



Next step: Kindergarten

Now enrolling for the
2024-2025 school year

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de esta hoja informativa, pro favor llame a la oficina de su escuela para hablar con un interprete.

stillwaterschools.org





Expect More.

We are raising our expectations at Stillwater Area Public Schools and we want our entire community to “Expect More” from us. We’re shifting our focus, realigning our resources and developing a clear plan to make sure the things you want are the things we’re providing:

- More engaging, relevant learning opportunities that stimulate curiosity and meet the unique needs of every student.
- More experiences that expand the mind, heart and creative spirit.
- More real-world learning partnerships.
- More ways for kids to find their voice and learn how to use it for good.
- More support for those with learning differences.
- More opportunities for students to discover their unique gifts, and learn how to be successful throughout their lives.
- More. For everyone.



A culture of belonging

No one can reach their full potential if they don’t feel connected and safe. Here, everyone is welcome. Everyone belongs. All voices are heard, differences are embraced and every person and family is treated with dignity and respect.

Equally important are the relationships we build with students, families and each other. These last a lifetime, and are priceless.

Together, we are Ponies.

Kindergarten: What to expect



Here are things your child will be working on as they enter kindergarten:

- Write their first name
- Identify and name colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown)
- Identify and name numbers 0-5
- Identify and name uppercase letters
- Identify and name lowercase letters
- Name sounds for letters they recognize
- Count to 31
- Regulate emotions and behaviors
- Separate from parents
- Follow directions
- Transition between activities
- Interact with peers
- Share and take turns
- Solve social problems

A typical day in kindergarten

ARRIVE - Students may eat free breakfast before school begins. As they head to their classroom they will be warmly welcomed by their teacher, say hi to their friends and prepare for the day.

MORNING MEETING - Students greet one another and take part in a fun activity to build community within the classroom.

LESSONS - Students engage in small-group or whole group lessons in language arts and math. They’ll have lots of opportunities throughout the week to practice their new skills.

TIME TO PLAY! Students go outside for recess in the morning, before lunch, and in the afternoon to enjoy some fresh air and exercise as they play with friends.

SPECIALISTS - Depending on the day, students attend art, music, or physical education classes or make a trip to the media center.

LUNCH TIME - Students eat lunch in the cafeteria with their classmates.

LESSONS - Students participate in hands-on science lessons or learn about the world around them in social studies.

SNACK TIME - Students have the opportunity to bring a snack and drink to enjoy in the afternoon.

CLOSING ACTIVITY - At the end of the day, students gather on the rug for closing time and recap of the day.

TIME TO GO HOME - Kids gather their belongings and are escorted to the bus, car pool or Adventure Club area.

Important things to know

Health office

Health offices at each school are staffed by health care professionals committed to keeping students well. We will work with you to address any special medical needs your child may have. For more information, visit stillwaterschools.org/nurse or call the district nurse at 651-351-6914.

Immunizations

For the safety of all children, Minnesota law requires every student enrolled in school to be immunized against certain diseases or file a legal medical or non-medical exemption. Before a child can begin kindergarten, they will need to submit these records to their school's health office. Learn more about required immunizations at stillwaterschools.org/health.

School meals

All of our schools offer nutritious, free meals to our students, including breakfast and lunch.

Breakfast is an important start to your child's school day! Research has proven that students who eat breakfast do better at school.

All schools serve free breakfast before class begins. Please check with the school office for serving times.

Learn more about our meals program at stillwaterschools.org/meals.

Financial assistance

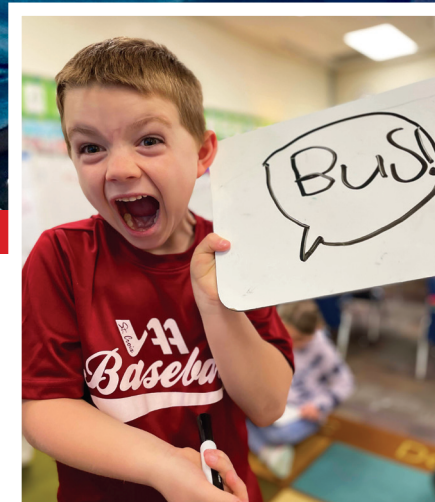
Financial assistance is available for families to help pay for many school-related activities (field trips, activities, instruments and more). Families are encouraged to fill out an Educational Benefits Form (available in August) to determine if they qualify. Your application could help not just your family, but kids across the district in many ways. Just one form ensures continued funding to support ALL kids in our schools. Learn more at stillwaterschools.org/benefits.

Special Education

Stillwater Area Public Schools provides a variety of specialized services for students who qualify, including interventions and support for academic, social, behavioral and physical obstacles to learning. If you suspect your child has a disability, please visit stillwaterschools.org/SPED or call the district's Student Support Services Office at 651-351-8604.

Multilingual Learner (ML) services

We help ML students develop communication skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing, which enables them to be successful within the academic mainstream classroom. The program also assists students through their cultural adjustment. We help them develop an understanding of American culture, while encouraging them to share their cultural backgrounds and realize the importance of their role in a multicultural society. For more information call 651-351-8317.



School age care

Adventure Club is an optional, fee-based, before- and after-school child care program for students kindergarten through grade 5. All-day care is also offered on non-school days and in the summer at select sites.

