



Marion Carson School Kindergarten Orientation (May 29, 2025)



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Welcome to Marion Carson School



- Dustin Turner, Principal
- Huong Ly, Assistant Principal
- Shu Wang, Learning Leader
- Payge Saretsky, Learning Leader
- Amanda Collins, Learning Leader
- Patricia Freestone, Community English Program Kindergarten Teacher (AM)
- Summer Tsai, Chinese Mandarin Bilingual Program Kindergarten Teacher
- Karina Pimentel Coelho, Administrative Assistant
- Elaine Gascoine, School Secretary

Agenda



- Organization for next year
- Getting Ready for Kindergarten
- Transportation
- Student Fees, Supplies, and Attendance
- Volunteering
- School Council / Parent Society
- Next Steps for Today



1. Organization



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Marion Carson School Organization for 2025/2026



Kindergarten 2025-26



Mandarin Bilingual Program ~25 students/class

- 2 full days attending Monday / Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday
- 1 compacted day alternating Fridays

Community English Program (#'s based on total registrations)

- AM class with current student numbers
- PM class if numbers warrant a second class
- Attend select Fridays

- School hours found on website under Registration>Back to School Information

Enhanced Supports



The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

Education Assistants or Early Childhood Practitioners

Early Learning Strategists

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

Opportunities for Kindergarten Students



- Regular physical activity
- Learning through Music
- Special in-school presentations such as concerts, theatre performances, etc. by Marion Carson students and outside groups
- Performance in an evening concert, musical or residency programs as appropriate

Snack\Lunch Time in Kindergarten



- Please pack a healthy lunch and snack (for breaks) and a labelled spill-proof, not glass, water bottle!
- Ideas on what to pack to give your little one some fuel for the day could include:



Other Information



- School announcements and calendar events are posted on the [Marion Carson School webpage](#). We encourage parents to visit this website regularly for updates, principal messages, and events.
- Kindergarten students enter and exit from the Main Entrance (West Doors)
- Please note that information about staggered entry for the first two days of school (Sept. 2 and 3, 2025) is in today's package
- Please [sign up for "School Messenger"](#) to ensure you receive school messages. You can register by going to the CBE homepage and clicking on the 'Subscribe' link near the middle of the home page.

First Days of Kindergarten – Staggered Entry



Staggered Entry on Sept. 2 and 3 based on schedule found in today's package and online on the school website at: Registration>[Back to School Information](#)



Kindergarten Staggered Entry Schedule for 2025-2026 School Year

*Details subject to change

Tuesday, September 2	Community English AM Kindergarten	Last Names (A-F): 9:13 AM - 10:28 AM Last Names (G-Z): 10:47 AM - 12:02 PM
	Tuesday / Thursday Mandarin Bilingual Full Day Kindergarten	Last Names (A-L): 9:13 AM - 12:13 PM Last Names (M-Z): 12:45 PM - 3:45 PM
Wednesday, September 3	Community English AM Kindergarten	Last Names (A-F): 9:13 AM - 10:28 AM Last Names (G-Z): 10:47 AM - 12:02 PM
	Monday / Wednesday Mandarin Bilingual Full Day Kindergarten	Last Names (A-L): 9:13 AM - 12:13 PM Last Names (M-Z): 12:45 PM - 3:45 PM
Thursday, September 4	Community English AM Kindergarten's (Regular Schedule Begins)	Students attend regular school hours from 9:13 AM – 12:02 PM <u>*no</u> midday busing for K
	Tuesday / Thursday Mandarin Bilingual Full Day Kindergarten's (Regular Schedule Begins)	Students attend regular school hours from 9:13 AM – 3:45 PM <u>*start</u> busing if applicable
Friday, September 5	Monday / Wednesday Mandarin Bilingual Full Day Kindergarten's Regular Schedule Begins	Students attend regular Friday hours from 9:13 AM – 1:20 PM (Fridays are early dismissal days)
	Community English AM Kindergarten's Continue Regular Schedule	Students attend regular Friday hours from 9:13 AM – 1:20 PM (Fridays are early dismissal days)

Important Reminders:

- There will be no busing for Kindergarten students during the staggered entry days on September 2 and 3, 2025. Busing starts for Kindergarten students on Thursday, September 4, 2025.
- There is no midday busing available for Community English Kindergarten
- On Sept. 25 and Nov. 27, the Mandarin Bilingual Kindergarten Tuesday / Thursday class follows early dismissal hours to support school conferences, with their class ending at 1:20pm. Students in this class will need to be picked up by their parents as no midday transportation is provided.



2. Getting Ready for Kindergarten



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Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:

- dress themselves (zippers, buttons)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help out in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle
- play games, take turns and compromise
- develop a consistent bedtime routine
- Practice fine motor skills through playdough, Lego, scissors and glue
- focus on a sit-down task for at least 10 minutes
- recognize and start to write own name



Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Read to your child every day:

- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- visit your community library (when possible)

Learning in Kindergarten



English Language Arts and Literature

- Program focussing on the Science of Reading
- Sight words: words that we see often in everyday text (*eg. see, I, you, and*)
- Reading is integrated into their daily routine (*eg. calendar, morning message, story time, book exploration*)
- Students will explore literacy through direct instruction and *play*
- Journaling is an essential part of learning to write
- We scaffold by scribing, using sentence starters, and use inventive spelling to encourage students to start writing on their own.



