

# StormHawks



## Preschool

Welcome future Chaska Hawks  
and Chanhassen Storm!

We are excited to join you on your  
journey of exceptional, personalized learning.

Our preschools provide a nurturing  
and stimulating learning environment.

We are committed to creating an environment  
which will prepare children for kindergarten  
in district schools.



# Family Handbook

Taste of Preschool, Half-Day Preschool, PreK Connection

## StormHawks Preschool

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**ce4all.org**

## StormHawks Preschool Teacher Contacts

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

### Transportation contacts:

Positive Connections: 952-666-5912

Koch Bus Co: 952-445-8129

# Welcome to StormHawks Preschool!

We are excited that you and your child will be part of Preschool in Eastern Carver County Schools. Our program serves children ages 2 1/2 - 5. Our licensed Early Childhood teachers and staff work hard offer personalized learning experiences to support the needs of every child.

**Preschool Philosophy** We believe that every child is important and has incredible potential. We focus on each child's learning needs and their relationships with others. The curriculum is designed to partner children's interests and ideas with the teacher's resources. This combination encourages discovery-based learning and development of the whole child.

**Staff Guidance** Our experienced and skilled staff utilize positive guidance techniques, including re-direction and positive reinforcement to build children's self-esteem, empathy and competence.

**Parent Communication** Newsletters will be provided for preschool parents to give program updates and curriculum information. In addition, our weekly curriculum activities will be posted outside our classrooms and available on the teacher website.

**Parent Conferences** Individual conferences will be held in both the fall and spring to discuss your child's development. In addition, we always welcome your questions and feedback—please feel free to consult with the staff whenever you wish.

**Advisory Council** We have an active Advisory Council to help set the direction and provide support for all of our programs. Parental input and participation is welcome.

**Preschool:** September-May. Preschool follows the same calendar as Eastern Carver County Schools K-12. Preschool will not be in session during district workshop/conference days or on late start days.

**Field Trips** Field Trips help students explore their world are an important continuation of our curriculum, and are viewed as a learning lab. We will have several field trips which may be a combination of on and off site experiences. A \$50 trip fee is added to September's tuition. (*Taste of PreK does not attend trips*)

## Daily Experiences

**Choice Time:** Children explore the environment individually or in small groups. Some of the options are: art activities, using learning materials, book corner, science area or role playing in the housekeeping area. Teachers and assistants move around the room working with individuals or groups of children guiding and enriching the child's play and academic experiences.

**Small Group Time:** Work time with a teacher or teacher's assistant.

**Large Group Time:** May include calendar and weather information, sharing time, reading a story, music and movement, or discussion time for a new learning.

**Outdoor Play:** Preschool students will go outdoors when the combined wind chill and temperature or either the wind chill or temperature are above 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Please provide the appropriate cold weather gear for your child. This includes: winter boots, sweatshirts, weather appropriate jacket(s), snow pants, shoes AND socks that your child can run in. Label your child's items. Children do not stay indoors if they have a cold or cough. We play outdoors every day, weather permitting.

**Pick Up Time:** Parents and children are reunited at the end of the school day. Students accessing transportation will be placed on the bus and transported home.

**School Supplies** Due to Covid-19 we are asking students to bring individual school supplies in their own container. Please send; crayons (up to 24), pencils (2), preschool scissors, glue sticks (2), dry erase markers (2), in a hard plastic storage box. If you are unable to purchase school supplies please let your child's teacher know.

**Snack Provided Daily** Daily A nutritious snack will be served daily based on the MDE Smart Snack List. Because of allergies, we ask that no food be brought from home, sent in backpacks, or allowed on the bus. We may ask parents to provide a snack if there are special dietary concerns. Please check with your child's teacher regarding birthday options.

**Peanut/Tree Nut or other Allergy** We take all reasonable precautions to avoid nut products in the classroom to minimize the risk of allergic reaction. We will also take similar precautions to minimize the risk of exposure to any other food allergy your child may have. Please contact the Early Childhood Specialist with concerns.

## Curriculum, Assessment, and Innovations

Our Preschool Programs use *Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers* and *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment*.

The *Creative Curriculum for Preschool* enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills.

- Is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework as well as early learning standards for every state.
- Presents knowledge-building volumes and daily practice resources in tandem, giving every educator the “what,” “why” and “how” of early childhood education
- Offers daily opportunities to personalize instruction, helping teachers meet the needs of every type of learner.
- Addresses all the important areas of learning, from social-emotional and math to technology and the arts, and incorporates them throughout every part of every day.
- Offers daily, built-in opportunities for observation, helping teachers and administrators clearly see the strong relationship between curriculum and assessment.
- Offers complete support for working with English- and dual-language learners, including detailed guidance that helps to build teachers’ knowledge about best practices.
- Contains guidance for working with all learners, including advanced learners and children with disabilities.

