

2010-11 Parents' Guide to Kindergarten



Registration Information for Kindergarten, Kindergarten Plus & Magnet Schools

A Publication of Elementary Education & Community Education

www.district196.org

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan
Public Schools**

#196

Educating our students to reach their full potential

Welcome to Parents!



We are excited to welcome your child to kindergarten in District 196. Thank you for taking the time to read this Parents' Guide to Kindergarten and acquaint yourself with District 196 kindergarten options and the registration process.

District 196 has 18 "neighborhood" elementary schools, all of which offer a traditional half-day kindergarten program and Kindergarten Plus. Three of those 18 neighborhood schools are magnet schools, which offer the standard district curriculum, but each one has a concentrated theme woven into the district's core curriculum.

You may be interested in attending Kindergarten Plus/School Choice information nights at Greenleaf Elementary (January 5) or Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science (January 7). Tours of magnet schools and neighborhood schools will be held during the Spotlight on Schools the week of January 11. See the timeline on page 6 for more details.

Learn more about traditional kindergarten, Kindergarten Plus and magnet schools on pages 4-9. If you have questions about any of the kindergarten options, contact information is available on the back cover.

We look forward to welcoming your child to kindergarten next September!

Our Kindergarten Philosophy

The goal of education is to encourage the development of children who are happy, compassionate, self-initiating, creative, inquisitive and eager to learn. Kindergarten lays the foundation for learning experiences by providing appropriate opportunities for these qualities to develop.

Our Kindergarten Mission

The District 196 kindergarten program provides an environment where each child is respected as a unique individual. Our kindergarten program responds to differences in needs, interests, temperaments and learning styles among students. The atmosphere in the classroom is nurturing and inviting.

Kindergarten instruction encourages the growth of problem solving, decision making and communication skills, and supports cooperative learning, socialization, healthy self-esteem and creativity. Growth occurs as children actively participate in concrete, hands-on activities each day. Teachers determine the activities based on the children in their classroom and curriculum frameworks. Children have opportunities to assume increasing responsibilities for self-care and independence.

The kindergarten program fosters the important connections between home, school and the community. This is most effective when families and teachers work cooperatively to encourage and support children as they learn and strive to reach their full potential.



Traditional Kindergarten

2.5 hours/day

Fee: NONE

In District 196, all kindergarten students participate in at least 2.5 hours per day of instruction. Licensed kindergarten teachers select developmentally appropriate activities to achieve curricular goals in the following areas:

Art

Guidance

Health

Science

Language Arts

Mathematics

Music

Social Studies

For more information about the kindergarten curriculum, visit www.district196.org/curriculum/ElementarySchool/Kindergarten.htm.

All 18 elementary schools offer the traditional (half-day) kindergarten program. Students in traditional kindergarten participate in either a morning or afternoon session. The session your child attends typically depends on the neighborhood in which you live and the school bus routes that serve your school's attendance area. If you have questions about whether your child would attend morning or afternoon kindergarten, or other questions about the traditional kindergarten program, please contact your school. Map and contact information are on pages 14 and 15.

No application is necessary for students who plan to attend the traditional kindergarten program at their neighborhood school. If your neighborhood school also happens to be a magnet school, you do not have to apply to attend there. See page 7 for more information about kindergarten registration.



Kindergarten Plus (K-Plus)

Additional 3.75 hours/day

Fee: \$3,270 total - \$327/month

Kindergarten Plus is an optional, fee-based, extended-day program that complements traditional kindergarten. K-Plus is a collaboration between Elementary Education, which oversees the traditional kindergarten program, and Community Education, which administers the K-Plus, extended-day program.

Students who participate in K-Plus begin their day with traditional kindergarten, then stay through a supervised lunch and recess, and return to their classroom for the afternoon of Kindergarten Plus. The same licensed kindergarten teacher instructs kindergarten and Kindergarten Plus, providing a cohesive, all-day experience. K-Plus teachers use developmentally appropriate extensions of the traditional kindergarten curriculum along with enrichment activities that expand the experience.

Kindergarten Plus is available to students from all District 196 elementary schools. (Due to classroom space constraints, participating Red Pine students will be transported to and from Pinewood Community School for K-Plus.) Space is limited in the K-Plus program, so a random lottery from applications received by the due date determines placement and waiting lists. See Terms & Conditions on pages 8 and 9 for details.

