

4K Early Learning News

JANUARY 2022

FROM THE DESK OF SP4K

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME 2022!

I hope that you all had the chance to enjoy friends, family, rest, and relaxation over the winter break!

Reflecting back on our year so far I am filled with joy, pride, and gratitude to be surrounded by such an amazing community. I am honored to work with such wonderful teachers, site administrators, families, and students! Every day I get to see the joy in the classrooms and to be a part of those “ah-ha” moments, my heart is full! The best part is we still have so many exciting things to get to in this new year!

As we dig into 2022 your children will continue to develop into competent learners, growing, stretching, and getting ready for all that kindergarten holds for them. They will continue to sing, dance, play, and learn, creating a love of learning that will last a lifetime!

We are all looking forward to a wonderful and healthy 2022!

Keep Playing,

Elizabeth Knudten

4K Program Supervisor

[Click here to complete the Family/Caregiver Survey](#)

Your Feedback is vital to the 4K program. This quick survey will give our program, our teachers, and our administrators information on how to meet the needs of our families. Thank you for taking the time to check in with us!

SP4K-EC COVID PROTOCOLS- JANUARY 2022

Please read the recent district communication regarding COVID 19.

[December Caregiver Communication re: COVID](#)

In addition to site-specific policies/procedures, the [Sun Prairie Area School District](#), SP4K Program and Early Childhood (EC) Programs have developed the following protocols in order to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in our classrooms.

When a student tests positive:

- Students will be required to quarantine when there is a positive case in the classroom.
 - Students are required to quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test (if asymptomatic) whichever is first.

NEW... Quarantine for children who are COMPLETELY vaccinated

- Children who are completely vaccinated AND are not showing symptoms, will not be required to quarantine.
- Your 4K location may be in touch with you to figure out the best educational environment for your child. For instance, if there is only one child returning to class the teacher may accompany them into another classroom for the quarantine period.

What will teaching look like during the quarantine period?

- During quarantine there will be no live 4K instruction.
- Students will access learning opportunities through ReadyRosie and our home learning materials that are sent home at the beginning of each month.
- Teachers will work with students and their caregivers to ensure access to educational materials during the quarantine. Daily communication will be set up by individual teachers.
- Students with disabilities will follow their agreed-upon IEP contingency plan.

Contact Tracing

- In cooperation with the district nurse, the teacher or site administrator will contact employees and families of students identified as close contacts. Additionally, an SP4K communication will be sent using the letter templates from PHMDC to notify them that they are a close contact and if they need to quarantine. For confidentiality purposes, the individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the families, students, and employees at large.

INFECTION MITIGATION:

Infection mitigation efforts are intended to minimize exposure and keep the virus out of school environments. Our programs follow infection response plans based on guidelines from State Child Care Licensing, SPASD, and Public Health Madison & Dane County in the event that we have a positive case within a 4K location.

- [SPASD COVID-19 Student Infection Response Action Plan](#)

Masking will be required for all staff, students, and adults inside 4K classrooms.

[American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\)](#)

[Public Health Madison & Dane County \(PHMDC\)](#)

- The American Academy of Pediatrics—the U.S. professional organization for all pediatricians—has endorsed mask-wearing indoors for all children age 2+.
- Studies have shown that face masks can help block respiratory droplets and that face mask use has been associated with lower COVID-19 infection rates.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has a [website](#) detailing information on face coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a [website](#) that reviews the evidence behind use of face coverings.
- [SPASD Face Covering Information for Families](#)

Screening Checklists

All students and staff are asked to monitor themselves for signs of possible infection. Please use the following checklists as screening guidelines.

- [SPASD Student COVID 19 Symptom Screening Checklist](#)
- [SPASD Student COVID 19 Symptom Screening Checklist \(Spanish\)](#)

Hand Washing and Social Distancing

- Routine hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and cleaning of personal items will be taught and encouraged in all classrooms. This is an important life skill that is part of living a healthy life, and this is an opportunity to reinforce knowledge and skills in this area.
- It is the nature of 4K students to play with their teachers and their peers. We will work to educate students on the importance of social distancing and will maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

SPASD- COVID Response and Resource Page

SCHOOL CLOSING- DUE TO WEATHER

SCHOOL CANCELATIONS:

If it becomes necessary to call off school because of poor weather conditions or other reasons, an announcement will be made before 6:30 a.m. on the district website, sunprairieschools.org, and on local radio and television stations.

