

Kindergarten Orientation 2023-2024

Cassingham Elementary



We're A Special School, that's what Cassingham is...

Jeannine Hetzler, principal

You've seen our lost and found..

District Communications include messages from our superintendent, Jason Fine and Cassingham's principal, Jeannine Hetzler.

[Sign Up Here for District Communications](#)



School Secretaries are your best friend!

Welcome to Cassingham! I am Mary Poczik, Cassingham School Secretary and I am here for you!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. 614-237-4266 or mary.poczik@bexley.us.

Your child's attendance information can be reported by email (csattendance@bexley.us) OR voicemail (614-237-4266, choose option 6 twice). Please notify the office of absences, early release, or if there will be any change in after school plans.

I can't wait to meet the Class of 2036!



School Counselors Help Students Dream Big!

Hello! I am your child's school counselor. Did you know that elementary counselors ...

- Teach SEL lessons on growth mindset & goal setting, emotion management, empathy and kindness, and problem solving
- Provide short-term individual counseling and small group counseling
- Collaborate with teachers and assist them in meeting student needs
- Provide support for all students to be successful learners?

I am looking forward to partnering with you and your child as you start your kindergarten journey.



Erica Hecker,
Licensed School
Counselor

Click on the [links](#)

Classroom Assignments in August

We will email your child's classroom assignment to you the week before school starts.

Your email information can be updated in PowerSchool when needed.

Cassingham Complex Clinic



[Visit our website](#)

for links to helpful information :)

Please do not hesitate to ask questions!

Counting down 3...2...1!

3. Sara Prater, BSN, RN, CPN
2. Chandler Hurst, BSN, RN, LSN
1. Amy Poling, MSN Ed., RN, LSN

The three of us serve Cassingham Complex.

Sara primarily supports Cassingham students, while Chandler attends to Middle School students, and Amy works with our High Schoolers.

Here is an [informative letter](#) for you, please take time to review it at your own pace.

For Kindergarten:

- Make sure your cub is up-to- date on all required vaccines prior to the start of school!
- Discuss any medical concerns and/or if your cub will require medication at school. Emergency Meds or Prescription Meds.

Cassingham We're a Special School= PTO partners

1. Purpose of the PTO

- ~ Enhance & Support the Cassingham experience for students, staff, and adults!
- ~ Help develop a closer connection between school and home

2. Cassingham Connect

- ~Student & Adult connections for new families!
- ~Playground & Popsicles!

3. Involvement

- ~ Automatically a PTO member:)
- ~ Strive to have a range of volunteer options with varying time commitments and responsibilities

4. School Supply Info

- ~ Purchase a Kindergarten Kit
- ~ Shop the list yourself

5. Spring & Summer Communication!

- ~Join "Cassingham Cubs Class of 2036" FaceBook Page! [Cassingham Cubs Class of 2036](#)
- ~[share your contact info](#) directly with PTO



Our Kindergarten Team



Ms. Lovinggood



Ms. Lovinggood- I have been with Cassingham for eleven years in various positions, 5 of which are teaching kindergarten. I studied psychology at Ohio Dominican University and then went back to obtain my teaching license at Ashland University and I am now currently beginning my Masters in Curriculum Development. Since the day I was a guest teacher in kindergarten 9 years ago, I loved the curiosity little ones have for learning and I pride myself on continuing to foster that desire to learn!


We believe Kindergarten IS...

An opportunity for your child to discover who they are as a

Student, Friend and Individual

within their classroom, our school and the community.

We know that your child's emotional well-being is key to their academic success; our faculty and staff will personalize your child's experience. Your child's growth and success is at the center of our work.



We're A Special School

- At Cassingham, each **cub** is welcomed.
- We are a K-5 building of student-learners, and explorers!
- We currently have 4 sections of Kindergarten
- We work hard to follow our Cub Code and have Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in place for student success (PBIS):
 - Safe
 - Respectful
 - Responsible



Nurturing Environment

In Kindergarten, we foster independence and curiosity. At the same time, we realize that our school and classrooms will be new environments for students. We strive to help students feel safe, loved and supported each and every day.

We take the first couple months of school to establish and reinforce our routines. This ensures that students understand the flow of their day and feel secure in the school environment.

