarten-full-versus-half-day/#:~:text=Developmentally%20appropriate%20full%2Dday%20kindergarten,%2C%20projects%2C%20and%20free%20play.>
- <https://hechingerreport.org/full-day-kindergarten-is-great-for-kids-so-why-isnt-it-required/>

- <https://www.compcenternetwork.org/sites/default/files/archive/white-paper-fullday-kindergarten.pdf> (Older article)