If poor weather or any other building problems cause the school to be closed, a taped message will be left on the school closing information line, 834-6688, Ext. 2561. Families will also be notified through the **"Blackboard Mass Notifications" system**. Phone calls, emails, and text messages will be sent directly to parents/ or legal guardians at the time the decision is made. Please do not call the SP4K site or the bus company.

DELAYED START:

When the start of the school day is delayed for 1-2 hours, there will be no morning session of SP4K. It is important that students enrolled in the afternoon session do not arrive at school

until the stated starting time.

WINTER GUIDANCE: PLAYING OUTSIDE

WEATHER RULES

SP4K programs provide outdoor playtime to give students the opportunity to practice motor and social skills. All students are expected to participate in outdoor playtime, so please send appropriate gear every day. It's important that caregivers assist their children with dressing appropriately for the day's weather.

If a student needs to remain indoors when coming back to school after an illness or injury, please provide written verification from your child's health care provider.

Students will stay indoors during inclement weather or when the air or wind chill temperature is at or below 0°F.



REMINDER- THURSDAY IS EARLY RELEASE FOR 4K AFTERNOON CLASSES!!!

Please be aware that EVERY Thursday is Early Release for AFTERNOON 4K classes. (Morning class times do not change)



Please be ready to pick up our child or meet the bus at an earlier time...

AFTERNOON Classes Times on THURSDAYS:

- Token Springs and Creekside- 12:20-2:03
- All other Community Based sites- 11:50-1:33

SP4K- EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

To understand how working together can benefit your child, it is first important to understand the district's and school's vision, mission, and goals for student academic achievement.

Sun Prairie School District Vision: To be a high-performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

Sun Prairie School District Mission: Futures depend on us to inspire and prepare every child, every day by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

SP4K- Early Learning Belief Statement: We believe that 4-year-old children are entitled to an education that includes high-quality, developmentally appropriate practices, child-centered, culturally responsive play-based curriculum. Recognizing and meeting the unique needs of individuals, families, while partnering with parents, and our community partners. 4-Year-Old Kindergarten does NOT replace 5-Year-Old Kindergarten and is not a "down-sizing" of the 5-Year-Old Kindergarten curriculum.

SP4K- Early Learning Equity Belief Statement: We believe in equitable and inclusive classrooms where all children are provided with opportunities to learn and engage in developmentally appropriate activities. All children, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or physical or cognitive ability are accepted and cared for by adults and peers alike. Team members develop collaborative relationships with families, students, and each other to provide the highest quality learning environment for all children.

We believe in providing embedded-inclusive services that include direct instruction, adaptations, and modifications within natural environments, routines, and classroom activities.

In SP4K-Early Learning, We Believe...

- In developing trusting, lasting partnerships between schools, families, caregivers, and the community.
- Families and caregivers will be treated as full partners in the educational process and in decisions that affect their children.
- Schools will be open, helpful, and friendly. Resources and expectations will be clear and easily accessible to all families.
- Communication is a shared, two-way responsibility that is regular, meaningful, and relational.
- To effectively communicate, all parties must be aware of and address, issues such as racial identity, gender identity, educational background, differing abilities, as well as cultural and language differences.

Teachers Will:

- Share student learning goals and communicate progress frequently with students and their families/caregivers.

- Show respect, integrity, and compassion, to empower the diverse needs and strengths of our students, families, and community.
- Instruct in culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate ways to allow all students to acquire essential learning.
- Create a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment to promote growth and build self-esteem.
- Commit to learning and growing as professional educators to understand the racial opportunity gaps that exist beginning at age 4.

Families will:

- Ensure their child arrives at school every day, on time, and ready to learn.
- Support the 4K-Early Learning expectations of Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful.
- Encourage their child to do their best.
- Communicate with their child's teacher and school.

Students will:

- Work to Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful.
- Learn through playful, hands-on, whole-child experiences.
- Learn through engaging and diverse experiences at school.
- Learn to value racial diversity and inclusion through activities and the school environment.