- Morning meetings (greeting, activity, share)
- Social-emotional learning and understanding others' feelings
- Spending time together to get to know each other
- Providing ample play time
- Establishing routines

Thank you so
much for your
time!



Any Questions?

Mrs. Alvarez



Mrs. Alvarez- Hi! I studied Speech Pathology and Psychology at Ohio University and then received my teaching credentials through Western Governors University. I am going into my 9th year of teaching and 8th year in Bexley. Before making the switch to kindergarten, I worked in special education as a Behavior Interventionist and then an Intervention Specialist. I coach 8th grade volleyball at Bexley Middle School and have 2 year old identical twin girls. I can't wait to meet all of your kids next year!

What will a typical day look like?

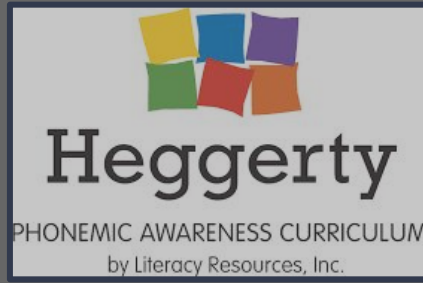
- Allied art each day
 - Gym, Music, Library, Art
- Lunch/Recess
- Recess/Snack
- Inquiry (Science/Social Studies)
- Centers
 - Academic Centers and Play Based Centers
- Core Curriculum
 - Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies
- Intervention Block
 - An intervention time for ELA and Math that includes no new instruction and small group learning for differentiation.

What will a typical day look like?

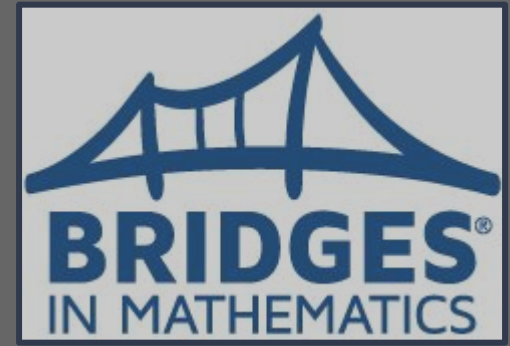
Every day will not be the same. Every child's learning will not be the same.

- We strive to reach different types of learners using a variety of teaching styles and methods.
 - Differentiating content for students is a key focus.
- Our curriculum centers around play. We believe play is equally as important as the core subjects, as children experience problem solving, leadership, and collaboration
- Our days include time for Social Emotional Learning Time
 - Morning Meeting
 - Sharing and Discussions
 - Social/Emotional Learning with School Counselor

Word Study



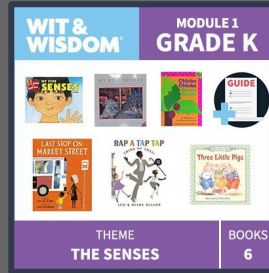
Math



Reading

Writing

Social Studies



Science

You will learn more about these in the Fall during Curriculum Night.

Thank you so
much for your
time!

Any Questions?



Mrs. Kelly



"The art of teaching is the
art of assisting discovery."
-Mark Van Doren

Mrs. Kelly- I have been teaching Kindergarten at Cassingham for nine years. I earned my bachelors in Early Childhood Education and Masters in Reading Education from Miami University. I graduated from The Ohio State University with my Masters in Elementary Administration. My husband and I have two daughters, Kennedy (3) and Kayla (1). I love to travel, listen to audiobooks, and create art. My recent obsession has been shows about space. Star Wars, Star Trek, Expanse, For All Mankind...and more!

Gentle Way to Start

Our goal is to ease into the first day of school with you and your child.

- We gently introduce students to their classrooms through a staggering of their start day.
- Gentle Start days:
 - ½ class on August 17th
 - ½ class on August 18th
- Parents are able to walk students to their arrival and dismissal door and are able to come into their classrooms on the first day.
- We will mail your child's starting date to your home address over the summer.
- Students in grades 1-5 all attend beginning August 17th.