The state does not fund the K-Plus portion of this optional, extended-day program. Therefore, participating families pay \$3,270 per year, payable in ten monthly installments of \$327 during the school year. Financial assistance is available to district residents who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

If you have questions about the Kindergarten Plus program, please contact Community Education at 651-423-7933 or k-plus@district196.org. To access a K-Plus application, visit www.district196.org/cewww/kindergartenplus. See page 7 for more information about K-Plus registration.

Elementary Magnet Schools

Three of the district's 18 elementary schools are magnet schools. All three magnet schools offer the standard district curriculum, but each one has a concentrated theme woven into the district's core curriculum.

The three magnet schools are:

- Cedar Park Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School;
- Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies, and
- Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science.

Traditional kindergarten and Kindergarten Plus are available at all three magnet schools. Both the magnet school and Kindergarten Plus programs require separate applications. See pages 7 and 8 for more information about magnet school registration.

To learn more about District 196 magnet schools and to complete an application, visit www.district196.org/MagnetSchools.

Timeline

Before your child's 4th birthday:

Complete early childhood screening (see page 10)

November 16, 2009:

Kindergarten information mailed and posted on the district website
www.district196.org

January 5 & 7, 2010:

Parent Information Nights

6:30-8 p.m.

January 5: Greenleaf Elementary

January 7: Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science

January 11 week:

Spotlight on Schools:

Magnet and neighborhood school tours

January 22:

Magnet and K-Plus application deadline at 4 p.m.

February 8 week:

Receive notification of magnet school and K-Plus placement or wait list

March 3 & 4:

Register for kindergarten at elementary schools



Kindergarten Registration Process

You've now read about options for your child's kindergarten experience. Once your questions have been answered and you have decided on the best option for your child, please follow the process shown below.

If you choose:

- Traditional kindergarten at your neighborhood school
- Traditional kindergarten at a magnet school
- K-Plus at your neighborhood school
- K-Plus at a magnet school

Submit this/deadline:

- No application necessary
- Magnet school application/Jan. 22
- K-Plus application/Jan. 22
- K-Plus AND magnet school applications/Jan. 22

Parents who have selected a K-Plus or magnet school option for their child will receive confirmation in early February. During the week of February 15, schools will send a welcome letter to all kindergarten students who will be attending their school in the fall. The letter will give you the details about kindergarten registration which will occur on March 3 and 4 at the school your child will be attending.

Three items will be necessary for you to register your child for kindergarten on March 3 or 4:

- A birth certificate confirming your child's date of birth (your child must be five years old on or before September 1 of the year he or she will begin school);
- Proof of proper immunizations (see page 10), and
- Proof of early childhood screening (see page 10).

Kindergarten Plus Registration

For your child to be eligible for the drawing for available spaces, your completed Kindergarten Plus application is due by 4 p.m. on January 22, 2010.

Two easy ways to apply for Kindergarten Plus:

1. Apply online at www.district196.org/cewww/kindergartenplus
2. Complete a paper application and send to:
Community Education
Attn: Kindergarten Plus
15180 Canada Avenue
Rosemount, MN, 55068

Kindergarten Plus application forms are available at all elementary schools, on the district's website at www.district196.org/cewww/kindergartenplus, at the Kindergarten Plus office at the address above and by mail, fax or e-mail (call 651-423-7933 to request).

Note: Your registration for Kindergarten Plus does not replace the regular kindergarten registration process. Please be sure to complete your school's registration and orientation process as directed.

