



Centennial School District

Kindergarten Handbook

www.isd12.org



Welcome to Centennial School District

Welcome to Centennial School District. We hope this handbook will assist you in preparing your child for kindergarten.

Kindergarten is an exciting time in your child's life, and a good beginning is essential. Kindergarten is your child's first school "work place" where he/she further develops a sense of responsibility while learning to get along with classmates.

We encourage you to take an active role in your child's education. We know that family involvement plays a major role in their progress and achievement.

Best wishes for a great year filled with new and exciting challenges and experiences.

Dr. Paul Stremick, Superintendent



Philosophy

Centennial strives to provide a positive, nurturing and challenging environment where every student grows intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Kindergarten goals

- ❖ Establish good habits in quality work, play and social interaction.
- ❖ Begin forming an understanding of respect towards self, others and property.
- ❖ Enhance listening skills.
- ❖ Develop self-help skills.
- ❖ Cultivate appropriate health and safety practices.
- ❖ Develop receptive and expressive language skills.
- ❖ Learn reading readiness skills.
- ❖ Develop an understanding of basic math concepts.
- ❖ Introduce manuscript printing.



Start school ready to succeed

At Centennial, we want all children to be successful and enjoy school when they start kindergarten. Kindergarten readiness is a term often used when talking about entering kindergarten. The indicators listed below will help parents decide if their child is ready for kindergarten. See if your child exhibits some of the behaviors listed. If you have concerns or questions about your child or kindergarten, please contact the principal at your child's elementary school.

Social Behavior

- Participates in group activities
- Interacts easily with a familiar adult
- Keeps hands and feet to self
- Moves through routines and transitions smoothly
- Plays or works cooperatively with peers
- Takes turns

Reading/Writing/Math

- Begins to recognize letters and sounds
- Counts objects to 5
- Counts to 10 or higher
- Identifies colors and shapes
- Prints name (uses lower case letters)
- Has experience with writing tools (pencils, crayons, etc.)

Listening and Speaking

- Uses words to communicate needs and wants
- Listens to stories for 5–10 minutes without restlessness
- Follows two-step directions
- Recalls stories and events

Fine/Gross Motor

- Cuts on line or patterns
- Can run, jump, hop, and march

Self-Help Skills

- Takes care of bathroom needs independently
- Organizes his/her belongings
- Shows progress toward tying shoes, zipping, buttoning, etc.



Want to develop and encourage many of these behaviors? Here are three suggestions:

1. Read two books a day to your child
2. Provide experience with purposeful writing such as grocery lists, notes to relatives, e-mails, etc.
3. Involve your child in experiences playing and learning with other children their age (playground, preschool, Early Childhood Family Education 763-792-6120)

Children with special needs

If your child has special needs, please contact the district special education director at 763-792-5282.



Illness

Your child's health is a matter of importance to all of us. A child who shows symptoms of illness during kindergarten hours will be sent to the health office. The health paraprofessional will call a parent or authorized person who may be asked to come and pick up your child. The child will be made as comfortable as possible and will be supervised at all times.

Keep your child home if he/she:

- ☹ has a fever, or during the previous 24-hour period, had vomiting, diarrhea or heavy nasal discharge
- ☹ has a constant cough
- ☹ is fussy, cranky, and generally not behaving like they do when they're healthy
- ☹ has head lice that has not been treated within the past 24 hours

If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the school health paraprofessional.

The school will not give medications to your child at school unless they are prescribed by your doctor. If your child is under doctor's care for medication, please contact the school health paraprofessional.

School supplies

It is not necessary to have supplies the first day of school. Individual teachers will give supply lists at orientation.

In addition to these supplies, your child will need:

- Backpack (labeled with name and address and large enough to hold a folder and/or large library books)
- Tennis shoes (labeled) to be kept at school or worn on gym day.