Learning in Kindergarten (cont'd)

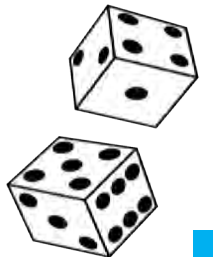


Mathematics

- In Kindergarten, students learn by *seeing* and *doing*
- We provide opportunities for students to play, count, estimate, and explore with patterns by using manipulatives (math materials like cubes, links, blocks)
- We participate in math-themed centers so students get a chance to explore and play with math concepts

Centers

- Centers are primary learning opportunities for students
- With connections to curriculum, activities may include:
 - *building with blocks, painting, drawing, sorting objects, counting with manipulatives, sentence writing*
- They reinforce concepts and ideas in a play-based manner
- Students learn to work independently and in small-groups





3. Transportation



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Transportation | Bussing



- All students who ride the bus pay an annual [transportation fee](#). The fee for 2024/25 was \$260 per full-time student (\$130 for Kindergarten). Fees are expected to increase with a proposed fee of \$360/year (\$180 for Kindergarten one way transportation).
- [My 1st Ride Program](#): May 24 and 25, 2025. Sign-up on the CBE website under Transportation
- The Transportation department uses the addresses submitted on registration forms to set bus routes. If you have not registered for busing please register at cbe.ab.ca under [Bussing and Transportation](#) as soon as possible to ensure your address is included (prior to June 22, 2025)
- If your family is considering using transportation services for the next school year, **you must register by June 22** to ensure that your child can ride the bus on the first day of school.
- On the first day of school, **record the bus letter and stop number on your child's hand**. Students should know which bus they will ride and which stop they are to get off at. Please email your child's teacher and call the school office if there are any changes to their regular bussing routine throughout the school year.
- First day of bussing for Kindergarten is September 4, 2025 (not recommended during staggered entry). Please send your child on the bus on this day to help build their daily routine.
- Please note that there is no midday bussing for kindergarten students.

First Day



- You will receive a welcome message from your child's teacher before the first day of school (email or phone call)
 - Will include first day information such as the teacher's name and how/where to find them on the first day
- Upon arriving at the school please ensure you speak to your child's teacher to clarify which bus your child will be going home on (if riding a bus) or how they will be picked up.
- Let the teacher know if you will be picking your child up at the end of the day. Pick up must be done by a person listed on the emergency contact list, stated as "able to pick-up"
- All staff will be on hand to welcome the students.



4. Student Fees, Supplies, and Attendance



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Student Fees and Supplies



- Activity or Program Fee - a fee that covers the cost of field trips, and special presentations. Teachers will send a detailed list of activities in October, which for this year will be approximately
 - Kindergarten: ~\$75/student
 - Grade 1-5: ~\$150/student
 - Grade 6: ~\$500/student
- The Student Supplies fee (SSF) - This year, the cost/student was \$40 for Grades 1-6 and \$20 for Kindergarten.

Regular attendance is important



- If your child is sick it is best for him/her to rest at home to get well and best for their classmates to not be exposed to the illness (please do not send any student who is ill).
- If your child is going to be away, please contact the school by phone (777-6050, extension “1” – available 24/7) to report all absences **and** email your child’s teacher. Please include the reason for the absence.
- **If your child is late, they must report to the Office through the front door and receive a welcome slip.** Please accompany your child to the Main Entrance West Entry doors and ring the doorbell for them.



5. Volunteering



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Volunteering



- There are many opportunities to volunteer in the school such as in the classroom, School Council & school events
- Before volunteering, all volunteers must complete:
 - An Annual Volunteer Registration Form
 - Obtain Police Security Clearance (ePIC)
- Once attained, your Police clearance is good for 5 years.
- To get your volunteer clearance.
 - Once registered in School Engage, you will need to follow the steps identified under the "Volunteer Registration 2024-25" if completing it this year, or "Volunteer Registration 2025-26" if completing during the 2025-26 school year.
 - Provide all details (your information, two references, and government issued photo identification)
 - Information will go directly to CPS for review.
 - Once reviewed, you will receive an email from CPS with a voucher to use on the CPS website to get a no-charge security clearance.
 - Once you receive your clearance letter from the police stating that you are cleared, you must share it with the school by uploading the letter to the School Engage "Volunteer Registration Form 2024-25" to complete the process for school approval.
- We strongly recommend that if there is any chance that you could volunteer during your child's time at Marion Carson School that you complete this process immediately to avoid time constraints in getting your clearance before volunteering.

Additional Resources



The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*:

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>



The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:

https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380



I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:

https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division



6. School Council / Parent Association



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School Council / Parent Society



- We have a very active School Council and Parent Society and they are always looking for new members!
- The Council plans many activities throughout the year such as the Welcome Back Breakfast, Pumpkinella, School Dances, Fun Lunches, Bottle Drives, etc.
- There are monthly meetings and these are advertised on our website..
- All parents are welcome and invited to attend!
- Consider filling a rewarding role on Council / Society.
- For questions contact the Council at mcschoolcouncil@gmail.com or visit them tonight at their table in the learning commons