



# Parent Handbook

# Welcome to

# Kindergarten



**CENTENNIAL**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Centennial School District, the connecting hub for our communities, is to empower all learners with voice, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.

### We will accomplish our mission by:

**CONNECTING.** We offer vibrant learning environments by growing personal relationships throughout the school community, deepening by contributing to the community, and making coursework relevant to students' lives.

**ACHIEVING.** We support the strengths and address the challenges of each individual student, working to eliminate barriers to learning and opportunity, by providing rigorous content, innovative and evidence-based instruction, and effective learning supports.

**PREPARING.** We foster perseverance, growth mindset, and personal advocacy, preparing students for success in a future of limitless possibility.

### LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Kindergarten Families,

A special welcome to the incoming Class of 2037!

Starting kindergarten is an exciting time for students and families. Your child will soon begin their learning journey in a classroom with new friends led by one of Centennial's dedicated teachers. Centennial focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary for students to grow, learn, and be prepared to thrive in the future.

Centennial is a special place. Year after year, our schools are recognized for their academic excellence. The district's vibrant learning environment, coupled with a personalized team approach, helps support the strengths and needs of each student. The educational foundation focuses on reading and writing, math, physical education, and music.

As you prepare your child for the start of kindergarten, check out "A Sneak Peek into Kindergarten," a series of short videos that take you and your child into our schools—into classrooms for circle time and a math lesson, out for recess, have lunch in the cafeteria, visit a music class, and move your body in the gym during physical education. These videos and messages from the principals and myself and helpful information on Centennial's before and after-school care program, health and nutrition services, special education, and transportation can be found online at [isd12.org/enroll-today/kindergarten-information](http://isd12.org/enroll-today/kindergarten-information).

Mark your calendar for your child's "Kindergarten Round-Up" held in the spring. More information on that event can be found in this mailing. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school. Staff are happy to assist you.

In addition to the academic offerings during the school day, we also know that student and family success happens outside the classroom. We encourage your participation in the many co-curricular activities the District and our Community Education program have to offer.

Thank you for choosing Centennial Schools. We look forward to having you and your child be a part of our community.

Warm Regards,



Jeff Holmberg  
Superintendent of Centennial School

# Checklist for Kindergarten Registration

Your child will be completely registered when ALL the following information is received:

## Online Registration

Be sure to supply ALL information requested by February 3.

## **Parent/Guardian Relationship Verification**

Birth Certificate showing you as parent or court orders, documents related to guardianship or custody limitations, if applicable.

## **Pupil Health Immunization Record**

**Note, children having incomplete immunization records will not be allowed to enter school. Please contact your student's school nurse for health-related questions. For conscientious objectors, please see information on the Minnesota Department of Health's website on the state's immunization law exemption provision at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/exemption.html> The form can be found (see page 2 of the form); sign and have the form notarized.**

## **Address Verification – if new to the district**

This may include: purchase agreement, lease agreement, or driver's license with address shown, utility bill or a notarized letter, verifying you are living at the address shown on the registration form.

## **Record of Early Childhood Screening**

A copy of your child's Early Childhood Screening is required. ECS is a free check of a child's hearing and vision, weight and height, health history, immunizations, speech and language, general development and motor skills. Minnesota law requires screening before a child can enter kindergarten. If your child was screened through Centennial School District, a copy is already on file. (If you are not sure if your child's screening was completed by Centennial, please call 763.792.6120 to confirm.) If your child was screened by another school district, Head Start, or other provider, please send a copy of the record with your child's registration materials. If your child has not been screened yet, please email [ecscreening@isd12.org](mailto:ecscreening@isd12.org) or call 763.792.6120. For more information and upcoming screening dates, click on the link above.

## **Education Plans**

Submit a copy of 504 Plan, IEP and/or Gifted and Talented, if applicable.

**We look forward to having your student in our classroom!**

Need an interpreter? Please send an email to [registration@isd12.org](mailto:registration@isd12.org). Email will be returned within 48 hours, Monday - Friday.

## Kindergarten Questions and Answers

[Click here for a more in-depth description of what kindergarten looks like at Centennial Schools.](#)

### **What is the minimum age requirement for entering kindergarten?**

Children are required to be 5 years old on September 1 of the school calendar year in which the child attends school.

### **What are the elementary start and end times (including kindergarten)?**

All day Kindergarten	9:17 a.m. – 3:47 p.m.
Kids Club (before and after school daycare)	6:30 a.m until school starts and when school ends until 6:00p.m.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

What if I want to enroll my child in an elementary school outside my boundary? Each request will be reviewed by the district, and families will be notified by early April. These forms are available on the district website or by contacting the elementary school that resides within your school boundary.