*Teaching Strategies Gold*: Teaching Strategies Gold is the learning management system that is being used in select classrooms and programs throughout the district. Teaching Strategies Gold is an observation-based assessment system—the perfect companion resource for The Creative Curriculum® System for Preschool. Based on the same 38 objectives that are predictors of school success, Teaching Strategies Gold is fully aligned with The Creative Curriculum®. It helps teachers know what to look for and how best to support children’s continued progress. Teaching Strategies Gold provides linkage to the curriculum and points teachers towards activities and instruction connected to areas identified as in need of development based on ongoing assessment.

Innovations that support early learning in our program:

**Classroom Engagement Model (CEM)** A framework for using the Division for Early Childhood recommended practices to promote full participation in every child in a classroom setting, helping to improve social relationships and independence of all children.

**The Pyramid Model** The Pyramid Model focuses on increasing the social/emotional/behavioral skills of young children. With the support and assistance of coaches, extensive training and research based strategies we are promoting healthy social-emotional development in young children.

### We Will Work To:

- Foster self concept and healthy emotional expression.
- Develop social skills.
- Encourage thinking, reasoning and problem- solving skills.
- Encourage language and vocabulary development.
- Encourage and demonstrate good health, safety, and nutritional practices.
- Encourage creative expression and appreciation of the arts.
- Respect cultural diversity of staff and children.

**Evaluations** Parents will be asked to participate in an evaluation, providing us with feedback on your experience. We rely on this information to continually improve our program and meet the ever changing needs of our families. Please know that we welcome your feedback and comments throughout the year—do not wait for a formal evaluation to let us know how we can better meet the needs of your family.

**Early Childhood Screening** The early childhood years from birth to the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth. Early Childhood Screening is a FREE and simple check of how your child is growing and developing. Between the ages of 3 and 4, screening can detect possible health or learning concerns so that children can get help before they start school.

Parents may accompany children through the approximate hour-long process.

Call 952-556-6407 or visit [www.ce4all.org](http://www.ce4all.org) to schedule your appointment as soon as your child turns three.

Online at [eccs.mn/screening](http://eccs.mn/screening)

# StormHawks

**Illness** If your child is ill, please call the building nurse. Family Learning Center at 952-556-6419  
Victoria Elementary at 952-556-3019

If your child uses transportation and will not be riding the bus, please call to notify the driver as early as possible.

**Transportation Department:** 952-556-6160

Positive Connections: 952-361-0899

Koch Bus: 952-445-8129

Children should not attend preschool if they have:

- A fever of 100° or higher (must be fever free for 24 hrs)
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Undiagnosed rashes
- Uncontrolled cough
- Pinkeye
- Yellow or green nasal discharge
- Any symptom of COVID-19

Please notify the teacher if your child acquires a communicable disease. Notices will be sent by the school nursing department if children have been exposed to a communicable disease.

**Injuries** Our staff will handle minor bumps and bruises; you will be informed of any incidents that occur. The local rescue squad will handle life-threatening emergencies.

**Pick-up Authorization** If your child is to be picked-up by anyone other than you, we must have written authorization ahead of time and the authorized person must present a photo ID before we will release your child. In an emergency, a telephone message will be accepted.

**Late Pick-Up Policy** In the event that parents are more than 5 minutes late, and neither parent can be reached, one of the emergency contacts will be called to pick up your child.

**Fees Due Monthly** Tuition is due on the first of each month. *You will not receive monthly invoices.* Monthly tuition is charged unless a child is withdrawn from the preschool program. The full monthly tuition is charged when your child is absent due to illness or vacation travel. Payment made after the 10th of each month will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Payments can be made by cash, check or credit card. Please visit the Family Learning Center office for assistance. Mail or deliver payment to: Community Education, 110600 Village Road Chaska, MN 55318.

**Non Payment:** If an account becomes delinquent it will be turned over to a collection agency.

**Notice of Withdraw** We ask for a two week, written notice from you if you intend to withdraw your child. Please give the notice to the Community Education Office. Full monthly fees still apply during the month of withdrawal.

### **Request to Exclude Student Directory**

Information can be found online at [www.district112.org](http://www.district112.org) or [ce4all.org](http://ce4all.org). This form must be completed and turned in to opt out of pictures, class photos, yearbooks, name lists, etc.

### **Snow Days**

If bad weather forces Eastern Carver County Schools to close, preschool classes will be canceled as well. If bad weather forces a two hour late start, the morning classes will be canceled and if there is an early release, afternoon classes will be canceled. Information regarding school closing can be found:

- on TV channels 4, 5, 9 and 11
- in a recorded message at 952-556-6100
- on the Community Ed website: [ce4all.org](http://ce4all.org)
- on facebook: [www.facebook.com/ce4all](http://www.facebook.com/ce4all)

There are no refunds for days missed due to the weather.

Eastern Carver County Schools

**Community  
Education**

*Your Future, Our Focus*

[www.ce4all.org](http://www.ce4all.org)  
952.556.6407