Kindergarten Plus Terms & Conditions

- For your child to be eligible for the K-Plus lottery at any elementary school, your completed K-Plus application is due by 4 p.m. on January 22, 2010. The K-Plus application is available for you to complete and submit online at www.district196.org/cewww/kindergartenplus, or you can mail or deliver the K-Plus application to:
 - Community Education
 - Attention: Kindergarten Plus
 - 15180 Canada Avenue
 - Rosemount, MN 55068
- For your child to be eligible for traditional kindergarten or K-Plus lottery at a **magnet school**, your completed magnet school application is also due by 4 p.m. on January 22, 2010. The magnet school application is available for you to complete and submit online at www.district196/magnetschools, or you can mail or deliver the magnet school application to:
 - Independent School District 196
 - Attention: Magnet School Specialist
 - 3455 153rd St. West
 - Rosemount, MN 55068
- Priority placement for K-Plus spaces in neighborhood schools that are not magnet schools occurs in the order shown below. Names will be drawn at random from applications submitted by the January 22 deadline.
 1. Residents of a school's attendance area;
 2. District 196 residents of a different school's attendance area, including intradistrict transfers (from one District 196 school to another District 196 school), and
 3. Non-residents of District 196, including those who are open enrolled.
- Priority placement for K-Plus spaces in magnet schools will be given to District 196 residents. More information about the magnet school selection process is available online at www.district196/magnetschools.
- In an attempt to achieve gender-balanced classrooms, available spaces will be divided equally by gender until no more of one gender exists among remaining applicants for that school.
- K-Plus fee for 2010-11 is \$3,270, payable in 10 equal payments of \$327 throughout the school year. Financial assistance is available to district residents who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Payment instructions will be provided to participating K-Plus families.
- A \$15 fee will be assessed for any checks returned for non-sufficient funds.
- A late fee will be assessed on all past due accounts. Past due accounts can result in removal from the program. If your child leaves the program for this reason, you are responsible for any outstanding account balance, prorated to the termination date.
- Parents may voluntarily remove their child from the program. However, no withdrawals will be accepted after the first day of school until the child has completed at least 20 school days in the program. If your child leaves the program for this reason, you are responsible for any outstanding account balance, prorated to the termination date.
- If a child is eligible for Special Education services, those services will be provided to the extent they were to be provided in the traditional, half-day kindergarten program.

- Periodically, photos are taken of program participants for the purposes of communicating about the program. If you do not want your child's photo to be used for these purposes, contact the Kindergarten Plus office in writing.



Preparing For Kindergarten

Early Childhood Screening

The State of Minnesota requires that all children complete a free screening to detect any health and/or developmental concerns prior to entering kindergarten in a public school. In our district, screening occurs between three-and-a-half and four years of age. This allows time for a preschool experience or other social/educational opportunities to benefit the child.

Screening includes the following: vision and hearing checks, height and weight checks, and a review of immunizations. A standardized tool is used to check the child's developmental progress. A health and developmental review is included with information and resources available for you and your child.

Proof of screening is required for kindergarten enrollment in a public school. If you are a District 196 resident and have a child who is between three-and-a-half and four years of age who hasn't yet completed screening, please call 651-423-7899 to schedule an appointment.

Immunizations

Your child may not attend school in Minnesota without proof of proper immunizations or a signed statement of conscientious objection. There is no grace period. Talk with your child's healthcare provider and/or school nurse about the current immunization requirements for admission to school.

The Dakota County Public Health Department (www.co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7500) maintains a list of public immunization clinics.

Summer Bridge to School

Summer Bridge to School is a Community Education preschool program designed to ease a child's transition to kindergarten by providing him/her with experiences very similar to kindergarten. Teachers focus on helping your child to participate in group settings, follow rules and routine, and become familiar with their elementary school. Children are eligible for the program if they will begin kindergarten in the fall and need support to make a successful transition.

Registration information for this program will be included in the kindergarten registration information provided to you by your school. Fee is determined by family income.

Call 952-431-8334 if you have additional questions about Summer Bridge to School.

Other Early Learning Opportunities

District 196 offers many learning opportunities for pre-kindergarten children and their families through Community Education. Visit our websites or call our offices for more information:

Early Childhood Family Services	www.district196.org/ec	952-431-8340
Pre-School Enrichment	www.district196.org/ce	651-423-7920

Helping Your Child Prepare for Kindergarten

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. From the day your child was born, you have been busy teaching him or her skills, language and an understanding of the world.

Children enjoy learning and parents can help foster a love of learning by:

- Reading together, then discussing the story and pictures
- Practicing the rules of group discussion (raising hands, listening carefully to others, taking turns to talk, etc.)
- Making up stories, talking about thoughts, needs or questions
- Explaining how things work
- Playing games together
- Singing and learning songs together, providing opportunities to experience all types of music
- Providing a balance of structured and unstructured playtime
- Exposing your child to new places, things and learning opportunities
- Helping your child to express their needs and teaching them to ask for help when they need it

Parents can also help children build practical skills that support success at school:

- Practicing with zippers, snaps, buttons and shoelaces
- Using the toilet and flushing, then washing and drying hands
- Using a tissue and covering coughs and sneezes
- Saying first and last name and recognizing name in print
- Using crayons, markers, pencils, glue and scissors
- Helping to put things away after using them

