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 yogh 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

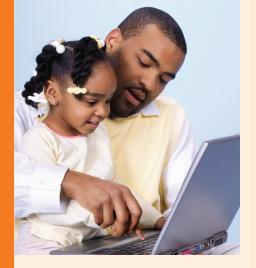
All kindergarten classes utilize curriculum that focuses on literacy and math. Students are immersed in the world of language and reading while applying their skills in cooperative, small group activities. Hands-on science activities provide children with an opportunity to explore the world around them. 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.





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 4888 Heritage Parkway N, Hugo (651-653-2798) (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.





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.

Welcome to White Bear Lake

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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

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.