Parent involvement

A child will profit most from their school experience when home and school share common goals. Therefore, we welcome and encourage the sharing of views and ideas. Ways in which parents can participate:

- ❖ Visit your child's classroom. Please call the elementary school office or teacher in advance to set up a visit. Teachers will be unable to talk with you during class, but will be able to talk before or after class, by phone, appointment, or via e-mail at first initial last name@isd12.org
- ❖ Attend conferences to discuss your child's intellectual, physical, social, and emotional progress
- ❖ Help with projects
- ❖ Become a classroom volunteer
- ❖ Serve as a field trip chaperone



Conferences/report cards

Conferences are scheduled times for you to discuss your child's progress with the teacher. They are held twice during the year. Dates and times will be announced.

The report card reflects the student's skill development in:

- ❖ Personal growth (listening, attitude, respecting others, participates)
- ❖ Reading readiness (likenesses/differences, letter recognition, sounds, rhyming)
- ❖ Math readiness (numeral recognition, counting, patterning, graphing, sorting)
- ❖ Fine motor

Preparing for kindergarten

Help children learn:

- ❖ To say their full name, address, and phone number
- ❖ Write their first name in correct formation (capital/small letters)
- ❖ Parent's name(s)
- ❖ Play and work skills:
 - Take turns
 - Be responsible for materials, cleaning up
 - Share
 - Listen and follow directions
- ❖ Safety skills:
 - To cross the street only at corners, to look both ways, and to walk, not run
 - To not accept rides from anyone, except with parent approval
 - To understand and obey traffic regulations
 - To recognize the safety patrol as figures of authority
 - To come straight home when dismissed unless the teacher is notified in writing of a change in plans
- ❖ Other tips:
 - Remember to dress your child for indoor and outdoor play
 - Label your child's coats, mittens, tennis shoes, and boots with first and last names using permanent ink or a felt tip marker
 - Buy shoes and boots large enough so that your child can put them on without help
- ❖ Self-help skills:
 - Use the bathroom and wash their hands
 - Dress without assistance (i.e. tie shoes, use zippers, snaps, and buttons)



Attendance/absences

Kindergarten children should attend school daily, except when they are ill. If it is necessary for your child to be absent or tardy, please call the school attendance phone number (see back cover). When your child returns to school after an absence, send a note to the teacher stating the reason for the absence. If you plan to move out of the district or attendance area, please notify the school office and your child's teacher. Your child's records will be forwarded to the new school upon their request.



School hours for half-day kindergarten

Your child will spend 2 1/2 hours in either morning or afternoon kindergarten. Individual school start and dismissal times are listed in school newsletters sent to parents before school starts, and are also listed in the back-to-school issue of the district newsletter, The Observer. See back inside cover for full-day options through Community Services.

School closings

Call the school closing line at 763-792-6030 for weather and/or emergency-related closings and days off of school. Closings are also announced on local radio and TV stations and posted on the district website at www.isd12.org. You will not be called. Please do not call the school for this information. The phone lines need to stay open for emergency calls.

Emergencies

In case of accident or illness at school, you will be notified at the phone numbers listed on the emergency card. If the parent can not be reached, the emergency contact person will be called. Please make sure the school has your emergency telephone numbers. Please consider unblocking the phone number for your child's school or make sure one of the emergency numbers will be answered. Be sure to notify the school office and kindergarten teacher of any address or telephone number changes. Transportation home and medical care are the responsibility of the parent.

Transportation

Transportation for kindergartners is provided for students residing outside of the established walk areas.

Morning students use the same bus stops as grades 1–5 students going to school and then have their own bus returning home. Afternoon students have their own bus and bus stops going to school, and ride the same bus as grades 1–5 returning home.

The kindergarten-only bus stops are generally more convenient than the grade 1–5 stops.

Remind your child to walk to the bus stop, remain seated while on the bus, listen to the bus driver and walk while leaving the bus.

Please send a note if there will be any changes in your child's busing or if your child will be picked up by another adult.

Information on walk areas and bus stop locations, along with more detailed kindergarten transportation information is mailed to families two weeks before school starts. Other important information is included in the back-to-school issue of the district newsletter, [The Observer](#). Questions regarding transportation should be directed to the Transportation Department at 763-746-1258.