District 196 Services

Transportation

- School bus transportation is provided to students in traditional kindergarten and those in K-Plus who live or attend daycare more than one-half mile from their school, along approved district bus routes within the school's attendance area.
- Morning and afternoon transportation to/from magnet schools is provided districtwide; mid-day transportation to/from magnet schools is provided for students living within the attendance area only.
- Transportation from Red Pine to Pinewood and back for K-Plus will be provided.
- In all other cases, parents are responsible for transportation.
- Please call Transportation at 651-423-7685 with any questions.

School Lunch

School lunch is available for a fee for students who participate in the K-Plus program. Students may also bring a lunch from home. An adult is present during lunch to supervise and assist K-Plus participants.

Families who need assistance with school lunch fees may qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school meals program. Applications for the free and reduced-price meal program are available at your child's school; on the website at www.district196.org/District/Departments/FoodNutrition, and from Food and Nutrition Services at 651-683-6958.

Special Education

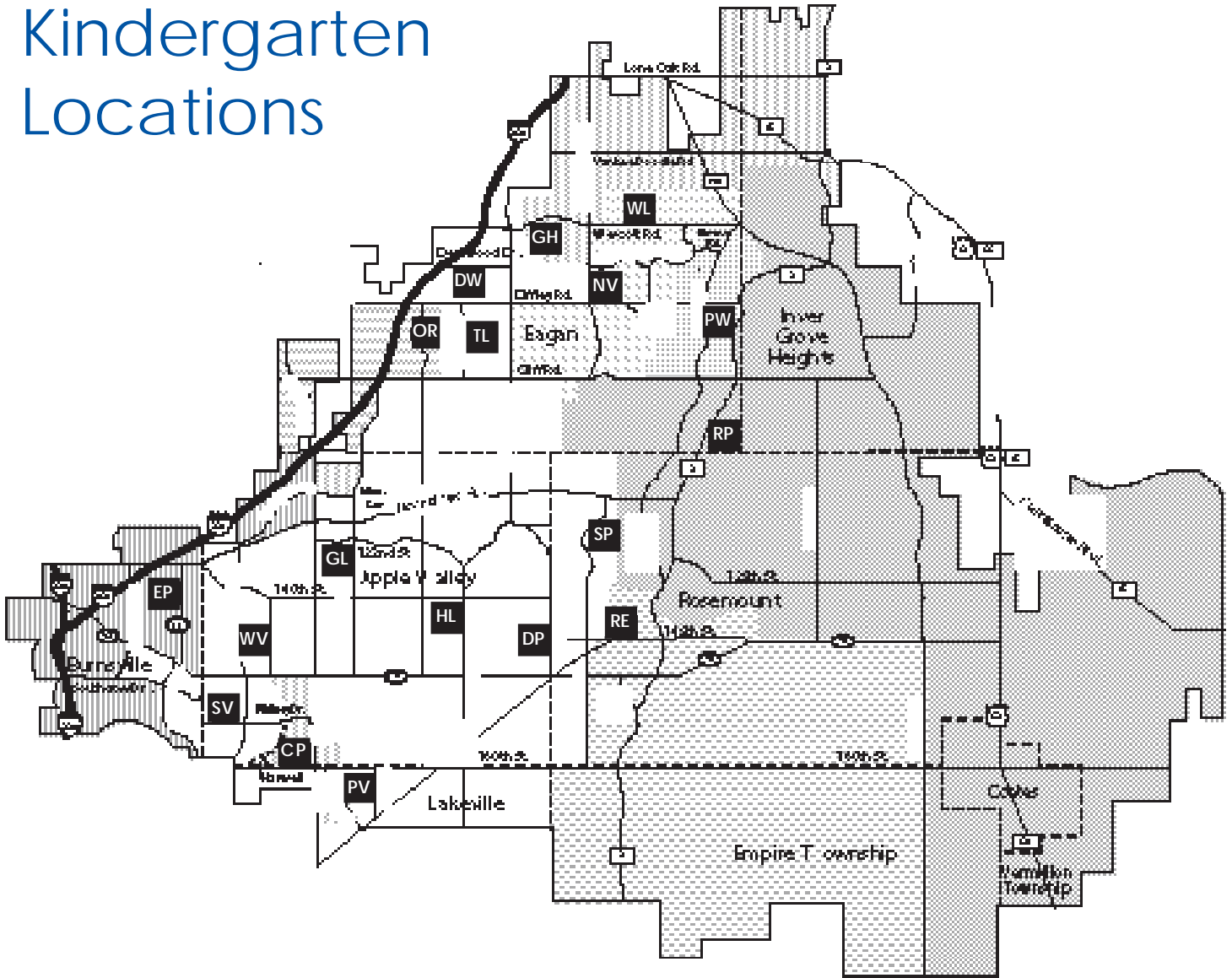
Special Education services are provided for kindergarten students with educational disabilities. Some students transition from Early Childhood Special Education to the kindergarten setting, while others are evaluated and identified through a child study process during their kindergarten year. We offer a continuum of service, from the regular school environment to center-based programs.