Summer Meet & Greet

Thursday August 3rd and Tuesday August 8th

- These sessions typically allow us an opportunity to get to know students and their readiness for instruction.
 - ODE: Students readiness and soft skills
- Please sign up for a slot that can work for your family.
 - [Sign up Here!](#)
- We will meet them where they are and design our instruction to meet their needs.
- We are not assessing academic skills.
- These sessions help shape expectations for the first day of school and minimize first day jitters!

Drop-off Expectations

- Our school day begins at 8:15AM
- Students may enter the building at 8:10 to unpack their items and make their way to classrooms
 - This is an excellent time to give your child the opportunity to be independent! It helps them start their day off feeling confident in themselves
 - Other than the first day of school students will independently walk to their lockers and unpack.
 - It is important that students come in their designated doors. This allows the Kindergarten teachers to monitor who is in school for the day and greet students as they enter the building. This also allows us to be with students as they transition into school.
 - Students who attend before school care or breakfast will be walked to the classroom by an adult from the cafeteria.

Dismissal Expectations

- Dismissal is at 3:00 PM
 - It is very important that you let your child's teacher know how your child is getting home at the end of the day *prior* to the first day of school (pick-up, aftercare, bus, etc)
 - Dismissal will be out of the same doors as drop off. We will practice this as a class at the start of the year.
 - If you are picking up somewhere different please make sure your child knows exactly where you will be. Please share this change in routine with your child's teacher so that we can support it.
 - As students get more comfortable with the school routines, older siblings are able to pick up Kindergarten students from their dismissal door, students are able to be released to meeting locations, etc.
 - For students' safety all K students who are being picked up are to exit the building and be picked up at their designated dismissal door.

Mrs. Alvarez and Ms. Lovinggood's Class comes in &
goes out through Door #10.
(It is accessible from the playground)



Mrs. Montague and Mrs. Kelly's Classes Use Door #11
for arrival & dismissal.
(It is visible from Door #10)



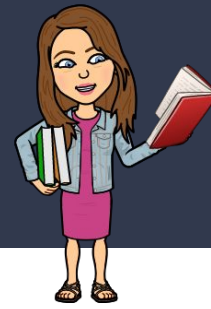
Thank you so
much for your
time!



Any Questions?

Mrs. Montague

“Anyone who has never made a mistake
has never tried anything new.”
-Albert Einstein



Mrs. Montague- Hi! I have been at Cassingham for eight years and this will be my fifth year teaching kindergarten here. I graduated from Ohio University with my bachelors in Early Childhood Education and am currently working towards my Master's Degree. I have a two year old daughter, Sophie, and another girl on the way! I am looking forward to a new school year and am especially looking forward to meeting, supporting and encouraging your children in their school journey.

Food FAQs

- Breakfast is served in our cafe each morning, students are welcome to join at 7:45. Our cafe supervisor (Mrs. Rudolph) will escort them to our classrooms at 8:10AM.
- Lunch
 - Students have an option to pack lunch or buy school lunch.
 - Your child will be assigned a lunch number to buy lunch from the cafeteria.
 - Students are also able to buy approved elementary snacks with their lunch. You are able to see all purchases and limit purchases with your online lunch account.
 - **Pack lunches for the first week of school** until children are comfortable in the lunchroom and understand lunchroom routines and expectations.
- Snack
 - Plan to pack a disposable snack each day.
 - We have snack time with our recess time. Please be mindful that the snack will be eaten outside most days.

Cassingham Complex Cafeteria



Tidbits

- Change of clothes
 - Pack a change of clothes on your child's first day of school to keep in their locker.
 - We will rotate these out as the weather changes throughout the year.
 - We like to be prepared just in case! :)
- Supply list
 - School supply lists will be provided by PT0.
 - School supplies can also be purchased through PT0. Look for more information to come.
- Label ALL belongings
 - Five and six-year-olds are bound to lose items. Please make sure clothing items, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc. are labeled with their name.

What can you work on before kindergarten?

Encourage curiosity and a love for learning!

- Read with them
- Explore letters and numbers
- Practice name writing
- Build fine motor skills: coloring, drawing, cutting, etc.

Build self help skills

- Shoe tying
- Bathroom skills
- Snaps/zippers
- Opening/closing food containers

Build your child's confidence by fostering their independence!

- Provide opportunities for your children to try and fail. It's OKAY to fail!

Thank you so
much for your
time!

Any questions that
we didn't answer?