We will communicate in the following ways:

- Classroom Newsletters
- Seesaw
- Text, Email, and Phone
- Monthly District Newsletters
- Blackboard Connect
- School Website

A printable PDF version of our Community Commitments is available [HERE](#).



KOBUSSEN BUS-

- Buses can be noisy places. Please help your child remember to use their "0-1" voices, so the drivers can be safe. Sometimes, when bus drivers have to speak loudly to be heard, our kiddos mistake loud for "yelling". We have given the bus drivers this tool to help our 4K students understand what kind of voice they should be using on the bus. It is also used in our classrooms so your children should be familiar with the tool and the language used.
- Staying buckled in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay

buckled and sitting in their seats, until the teacher comes to get them off the bus.

- Please be prepared to meet your child's bus 10-15 minutes before the scheduled bus times you have been given. Due to absences and our door to door busing the bus times may vary within that time frame.

- Early release is EVERY THURSDAY at 1:30. This means the buses in the afternoons will arrive home an hour and fifteen minutes earlier than the rest of the week. Please be ready to meet the bus earlier on Thursdays.

- If you are interested in more information about how you can help your child with riding the bus please talk with your child's teacher about our "Riding the Bus" social story.

- If your child is not going to be riding the bus to or from school please let the bus company AND your teacher know. We want to make sure we know exactly who is getting on and off the bus every day. The bus company can be reached at 825-8700.



WEEKEND FOOD FOR KIDS

Starting mid-December, we will offer nutritious meals and snacks for children over the weekend and extended breaks, free of charge.



Sign up using the QR Code above - only one form is needed per family

When you sign up, you will receive information on where/when food pick up will be available. Pick ups will take place on Thursdays each week.

Have questions? Please email sunprairiecommunityschools@gmail.com



SUN PRAIRIE FOOD RESOURCES



McKenzie Family Boys & Girls Club

232 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie

- **Family Meals to Go**

Family Meals consist of a premade meal for a family of 5, a produce box, and a cooler box with meats, cheeses, and yogurts. Available for anyone in the community on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Register ONCE at <https://www.classy.org/event/family-meals-to-go-mckenzie-family-boys-and-girls-club/e316731> then receive a WEEKLY form to reserve your meal for the following week. Pick up is a drive-through in the parking lot of the club.

Sun Prairie YMCA

1470 Don Simon Dr, Sun Prairie

608-478-4308

Email: mhrubes@ymcadane.org

- **Mobile Food Pantry**

Drive up service with no questions asked.

We load your trunk with boxes of food.

This is held at Westside Elementary every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry

18 Rickel Rd, Sun Prairie

608-478-0510

Free taxi service is available to and from the pantry. Call Sun Prairie Taxi at 608-837-5550 to request a ride to the pantry. Once at the pantry you can request a voucher to pay for the taxi.

People can use the Pantry every other week. Neighbors struggling with food insecurity can visit the food pantry once every 14 days for healthy food options and weekly kid's boxes. The pantry also offers personal care items.

Hours:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00pm - 3:30pm
- Tuesday/Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am - 11:00am

Sunshine Supper

1632 W. Main St, Sun Prairie

Email: sunshinesupper@gmail.com

- **Drive Through Meal Program**

Available for anyone on Mondays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Enter the parking lot off Hart Road (behind the building).

Meals are brought to your car. Walk-up service available.

SPASD Student COVID 19 Symptom Screening Checklist

Lista de verificación de los síntomas de COVID 19

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

The best place is to always start with your child's teacher. They have close contact with your child and have a deep understanding of their program and can most quickly address any of your concerns. The next step is to contact your 4K site director. They have a wealth of knowledge and can answer questions about the many site specific policies and procedures. You can also contact the 4K Program Supervisor to answer questions from a 4K- Sun Prairie School district perspective and help you navigate the school district in general.



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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expression and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or pa-rental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. (SPASD Policy JB)



If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 834-6620.

Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Es-pañol, por favor contactenos en el 834-6620.

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 834-6630.

Yog tus me nyuam lub xiv los yog niam thiab txiv/tus neeg muaj cai saib xyuas tus me nyuam xav tau qhov ntawv ntawm no ua lus Hmoob, thov hais rau peb paub rau ntawm 834-6630.