

## Your Child's Transition to Elementary School

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is time to start planning for your child to move on to kindergarten next fall. There will be changes as your child leaves the Early Childhood Program and enters elementary school.

In the kindergarten setting, your child will meet new friends and teachers and experience many new fun and exciting learning situations.

This booklet was designed to help explain procedures, programs, timelines and services, and how you can help your child prepare for kindergarten.

***Welcome to the next step in your child's school life!***

### Alternate Formats

#### Hmong Translations

LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tau tsev kawm ntawv, cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau Mas Lias Xyooj (651) 407-7626 los yog u rau Xw Xyooj (651) 407-7623.

#### Spanish Translations

ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625.



## As Your Child Moves from the Early Childhood Program into Kindergarten

The District's kindergarten curriculum is based on the belief that all children are valuable, unique and capable of learning and achieving. Our kindergarten programs focus on the academic, social and personal development of all students.

All of our programs provide safe, nurturing and challenging environments in which children can acquire knowledge and skills, think critically and creatively, appreciate diversity and develop positive attitudes toward self and others. Each program incorporates basic concepts of the core academic disciplines including:

Literacy	Science	Technology
Physical Education	Math	Music & the Arts
Social Studies	Health	Personal & Social Skills

Recognizing that not every child learns the same way or has the same needs, the White Bear Lake Area School District offers a variety of kindergarten program options. We invite you to choose the program that best suits your child's needs.

### Our Kindergarten Program

All kindergarten classes utilize curriculum that focuses on literacy and math. Students are immersed in the world of language and reading while applying their skills in cooperative, small group activities. Hands-on science activities provide children with an opportunity to explore the world around them. Social studies, health, music and the arts are integrated throughout the curriculum through movement, imagination, conversation and discovery.

### Kindergarten Registration

Please register your child at any of our elementary schools or at the Centralized Enrollment Office at the District Center. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Information Registrar at 651-407-7674.

Full day kindergarten options are available. *See next page for details.*



**White Bear Lake Area Public Schools**

*Leading minds to learning, hearts to compassion, and lives to community service.*

4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110



## Kindergarten Program

### Kindergarten

**Kindergarten** is a fee based option available for families in the White Bear Lake Area School District in which students are involved in a full-day kindergarten program with a certified, licensed kindergarten teacher.

### Kindergarten Extended Day

**Kindergarten Extended Day** is a fee based option for parents who want their child to attend their school of choice and have high quality child-care for the remainder of the day.

## Our Schools

### Birch Lake Elementary

1616 Birch Lake Avenue, White Bear Lake (651-653-2776)

### Hugo and Oneka Elementaries

14895 Francesca Avenue, Hugo  
(651-653-2798)

4888 Heritage Parkway N, Hugo  
(651-288-1800)

Kindergarten and grade 1 students attend Hugo Elementary.  
Students in grades 2-5 attend Oneka Elementary.

### Lakeaires Elementary

3963 Van Dyke Street, White Bear Lake (651-653-2809)

### Lincoln Elementary

1961 Sixth Street, White Bear Lake (651-653-2820)

### Matoska International IB World School

2530 Spruce Place, White Bear Lake (651-653-2847)

### Otter Lake Elementary

1401 County Road H2, White Bear Lake (651-653-2831)

### Vadnais Heights Elementary

3645 Centerville Road, Vadnais Heights (651-653-2858)

### Willow Lane Elementary

3375 Willow Avenue, White Bear Lake (651-773-6170)

***Your child must be 5-years-old by September 1st, to enter kindergarten.***



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## Welcome to White Bear Lake



## Kindergarten Registration

Starts in January

## School Functions

For a complete listing of school events, see the district and school websites.

<http://www.isd624.org/>

## Kindergarten Gathering

## What You Can Do To Ensure a Smooth Transition For Your Child

You can help prepare both your child and yourself for the changes that will occur as your child enters kindergarten

### Be as actively involved as possible

1. Complete the kindergarten registration packet (*Packets will be sent by mail in early January*).
2. Take a tour of your district schools during Welcome to White Bear Week, January 9-12. (*Watch for information in the kindergarten registration packet.*)
3. Attend Kindergarten Parent Information and Registration Night  
\*\*\*\*\*at your child's school.
4. Consider attending school functions (i.e. carnival, concerts), and playing on the playground.
5. Attend spring Kindergarten Gathering in \*\*\*\*\*

### Talk with parents whose children attended kindergarten

They may be able to provide you with support and information based on their own experiences.

### Work with your child to develop skills for kindergarten

See page 4 for details of how you can help your child prepare for kindergarten.

# You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Kindergarten

Help your child develop skills that support success at school by providing experiences in the following areas:

## Academic Skills

1. Say name, address and phone number
2. Print name (readable) using upper case and lower case letters
3. Identify letters in his/her name
4. Identify and name basic colors – red, orange, blue, green, yellow, purple, black, brown and white
5. Listened to 1,000 books read to him/her
6. Listen and repeat short sentences correctly
7. Complete a sentence when given a prompt i.e.: A fish swims in the \_\_\_\_.
8. Know & understand prepositions in, out, over, under, front, back, etc.
9. Sing “ABC” song
10. Exposure to “ABC’s” – point out letters in environment, in random order
11. Count to 20
12. Point to and name shapes i.e.: circle, square, rectangle, triangle
13. Name common objects
14. Point to and name body parts - ankle, knee, wrist, chin, knee, thumb
15. Sort common objects into categories i.e.: furniture, kitchen tools, toys, clothing
16. Know the difference between letters and numbers
17. Exposure to rhyme i.e.: Dr. Seuss books, Raffi music

## Social/Emotional Skills

18. Share and take turns
19. Follow directions with up to three steps i.e. Get your book, put it on the table and sit down
20. Use good manners by saying “please” and “thank you,” etc.
21. Able to separate from his/her parent(s)
22. Can look at and listen to a speaker
23. Usually expresses thoughts and feelings clearly

## Motor Skills

24. Practice correct pencil/scissors grasp
25. Able to color and cut
26. Able to run, hop and jump

## Self Help Skills

27. Practice good hygiene (blow nose, wash hands, keep fingers out of mouth)
28. Use bathroom independently
29. Dress self (zipper, snap, button, shoes/boots on)

***We realize that children develop at different rates and many of these skills will continue to develop during the kindergarten year. We do not expect these skills to be mastered upon coming to kindergarten.***

*Skills list taken from Early Kindergarten Concepts designed by kindergarten & early childhood teachers.*



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