



**FRIDAY
CONNECT**
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A Jump Start To The School Year

Shaving cream covered tables and play dough may look like fun and games, but at Kindergarten Jump Start at [James Lintott Elementary](#), they're also serious learning.



This free summer program is offered for incoming kindergarteners who are identified through testing or preschool teachers as needing a little extra help getting ready for their first day of kindergarten. This year's group spent three weeks this summer working in small groups on skills like writing their names, sitting at a desk, raising their hands to talk and even walking quietly in a line.

"It's giving them the opportunity to get used to coming to school and seeing what it's all about," said Michelle Schultz, a kindergarten teacher at Lintott Elementary who worked with a group of Kindergarten Jump Start students along with ELL paraprofessional Katia Slinger. "And we get the opportunity to work one on one with them and get to know them before the school year starts."

James Lintott Elementary School Principal Brenda Pohlman said in addition to classroom time for incoming students, Kindergarten Jump Start also includes staff help for families. Teachers and staff make sure these first-year Chehalis School District parents know the ropes, from using the Seesaw App, which the Lintott community uses for its communications, to logging into Skyward and Remind, which the district uses for communication and recordkeeping.

Cathy Carney, who teaches preschool at Lintott and taught during the Kindergarten Jump Start, said the program gives kids who may not have had a classroom experience in a Pre-Kindergarten program the chance to see how a classroom works. She said it can also help lessen anxiety that many students feel coming into a brand new experience like kindergarten.

"I had one student who didn't even want to come in the door on the first day, and by the end of the day he said 'I can do this,'" Carney said.



Summer Camps Keep Minds Learning

They may be returning students, but campers at Lintott Elementary's Summer Reading and Science Camp also had a chance to get a jump start on success for the coming school year by ensuring they have mastered everything from their previous year. Most campers were either nominated by their teachers or identified through testing as being able to benefit from a little extra academic work over the summer.

"We want to work with them individually and look at where the kids left off last year and give them opportunities to work on any gaps in learning they may have," Pohlman explained.

Jennifer Chrisman, a first grade teacher at Lintott Elementary, said the Summer Reading and Science Camp gives teachers the chance to look at students' needs and work with them on what areas they need to strengthen. For example, she explained that she was able to spend an entire week of camp on just the subject of the beginning sounds of words.

"We can pinpoint the skills they need to work on," Chrisman said. "It's the most concentrated programming they'll get all year long."



Building Thinking Classrooms at Orin Smith

About 55 students at Orin Smith Elementary spent three weeks this summer at a math camp that covered so much more than math. Principal Rachel Dorsey said this annual event covers math, journaling, engineering, art and many other subjects. Some students are invited because they are likely to benefit from a little extra learning time and many choose to participate.

"We want them to get excited about coming back to school, kind of jump start to the school year," Dorsey said. "We want them to feel confident and clear about these concepts."

The Orin Smith camp is built around a curriculum called [Building Thinking Classrooms](#), explained long-term substitute teacher Tate Sonnenberg. It emphasizes working cooperatively in small groups and with minimal teacher instruction. For instance, one day the campers were asked to design a car but were given few other instructions so they could really explore their ideas without feeling restricted.

"It was absolutely phenomenal what they came up with," Sonnenberg said.

Back to School Checklist for Parents

- View your student and family information on [Skyward](#). Change your contact information if it has changed so that your student's school can reach you
- Sign up for the [Remind](#) App, the Chehalis School District's primary communication tool for timely information such as school closures, bus route changes and emergency information
- View the 2023-2024 school year calendar including half days, holidays and school day schedules [HERE](#)
- Fill out a volunteer clearance form [HERE](#). Forms need to be renewed annually
- View school lunch menus, add your child's school lunch account or fill out paperwork to apply for free or reduced lunch [HERE](#)
- Make any other payments besides school lunch accounts (ASB card, sports fees) [HERE](#)
- Read district news, sign up for newsletters and find out how to follow us on social media [HERE](#)

Get On The Bus

Have you ever thought about driving a school bus? The Chehalis School District is now hiring bus drivers. Paid training, CDL certification testing fees covered, competitive wages and benefits. For more information about becoming a bus driver, go to chehalisschools.org/transportation/.



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Chehalis School District

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