

Gradual Entry to Kindergarten – 2026/27

SD62 invites educators and families to reflect on the *BC Early Learning Framework* and *First Peoples Principles of Learning* to understand our Gradual Entry to Kindergarten Process.

<i>Early Learning Framework</i>	<i>First Peoples Principles of Learning</i>
Children are strong, capable in their uniqueness, and full of potential.	Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
Families have the most important role in contributing to children’s well-being and learning.	Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
Educators are researchers and collaborators.	Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one’s actions.
Early years spaces are inclusive.	Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
People build connection and reconnection to land, culture, community and place.	Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.
Environments are integral to well-being and learning.	Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.
Play is integral to well-being and learning.	Learning involves patience and time.
Relationships are the context for well-being and learning.	Learning requires exploration of one’s identity.
Learning is holistic.	Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

(Taken from *The Early Learning Framework*, 2019)

Why do we do a Gradual Entry to the start of kindergarten?

- To get to know one another better in smaller groupings
- To develop routines more slowly
- To build up stamina for a long school day
- To get used to being around lots of different children and adults
- To understand where everything is in the school and on the school grounds
- To practice the skills of being independent at snack and lunch time
- To have specialist staff and teachers to get to know the strengths, interests and what’s important to a child to support them better

And most importantly to realize the vision of the Early Learning Framework of ***respectfully living and learning together*** from the very beginning of a child’s learning journey in SD62.

The SD62 **Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule** for 2026/27 can be found in the table below. Schools can determine the exact times of the 1-2-hour Welcome Event. All other times are as stated or follow the school day schedule for individual schools.

	Monday Sept 7	Tuesday Sept 8	Wednesday Sept 9	Thursday Sept 10	Friday Sept 11
AM – Week 1	No School Labour Day	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Kindergarten Group 1 (9-11am)
PM – Week 1		Non- Instructional Administrative Time	Grades 1-5 ONLY	Welcome to Kindergarten Event (1-2 hours; Time TBD by schools)	Kindergarten Group 2 (12-2 pm)
	Monday Sept 14	Tuesday Sept 15	Wednesday Sept 16	Thursday Sept 17	Friday Sept 18
AM – Week 2	Kindergarten Group 2 (9-11am)	Partial Day for ALL Kindergarteners (9 am – 12 pm)	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners	Full Day for ALL Kindergarteners
PM – Week 2	Kindergarten Group 1 (12-2 pm)				

Rationale/Additional Details (for internal purposes only):

- Tuesday, Sept 8 – Wednesday, Sept 9:**
Supports a gradual transition for Grade 1–5 students and allows schools to confirm enrolment. Grade 5 teachers provide school-based support as determined by PVP. **Schools may opt to do individual interviews on these days.**
- Thursday, Sept 10 (morning):**
Grade 1-5 students are placed into new classes mid-morning, with full staff support for transitions.
- Thursday, Sept 10 (afternoon – time determined by school):**
Kindergarten teachers host a **Welcome to Kindergarten Event** for incoming families to connect, meet staff, and learn about the schedule and groupings.
- Friday, Sept 11 and Monday, Sept 14:**
Each kindergarten group attends one morning and one afternoon session.
- Tuesday, Sept 15:**
All students attend together for a shortened day (9 am – 12 pm). Kindergarten teachers collaborate or meet with parents as needed in the afternoon.
- Wednesday, Sept 16:**
First full day of kindergarten for all.