Drop off/pick up procedures

Students should arrive no more than 10 minutes before school starts and should be picked up promptly.

For safety reasons, parents are required to sign their child in or out of the office when dropping them off late or picking them up early.



Registering your child for school

Register during Kindergarten Registration, held each winter at elementary school offices while school is in session, or at the district office in the summer.

No child will be completely registered or enrolled until the following information is received:

- ❖ Child's birth certificate (proof of age required—your child must be five-years-old by Sept. 1 of the school year)
- ❖ State-required Early Childhood Screening (call 763-792-6000 for information)
- ❖ Current immunization record, including:

5 Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT)

4 Poliomyelitis

3 Hepatitis B

2 Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)

1 Varicella (chickenpox)

Immunizations are available through Anoka County. Call 763-323-6100 for information.

You'll receive further information in the mail and at Kindergarten Information Night.



Full-day options from Centennial Community Services

In addition to the half-day program, Centennial offers two all-day options for a fee:

Kindergarten Plus (all-day or extended kindergarten day)

This program provides a choice for parents who want their child to attend kindergarten for a full day. Imagine the fun and challenge of an expanded day of kindergarten learning with a licensed teacher. One teacher works with 19–23 students using the curriculum that supports learner outcomes designed for all kindergartners in the district. The full day program offers time to explore topics in depth and allows for a closer working relationship between the teacher and parents. Students will have regular access to a specialist subject teacher in physical education, music, etc.

Kindergarten Plus will be held at each elementary if there is sufficient enrollment. If there are more applications than openings at a site and openings are available in another school, parents may opt to attend Kindergarten Plus at that school and provide their own transportation.

K-Time Kids Club (half-day kindergarten; half day Kids Club)

This program provides a choice for parents who want their child to attend their neighborhood school and have a high quality care option that complements the district's half-day program. Designed specifically for kindergartners, there is a planned curriculum focused on developmental readiness along with incidental learning through play in group activities. The program is based on the whole child—social, emotional, physical, and cognitive. The day is structured to allow kindergartners to practice social skills, make choices, discover new interests, practice and reinforce academic skills, and have fun. One Kids Club Site Manager works with up to 12 students.

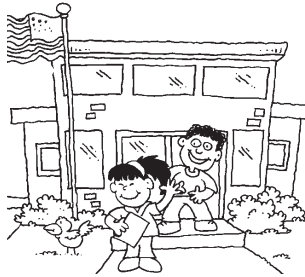
K-Time Kids Club is available to all kindergarten students attending Centennial Schools with the flexibility of attending from one to five days per week.



District Information

School Board

Christina Wilson, Chairperson
Karen Lodico, Vice chairperson
Suzy Guthmueller, Clerk
Barb Regnier, Treasurer
John Burns, Director
Cindy Norton, Director
Dr. Paul Stremick, Ex-officio



Centennial Schools

District Office 763-792-6000
4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014
www.isd12.org
Community Services 763-792-6108
Early Childhood 763-792-6120
Health Services..... 763-792-5025
Office of Teaching and Learning ... 763-792-6006
Special Education..... 763-792-5239
Transportation 763-746-1258

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Elementary Schools

Blue Heron Elementary 763-792-6200
405 Elm Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55014
Attendance: 763-792-6207 Fax: 763-792-6250
Principal Dan Melde

Centennial Elementary 763-792-5300
4657 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014
Attendance: 763-792-5307 Fax: 763-792-5350
Principal Kathleen Kaiser

Centerville Elementary 763-792-5800
1721 Westview, Centerville, MN 55038
Attendance: 763-792-5807 Fax: 763-792-5850
Principal Bob Stevens

Golden Lake Elementary 763-792-5900
1 School Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014
Attendance: 763-792-5907 Fax: 763-792-5950
Principal Chris Gerst

Rice Lake Elementary 763-792-5700
575 Birch Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55014
Attendance: 763-792-5707 Fax: 763-792-5750
Principal Warren Buerkley