

Wyckoff — The more than 2,000 children heading to the township's public schools in September will be introduced to a new math curriculum and a new extended-day kindergarten program as well as some new faces at the head of their classes.



Iasiello



Lee

Schools Superintendent Richard Kuder was particularly enthusiastic about the program for kindergartners.

"The community has deserved this

for many years," he said.

Kindergartners will attend three full days of instruction and two abbreviated days. Classes on abbreviated days will end at 1:05 p.m.

Nine aides were hired to assist the classroom teacher. All students will be scheduled to eat lunch daily at school.

There are 190 students enrolled in kindergarten, a figure Kuder said "is up significantly."

To accommodate them, "Each elementary school has two sections with Washington School having three kindergarten classes," he said.

The extended kindergarten day will proved more time for math instruction for the youngest students.

Math in Focus, a new math program, is being rolled out in kindergarten and first-grade classes at all four elementary schools. The program will be incorporated in subsequent grade levels ach year.

According to Kuder, the program is based on the principles of Singapore Math and aligns with the state's core standards.

Developed 30 years ago as the math curriculum of Singapore, Singapore Math places a strong emphasis on problem solving and model drawing with a focus on in-depth understanding of essential math skills.

"This program will ensure our students understand math and are not going through it rotely. Our students will achieve mastery," Kuder said.

The district joins the public schools in Franklin Lakes and Oakland in implementing Singapore Math.

But math and kindergarten aren't the only big news in district schools this year. So are some of the staffing changes.