[Click here for a more in-depth description of Open Enrollment Information](#)

If you wish your child to attend another elementary school other than your boundary school and within the School District, you need to submit a completed In-District Transfer form by March 15.

[Click here for a more in-depth description of In-District Transfer Information](#)

### Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

Centennial School District follows Minnesota State Academic Standards in designing the kindergarten experience. Information on these standards can be found at [education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds](http://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds).

#### EVERYDAY STUDIES

**Language Arts** Classrooms use the Benchmark Advance curriculum to engage students in the formation of language and literacy skills. Instruction focuses on concepts of print, phonemic awareness, phonics, word recognition, various forms of comprehension, and writing.

**Mathematics** Students read, write, count, compare, order, compose, and decompose numbers. They recognize, complete, and extend patterns. Students begin to understand concepts of number operations, algebra, geometry, and measurement. The core text, Everyday Mathematics, is designed to both extend student learning and circle back to reinforce previously taught concepts and ensure a depth of understanding.

**Social Studies** Students are introduced to the values and skills integral to the American democratic civic identity. They explore various cultural traditions, explain the importance of rules, and begin to understand the relationship between self, others, and society. Students learn basic economic principles, geographic concepts, and how to talk about the past, present, and future.

**Science** Students learn how to ask questions, gather, and record evidence through observations, and compare, sort, and analyze data to describe patterns and relationships.

**Rotational Studies** In addition to the daily learning areas, students participate in Music, Physical Education, and Cybrary on a rotational basis throughout the week.

**Music** - Students explore, create, and perform sounds, songs, and rhythms through a variety of experiences.

**Physical Education** – Students move their bodies and learn habits for a healthy life.

**Cybrary** – Student develop technology skills in creation, coding, and communication. This is also a time to explore the resources with the media center.

**Art** - Art is integrated into multiple subject areas through a variety of projects and activities.

## How Do I Know if My Child is Ready for Kindergarten

Centennial School District wants all children to be successful and to enjoy school. Every child is unique and enters school with a variety of skills. The link below includes many activities your child can practice before entering Kindergarten. This is the perfect time to think about which skills your child has already mastered and which ones you can continue to practice together.

[Click here](#) for a more in-depth description of what to look for in readiness for kindergarten.

# Kindergarten Transportation Information

Transportation for all day, every day kindergarten is available for students who live outside the kindergarten walk area and attend the school that serves their neighborhood. School assignments are based on a student’s home address. An alternate address may be selected as the pickup or drop off location if the alternate address is within the same school attendance area as your home and outside the walking boundary. Please note: Due to high levels of vehicle traffic, parents/guardians are discouraged from providing transportation.

Alternate pickup / drop off locations are possible but must be consistent 5 days per week (Monday- Friday). In other words, transportation cannot be provided to or from different addresses on various days. An alternate address may be selected for before school, after school, or both. If an alternate location is requested and the day care and home addresses are in different elementary attendance areas, the school assignment will be based on the day care address.

District personnel understand that things may change after the transportation information is submitted. If so, please contact the [Transportation Office](#) with any change requests regarding your child’s transportation needs. Transportation assignments will be mailed during the summer.

## General Information and Guidelines

- Kindergarteners are generally seated at the front of the bus.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to teach their child to wait for the bus driver to wave the child on to the bus for their safety.
- Pick up and drop off locations are determined by the number of children riding the bus and their location. Transportation staff work diligently to ensure that pick up and drop off locations are near each child’s destination.
- Pick up and drop off locations within cul-de-sacs and trailer park communities are often limited due to navigation issues.
- Pick up and drop off times are subject to change due to the number of children served and individual school schedules. Parents/Guardians will be notified prior to changes being made.

## Immunizations Requirements/Health Information

A student’s health may affect his or her learning. Therefore, updated health information is important, this will be held in confidence, and disclosed to school personnel to the extent necessary to protect the health and safety of the student. Please contact your student’s school nurse for health-related questions. Pupil Health Immunization Record: **Note, children having incomplete immunization records will not be allowed to enter school.**

For conscientious objectors, please see information on the Minnesota Department of Health's website on the state's immunization law exemption provision at [https:// www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/exemption.html](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/exemption.html). See page 2 of the form; sign and have the form notarized.

