



## Upper Merion Area School District Full-Day Kindergarten Facts

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*Research shows the importance of full-day kindergarten programs. “Teachers, parents, and child development experts cite academic and social reasons why a longer kindergarten day may benefit children. A primary argument is that a longer kindergarten day better prepares children for first grade and thus future learning (Clark & Kirk, 2000). More classroom time provides a less rushed schedule and increased opportunity for individual instruction for children and proportionately less time on large-group or teacher-directed.” (Cannon, Jackowitz, & Painter, 2006)*

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In 2018, our district opened 19 full-day kindergarten classes across five elementary schools shifting from the half-day model. The district prepared for this move with providing intensive professional learning for staff as well as comprehensive curriculum development. After one year of a program to close the achievement gap and encourage student success, we can safely attest to the positive impact of full-day kindergarten.

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- ✚ Increases student achievement
  - The results from our first grade teacher survey indicated 70% of our students entered first grade on or above grade level.
  - NWEA MAP data showed 11.3% growth in reading from our 2018-19 cohort of half-day kindergarten students to the full-day kindergarten cohort.
  
- ✚ Results in healthier, happier children & better prepares students for first grade
  - The results from our first grade teacher survey indicated:
    - 70% of our students entering first grade from our full-day kindergarten program were better able to navigate the transition.
    - 90% of our students handle the lunch/recess process by following the school expectations for expected behavior.
    - 70% of our students are able to appropriately transition to their specials such as art, music, library, etc.
  
- ✚ Teachers were able to dig deeper into the curriculum, provide individualized and differentiated instruction, and engage in school-wide culture building.
  - Positive Behavior Supports
  - Response to Intervention
  - School-wide Events
  - Curriculum:
    - ELA: FUNDATIONS, McGraw-Hill Wonders, Mathematics: EM4
    - Integrated Science & Social Studies - STEM
    - Art, Music, Library, Physical Education/Health