Starting School
Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Monsters Love School by Mike Austin, 2014
Nervous monsters attending school for the first time learn new things, make friends and sample Chef Octi’s special School Gruel.

Rock What Ya Got by Samantha Berger, 2018
An artist, displeased with her drawing, tries to make it better but the figure, Viva, comes to life and proclaims that she is happy just as she is.

A Tiger Tail! by Mike Boldt, 2016
A hilarious and original tale about overcoming back-to-school jitters, making new friends, and taking things in stride.

Lena’s Shoes are Nervous by Keith Clabrese, 2018
Lena is excited about starting kindergarten but her favorite shoes are not until, with the help of her father and a very special headband, she convinces the shoes and herself to be brave.

Click, Clack, Quack to School! by Doreen Cronin, 2018
When Farmer Brown and the animals are invited to Farm Day at school, he instructs them to be on their best behavior, forgetting that school can be like a barnyard.

The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School by Deborah Diesen, 2014
Mr. Fish recalls how, on his very first day of school, he anxiously went to one classroom after another watching students do things he could not, until Miss Hewitt showed him to the room that was right for beginners.

Crunch, the Shy Dinosaur by Cirocco Dunlap, 2018
Crunch is a lovely and quiet brontosaurus who has hidden himself in some shrubbery and is rather shy. He would like to play, but it will require some gentle coaxing from you! If you are patient and encouraging, you will find yourself with a new friend!

Chu’s First Day of School by Neil Gaiman, 2014
On the first day of school, a young panda learns about the special things his animal classmates can do.

We Don’t Eat Our Classmates by Ryan Higgins, 2018
When the class pet bites the finger of Penelope, a tyrannosaurus rex, she finally understands why she should not eat her classmates, no matter how tasty they are.

Giraffe Problems by Jory John, 2018
Giraffe feels his neck is too long and turtle feels his neck is too short. A good story to teach kids about being positive and learning to like themselves.

The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions by Anna Llenas, 2018
Color Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him sort them out, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through color.
If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don’t! by Elise Parsley, 2015  
A child provides insights, based on personal experience, into everything that can go wrong if one brings an alligator to school for show-and-tell.

You’re Wearing That to School?! by Lynn Plourde, 2013  
A cautious mouse named Tiny gives advice to his best friend, an exuberant hippopotamus named Penelope, on such things as what to wear and what to take for show-and-tell on the first day of school.

On the First Day of Kindergarten by Tish Rabe, 2016  
A five-year-old recounts the cool new things she got to do in the first twelve days of kindergarten.

The Pigeon Has to Go to School! by Mo Willems, 2019  
The pigeon must go to school, but frets about math, learning the alphabet, heavy backpacks, and what the teacher and other birds will think of him.

How Do Dinosaurs Learn to Read? by Jane Yolen, 2018  
Young dinosaurs learn to read, but only after many mishaps, like chewing their books and throwing them at the cat but eventually they learn to respect their books, and treat them properly.

How Do Dinosaurs Stay Friends? by Jane Yolen, 2016  
A young dinosaur shows how to stay friends even after having a terrible fight with his very best friend.

Bear’s Big Day by Salina Yoon, 2016  
Bear, feeling very grown-up, says goodbye to his stuffed rabbit, Floppy, and starts his first day of school but soon he is missing Floppy and worrying that he is not ready to be a big bear, after all.

NONFICTION

My Mixed Emotions by Elinor Greenwood, 2018  
Feelings can be complicated, and learning to express them is a skill that must be developed. Explores the four main emotions, the reasons why we feel them, and the science behind each one.

Teachers and What They Do by Liesbet Slegers, 2014  
A reassuring, informative book for children about teachers and schools.