## Community Education

### Community Education offers additional enrichment opportunities!

In addition to activities for all ages, specifically, Community Education has expanded its offering for Preschoolers and families. Visit us online, <https://communityed.isd12.org/> . Financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Here is a sampling of some of the activities we typically offer for the preschool-aged learner and families:

- Musical Theater
- Music Together
- Kids Dance-Hop N’ Tots
- Aquatics-Swim Lessons-Tiny Tot
- Gymnastics- Wiggle Time (ages 2-3), Little Tumblers (ages 3-4), Tumblers (ages 5-7)

Individuals with special needs are welcome in any Community Education activity they qualify for and may bring a helper at no extra charge if needed. Please contact Community Education with questions.

We always welcome new instructors or ideas for classes. If you have a skill, interest, or hobby you may be interested in sharing with others as a class instructor please contact Sharon Sculley, Community Education Coordinator at 763.792.6106 to discuss the possibilities.

[Early Childhood Screening](#) (ECS) – ECS is a FREE check of a child's hearing and vision, weight, height, health history, immunizations, speech, language, general development, and motor skills. Minnesota law requires Early Childhood Screening before a child can enter kindergarten. Screenings are held throughout the school year and available by appointment only.

[Early Childhood Family Education](#) (ECFE) – Centennial ECFE offers high quality learning opportunities and resources for families with children from birth to kindergarten age. Families learn and grow together in ECFE through parent and child interaction, guided play and learning experiences, and parent discussion. Join the fun by participating in parent- child classes. For more information, call 763.792.6120 or visit the linked website above.

[Youth Community Education](#) – Activities are listed in the Centennial Community Education Activity Guide produced three times a year. A variety of physical fitness-related activities and sports camps

Sports options for boys and girls beginning at the preschool level

Birthday parties - year round. Several options available including pool time, gymnastics time, gym time or themed craft party

Swimming lessons and Gymnastics

Options for preschoolers include Tiny Tots and Poly Wogs for swimming and Wiggle Time and Little Tumblers for gymnastics.

Open swim times offered year-round.

STEM-focused classes

A variety of options including Science Exploration and Beginning Chess.

A variety of fine arts classes including theater, art, and music

Ongoing musical theater classes, dance, and a variety of artistic exploration offerings.

[Kids Club](#) – Where we build, we tinker, we paint, we play, we work together, and we create friendships in Centennial Community Education's choice-based school age childcare program. Kids Club offers flexible care options (before, after, Non-School Days (NSD), or any combination) for students in grades kindergarten through 5 at each of our elementary schools from 6:30 am-6:00 pm. Kids Club offers all-day care on Non-School Days and during the summer at select sites.

[Summer Kids Club C.A.M.P.](#) - Programming available to families with students entering grades k-6. Students must be toilet trained. Kids Club C.A.M.P. philosophy provides framework for offering an enriching educational and recreational environment that enhances development and encourages children to explore who they are and grow socially through C=creative Arts, A=academic enrichment, M=moovin' & groovin', P=physical fitness.

Students are separated into groups based on similar grade levels. Each room environment features age-appropriate centers with games, blocks, manipulatives, arts, crafts, reading center, and creative play area. Kids Club follows guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and provide outdoor recreational experiences, open swim, special interest clubs, and weekly field trips are all a part of Kids Club C.A.M.P. More information can be found online at <https://communityed.isd12.org/kids-club>



# CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

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### Elementary Schools

- Blue Heron Elementary 763.792.6200
- Centennial Elementary 763.792.5300
- Centerville Elementary 763.792.5800
- Golden Lake Elementary 763.792.5900
- Rice Lake Elementary 763.792.5700

### Who to call for:

- Community Education/Kids Club - Cori Sendle, Director.....763.792.6100
- Early Childhood - Deb Klausing, Admin. Assistant.....763.792.6120
- Health Services – Kelsi Gruber, District Nurse.....763.792.5231
- Kids Club - Dawn Turnblad, Admin. Assistant.....763.792.6193
- Nutrition Services - Tara Forner, Director.....763.792.5423
- Open Enrollment – Wendy Schroeder, Admin. Assistant.....763.792.6006
- Special Education - Kathy Zwonitzer, Director.....763.792.6040
- Transportation - Arlen Hviding, Supervisor.....612.789.5143

### DISTRICT OFFICE

4707 North Road  
Circle Pines, MN 55014

### PHONE

763.792.6000

### FAX

763.392.6943

### EMAIL

[registration@isd12.org](mailto:registration@isd12.org)

### WEBSITE

[www.isd12.org](http://www.isd12.org)