

## Parents urged to register early for 2007-08 kindergarten

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More than 1,000 kindergarten students expected next year; registration begins April 18

Parents of future kindergarteners are urged to register their children for the 2007-08 school year beginning April 18. Many schools are planning kindergarten kickoff events on April 18; parents can contact their neighborhood school for more information. More than 1,000 new students are expected to enter the Bend-La Pine Schools at the kindergarten level when school begins in September. "In such a quickly growing community, it is essential that we have students pre-registered for kindergarten so that we can properly plan for teachers, classroom space and materials," says Pat Echanis, Director of Elementary Programs for the Bend-La Pine Schools. In addition, Echanis says the registration and school visits provide a time for students and parents to get acquainted with their new school. "For many this will be the first time that one of their children is making the transition from home to school," he says. "We want to provide every opportunity for both parents and students to learn more about our programs and schools and meet teachers and staff," he says. To be eligible to enroll in Bend-La Pine Schools kindergarten, a child must be five years old on, or before, September 1, 2007. Parents must bring the following documents with them in order to register: the child's birth certificate, immunization record, social security number, proof of address and the names and phone numbers of two local emergency contacts. "It is not necessary for a student to have all of their immunizations up-to-date at the time of registration," says Echanis. "But they must have them up-to-date by the first day of school." For more information about immunization requirements, parents are encouraged to contact their family physician or the Deschutes County Health Department. Proof of address may include a driver's license with current address, rental agreement or utility bill "to name a few. These documents allow the district to determine the correct attendance area for the student. Maps outlining school attendance areas are available at the district web site. Attendance area information is also available by calling 541-383-6004.

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