English Language Learners (ELL)

Kindergarten students who speak a home language other than English may qualify for English Language Learner (ELL) support. Ask your child's school about ELL services or call 651-423-7880 for more information.



Kindergarten Locations



and Math (STEM) School
 7500 Whitney Drive, Apple Valley
 952-431-8360 
 John Garcia, Principal

Deerwood - DW
 1480 Deerwood Drive, Egan
 651-683-6801
 Miles Haugen, Principal

Diamond Path - DP
School of International Studies
 14455 Diamond Path, Apple Valley
 952-423-7695 
 Lynn Hernandez, Principal

Echo Park - EP
 14100 County Road 11, Burnsville
 952-431-8390
 Sally Soliday, Principal

Glacier Hills – GH
School of Arts and Science
3825 Glacier Drive, Eagan
651-683-8570
Jeff Holten, Principal



Greenleaf - GL
13333 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley
952-431-8270
Michelle deKam Palmieri, Principal

Highland - HL
14001 Pilot Knob Road, Apple Valley
952-423-7595
Chad Ryburn, Principal

Northview - NV
965 Diffley Road, Eagan
651-683-6820
Kathy Carl, Principal

Oak Ridge - OR
4350 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Eagan
651-683-6970
Lisa Hannon, Principal

Parkview - PV
6795 Gerdine Path, Rosemount
952-431-8350
Pamela Haldeman, Principal

Pinewood - PW
4300 Dodd Road, Eagan
651-683-6980
Cris Town, Principal

Red Pine - RP
530 Red Pine Lane, Eagan
651-423-7870
Gary Anger, Principal

Rosemount - RE
3155 143rd St. West, Rosemount
651-423-7690
Tom Idstrom, Principal

Shannon Park - SP
13501 Shannon Parkway, Rosemount
651-423-7670
Michael Guthrie, Principal

Southview - SV
1025 Whitney Drive, Apple Valley
952-431-8370
Rhonda Smith, Principal

Thomas Lake - TL
4350 Thomas Lake Road, Eagan
651-683-6890
Mary Jelinek, Principal

Westview - WV
225 Garden View Drive, Apple Valley
952-431-8380
Karen Toomey, Principal

Woodland - WL
945 Wescott Road, Eagan
651-683-6990
Lisa Carlson, Principal

Not sure which school attendance area you live in?

Call 651-423-7640 or check out the School Boundary Locator on the District 196 web site
www.district196.org/boundary_search.cfm



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan
Public Schools**

#196

Educating our students to reach their full potential

3455 153rd St. West, Rosemount, MN 55068

www.district196.org



School Board

Joel Albright
Art Coulson
Rob Duchscher
Jackie Magnuson
Mike Roseen
Kevin Sampers
Bob Schutte

District Staff

Jane K. Berenz, Superintendent
Jim Brandl, Director of Community Education
Dr. Julie Olson, Director of Elementary Education
Khia Bruse, Learning Services Manager (Kindergarten Plus)
Shane Schmeichel, Magnet School Specialist

Traditional Kindergarten

Your Elementary School
or Elementary Education
651-423-7739

Kindergarten Plus

Community Education
651-423-7933

www.district196.org/cewww/kindergartenplus

Magnet Schools

651-423-7911

www.district196.org/magnetschools

District 196 does not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation or age. The school district attorney, 3455 153rd St. West, Rosemount, MN 55068, 651-423-7883, has been designated to respond to inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, including inquiries under Title IX.