The program is in high demand due to its excellent quality and convenience. Enrollment in Adventure Club is not guaranteed, and each school has a limited enrollment capacity based on staffing.

To learn more about Adventure Club, visit stillwaterschools.org/AC or call 651-351-8300.

Transportation

Transportation is provided to elementary students who live one or more miles from their neighborhood school. Families who choose to alternately enroll their children in a District 834 school other than their neighborhood school are responsible for providing their own transportation. For more information about transportation, visit stillwaterschools.org/bus or call 651-351-8377.

Enrichment opportunities

Community Education offers enrichment and athletic opportunities at every age and every stage of life. Our learner-centered programs and services offer a variety of opportunities for learning, recreation and community involvement. From busy babies and t-ball to fitness and computer classes there's something for everyone! stillwater.ce.eleyo.com.



Next step: Kindergarten!

Parents and other caregivers can provide important activities and experiences for children as they transition from the preschool years to kindergarten. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child be successful in kindergarten.

Emotional development:

- Respond to your child's emotional and physical needs in kind and nurturing ways.
- Establish predictable family/life routines, but be flexible when necessary.
- Help your child identify and talk about their own feelings and the feelings of others.
- Model the use of appropriate words and actions when dealing with conflict and/or anger.

Approaches to learning:

- Plan activities and experiences that provide time for you and your child to learn together.
- Help your child explore and learn about your neighborhood and community.
- Encourage your child to try new things and solve problems.
- Monitor/limit the use of television, videos and computers.
- Talk to children every day about the things they see, hear and do.

Social competence:

- Listen carefully to your child. Encourage them to listen to others.
- Have regular conversations with your child and keep conversations going back and forth.
- Help your child identify and appreciate similarities and differences among people in your family and community.
- Model positive and appropriate ways to interact with children and adults.
- Use peaceful ways to resolve conflict with others.
- Encourage your child to help others in your family, neighborhood and community.

Physical development:

- Provide opportunities and time for outdoor large motor play.
- Provide opportunities for play with puzzles, blocks, beads, etc.
- Model and provide opportunities for writing and drawing at home.
- Serve healthy foods, eat regular meals and provide time for rest and relaxation.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of exercise and physical activity.
- Encourage your child to be independent when dressing, toileting, washing hands, eating, etc.
- Encourage your child to ask for help and be available to help when needed.



Spanish immersion

"After 3 years with the Spanish immersion program we are seeing a confident bilingual child who is becoming more and more fluent in Spanish which is absolutely incredible."
- Michaela Gwiazdon, parent

Apply now for 2024-2025

In addition to our outstanding neighborhood schools, Stillwater offers a dual language immersion program. Amigos Unidos (Friends United) is located within Lake Elmo Elementary and is available to families throughout the district.*

The program is made up of both English and heritage-Spanish speakers who learn alongside one another with guidance from a bilingual teacher. Amigos Unidos combines the district's outstanding curriculum and high academic standards with the Spanish language and culture to deliver an exceptional dual immersion experience. This gives each student a new perspective of the global environment in which we live.

Amigos Unidos currently serves grades K-6 and will expand to include grades 7-8 in future years. Learn more at stillwaterschools.org/immersion.

**Transportation is ONLY provided to students living within the Lake Elmo Elementary attendance boundary. Hub Stops are available for families outside the boundary to catch a shuttle to and from school.*



Interested in learning more?

We invite you to discover more about immersion and how it might benefit your child.

Information Night
December 13, 2023
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Lake Elmo Elementary

Space in Amigos Unidos is limited. Families must complete an online application along with their enrollment form by Jan. 15. A final selection is made through a lottery. If families do not receive their choice, they will be welcomed in their neighborhood school.

Our Schools

Families in our community value choice and we provide a variety of learning environments to meet your child's individual needs.

Elementary Schools

Afton-Lakeland Elementary School

475 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-351-6500
stillwaterschools.org/aftonlakeland

Andersen Elementary School

309 North 4th Street
Bayport, MN 55003
651-351-6600
stillwaterschools.org/andersen

Brookview Elementary School

11099 Brookview Road
Woodbury, MN 55129
651-275-2500
stillwaterschools.org/brookview

Lake Elmo Elementary School

11030 Stillwater Blvd. North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-351-6700
stillwaterschools.org/lakeelmo

Lily Lake Elementary School

2003 West Willard Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-6800
stillwaterschools.org/lilylake

Rutherford Elementary School

115 Rutherford Road
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-6400
stillwaterschools.org/rutherford

Stonebridge Elementary School

900 North Owens Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-8700
stillwaterschools.org/stonebridge



We're all Ponies

Stillwater Area Public Schools stretches from Marine on St. Croix to Afton. We serve more than 8,000 students in 18 different communities including Lake Elmo and Woodbury. The district is made up of seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

Our elementary schools serve students in preschool-grade 5. And while each school has its own personality, all use the same high-quality curriculum and innovative teaching methods to nurture your child's curiosity.

Students are eligible to attend school outside of their assigned attendance area provided space is available at the school of their choice and application processes are followed. Alternate applications, along with the district enrollment forms must be submitted by Jan. 15 in order to be considered.

No matter what school you attend you'll be glad you chose Stillwater Area Public Schools!

The best way to learn what makes our schools great is by experiencing our schools for yourself! Watch a virtual tour or schedule one in person with the school secretary.




**School
tours**