



Dear Afton Elementary Families,

We are so excited to begin a new learning journey with you and your child and have been working to ensure a positive and thorough transition process. With this we are excited to announce that our district will be implementing a **soft start** for kindergarten beginning this Fall, August 2023. Because these children have not been in public school yet, this practice will help support kinders in transitioning into the school setting successfully by:

- ★ Better absorption of learning routines (classroom, playground, lunches, pick up, dismissal, etc.) when taught in smaller groups
- ★ One-on-one parent/teacher meetings the first two days making it easier for teachers to address questions/challenges families might have during the first few days
- ★ Smaller class sizes allow teachers to give more individualized attention to students and build a stronger classroom culture for the remainder of the year.

Your kindergartener will be assigned to attend school **either Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> or Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**. On your child's assigned day, you will have the choice to sign up to meet with your child's teacher. This will be a 1:1 time to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. After your meeting, you may take your kindergartener home with you or he/she may stay and finish out the rest of the day. We will also be offering meeting times after school. You will be able to sign up for a slot using our PTC Fast link that will be sent to you as the new school year approaches.

The day your kindergartener is not assigned, he/she will not be required to attend school on that day. On Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> we will begin a full day of school where all kindergarteners will attend.

Kindergarten continues to evolve throughout the years as we strive to create a more appropriate approach to your child's educational journey. This is a wonderful opportunity for your incoming kindergartener to explore their new learning environment. More information will be coming regarding soft start. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to meeting you and your kindergartener.

Thank You!

The Kindergarten Team

Mrs. Aullman

Mrs. Bagley

Mrs. Burton

Mrs. Call

Mrs. Garner

Mrs. Nichols