

Kindergarten Options

Webinar - November 19, 2019

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Clear Springs Elementary Principal



MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Today's Agenda



- Introductions
- Goals of our Kindergarten program
- How we nurture young children
- Overview of options
- Making a thoughtful Kindergarten program decision
- Opportunities to learn more

Goals of our Kindergarten Program:



Inspire a love
of learning!

Prepare students for
first grade.

Inspiring a Love of Learning

- Individual small- and large-group instruction designed to meet the needs of all learning styles
- Choice time
- Learning through creative play



Nurturing Your Child

- Welcome events and bus safety—before school starts—will help your child get off on the right foot! We will communicate dates and locations.
- Kindergarten students enjoy music, art and structured physical education on a six-day rotation
- There is plenty of scheduled recess time and outdoor play
- Lunch paras and nutrition staff assist in the lunch line and make sure children are eating *and* enjoying social time
- Class size averages for Kindergarten: 20.51 (Metro, 20.60)
- Classroom paraprofessional support

Kindergarten Curriculum



- Strong, early literacy and math curriculum
- Focus on creativity, collaboration and problem-solving
- Hands-on science, math manipulatives, technology and arts
- Opportunities to work with specialists in music and visual arts
- Creative play balanced with quiet time and mindfulness

Kindergarten Options

- All-Day Kindergarten is our standard Kindergarten program; tuition free
- All schools have an English program; language Immersion in Chinese or Spanish
- Part-Day Enrollment option
- Ready-Start Kindergarten at Deephaven, Clear Springs and Minnewashta (for less mature children, still preparing for first grade)



Kindergarten Similarities

- All Kindergarten languages teach the same curriculum; the delivery and the language may differ
- Kindergarten teachers plan together
- Intentional use of technology for learning is a standard in all programs. Fun computer coding curriculum begins in Kindergarten!
- High parental involvement at home and school is a hallmark of our school



Language Immersion



Immersion Language Choices

- Chinese Immersion
 - Excelsior Elementary
 - Scenic Heights Elementary
- Spanish Immersion
 - Clear Springs Elementary
 - Deephaven Elementary
 - Groveland Elementary
 - Minnewashta Elementary

Program started in fall 2007. Curriculum fully developed in grades K-12.

What is Language Immersion?

- From day one, all subjects are delivered in the Immersion language to develop fluency and proficiency.
- Teachers use hand gestures and signage to help communicate and reinforce understanding.
- Communication to parents is in English.



Immersion in Minnetonka

- A school-within-a-school model
- Curriculum parallels the district curriculum
- Art, music, media, physical education delivered in English
- Direct instruction in English begins in grade 3 with 60 minutes per day taught by a Language Arts specialist.
- Advanced Learning and Special Education services are currently provided in English.



Immersion for Young Children



- Don't worry! Learning language is a natural process.
- Hearing and sound recognition are being trained and wired to the brain at a young age.
- Vocabulary builds quickly. For a young child, it's just another new word.
- Vocal physiology is still developing, so muscle memory for pronunciation comes naturally.

Reassuring Your Child About Immersion



- The teacher speaks to children in the second language all day!
- Explain that the teacher understands English, even if she/he is not speaking it.
- It is OK for Kindergarten children to speak to the teacher and each other in English in Immersion classrooms.
- It's easy to make friends!

Immersion FAQs

- How will I help with homework?
- Can I be involved in my child's classroom if I don't speak the second language?
- How will my child understand what is taught?
- What if my child is not yet reading in English?
- Is there a downside to Immersion?



Can We Enroll in Immersion Later?



- Students must enter the Immersion program in Kindergarten, or demonstrate grade-level proficiency if transferring into the program at a later year.

Immersion is open to everyone;
however, Immersion may not be
a good fit for everyone.



If You Don't Choose Immersion...

We have outstanding **World Language** opportunities:

- After-school elementary language program (K-5)
- Intro to a World Language (one-quarter, grade 7)
- Language elective, grade 8, full-year every day world language (start here for five years of language before college)
- MHS students are among top in nation on world language exams
- International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma Programme
- Minnetonka Community Ed partners with Concordia Language Camps for world language exposure opportunities

World-class English Program



Our English Program

- Highly trained and experienced staff
- Developmentally balanced curriculum
- Extensive services available for students who need help
- Advanced Learning opportunities for students who need an extra challenge



Strong Results by Minnetonka Students

SPRING 2019 MCA III STATE READING, MATH AND SCIENCE COMPARISONS

The following data shows aggregate results for all grades tested. Comparisons are with comparable Metro districts and the state.

District	Reading	Math	Science
Minnetonka	81.9	79.8	75.4
Wayzata	81.4	79.8	73.5
Edina	77.9	76.9	73.7
Orono	79.1	76.1	75.9
Westonka	77.1	78.4	63.7
Eastern Carver County	67.6	61.2	59.3
Eden Prairie	74.5	69.4	61.6
Hopkins	60.5	55.4	47.3
State of Minnesota	59.7	55.5	50.7

SPRING 2019 RESULTS: NWEA MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Minnetonka	Reading level:	Math level:
Kindergarten	Early 1 st Grade	Early 1 st Grade
Grade 1	Mid 2 nd Grade	Mid 3 rd Grade
Grade 2	Mid 3 rd Grade	Early 4 th Grade
Grade 3	Mid 5 th Grade	Early 6 th Grade
Grade 4	Early 8 th Grade	Early 8 th Grade
Grade 5	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 6	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 7	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 8	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade

Kindergarten English Program

- Your child will receive a world-class education in some of Minnesota's top schools!
- By high school, ~90% of Minnetonka students go on to college; average ACT is 27.7!
- Minnetonka High School is among the top high schools in America



Ready-Start Kindergarten



Ready-Start-Kindergarten (RSK)

- Intended for less mature children
- Geared for younger, active learners
- Goal is to prepare children for first grade the following year
- Three school sites





Remember, play is the work of childhood!

Decisions for Families



- English? Language Immersion?
- Will you attend your neighborhood school or elect the Parent Option Program for another language/building?
- All-Day or Part-Day Enrollment?
- Ready-Start Kindergarten?

You're Invited!

Kindergarten Information Nights for Parents	Date and Time
Clear Springs Elementary	December 12 • 6 p.m.
Deephaven Elementary	December 12 • 6 p.m.
Excelsior Elementary	December 5 • 6 p.m.
Groveland Elementary	December 10 • 6 p.m.
Minnewashta Elementary	December 5 • 6 p.m. December 10 • 6 p.m.
Scenic Heights Elementary	December 10 • 6 p.m.

Download the
Kindergarten brochure
from the Kindergarten
Options webpage



Registering (for Resident Families)

- **January 15 Resident Priority**
Deadline to specify your first-choice language and school
- Attend a December Information Night if you need to review or bring another family member
- Consider your options over the next few weeks
- Complete the online registration form (minnetonkaschools.org/enroll)



Open Enrollment (for Non-Resident Families)



- Complete the online Open Enrollment Application ASAP. **January 15 state deadline.**
- You will hear more from the enrollment office by February 15, 2020.
- Contact our Enrollment office with questions.

Requirements for Kindergarten

- Schedule Early Childhood Screening (ages 3-5)
- Visit **minnetonkaschools.org/screening** or telephone 952-401-6840
 - If screened elsewhere—that's ok, but please provide paperwork to enrollment office*
- Immunizations
 - **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses
 - **DTaP/DT:** 5 doses
 - **Polio:** 4 doses
 - **MMR:** 2 doses
 - **Varicella:** 2 doses
- Birth Certificate (official copy)
- Proof of Address (e.g., utility bill, driver's license)





Questions?