

Kindergarten Guide



www.isd742.org



St. Cloud Area
School District 

Your Pre-Enrollment Checklist

According to Minnesota statute, a child is ready for kindergarten when he/she:

- Is at least 5 years of age by Sept. 1 of the child's start of kindergarten
- Has received early childhood screening
- Has received medically acceptable immunizations

✓ COMPLETE EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Minnesota state law requires Early Childhood Screening for all children entering kindergarten in a public school. Ideally, your child should complete this between the ages of 3½ and 4.

If your child has NOT completed this FREE screening, please contact Early Childhood Education at 320-370-8250.

✓ UPDATE YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATIONS

For the safety of all children, Minnesota state law requires that your child has been immunized against: 5 DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), 4 Polio, 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), Series of 3 hepatitis B and 2 varicella.

Immunization records must be returned to your child's school nurse by Aug. 15. If your child has a medical reason for not receiving immunizations, a signed statement from your physician or clinic is needed. Families who object to the immunizations must provide a notarized declination form (available upon request).

✓ LEARN MORE & DECIDE ON LANGUAGE OPTIONS

In addition to the traditional English classroom, District 742 offers Chinese Dual Language Immersion, Spanish Dual Language Immersion and Somali Dual Language Immersion choices for students entering kindergarten.

See pages 5 and 6 for language immersion information as well as Language Immersion Information Night dates.



Preparing for Kindergarten

Is your soon-to-be kindergartner prepared for kindergarten? Below are examples of knowledge and skills that contribute to children's success in school. This list shows examples of children's development.

LANGUAGE & LITERACY SKILLS

- Likes books and being read to
- Knows that letters have sounds
- Sings and knows rhymes
- Shows interest in sounds and words
- Holds a book and turns pages
- Knows upper and lower case letters
- Knows words that rhyme and joins rhyming games
- Talks to kids and adults in full sentences

SMALL & LARGE MOTOR SKILLS

- Holds scissors correctly
- Cuts straight and curved lines with some skill
- Holds pencil, crayon and marker in the right way
- Writes name with only the first letter capital
- Catches and throws a ball
- Hops on one foot and gallops

STUDENT SELF-HELP SKILLS

- Eats a mix of healthy foods
- Sleeps 10-11 hours per night
- Says full name
- Uses toilet without help
- Washes and dries own hands
- Blows nose and covers sneezes and coughs
- Tells others what they need
- Puts on own shoes and coat

MATH SKILLS

- Knows numbers 0-10 in any order
- Counts to 20 or higher
- Knows basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, etc.)
- Names 10 colors
- Counts a group of 10 objects
- Sees and completes simple patterns (red, blue, red, blue)

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS

- Listens to adults and follows rules
- Keeps hands and feet to self
- Gets along with other children
- Plays with other children and solves problems with kindness
- Sits and listens for a short time
- Names feelings and controls actions
- Listens to a story without interrupting
- Stays with task even when difficult
- Tries new things



Many Ways to Enroll

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS UNDERWAY!

Enrolling in kindergarten is required and is a separate enrollment process from preschool and early childhood screening.

1

OPEN HOUSE

Join us at a Kindergarten Open House!

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Clearview | Jan. 17 | 4:00 - 6:00 |
| Discovery | Jan. 24 | 3:30 - 5:00 |
| Kennedy | Jan. 24 | 4:30 - 6:00 |
| Madison | Jan. 30 | 4:00 - 6:00 |
| Oak Hill | Jan. 18 | 4:00 - 5:30 |
| Talahi | Jan. 23 | 4:00 - 6:00 |
| Westwood | Jan. 25 | 4:30 - 6:00 |

2

ONLINE

Enroll your soon-to-be kindergartner from the comfort of your home by using our online enrollment feature available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Go to www.isd742.org/enrollment.

3

WELCOME CENTER

Visit the Welcome Center and enroll in-person at Quarryview Education Center, 800 7th St S, Waite Park.

Monday - Friday
7:30-4:30

320-370-8116 (English)
320-370-8117 (Spanish)
320-370-8118 (Somali)



Where Will My Child Attend?

CLEARVIEW

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Option
7310 Highway 24, Clear Lake, 7:30 - 2:00

DISCOVERY

Somali Dual Language Immersion Option
700 7th St S, Waite Park, 7:30 - 2:00

KENNEDY

1300 Jade Road, St. Joseph, 7:30 - 2:00

MADISON

Chinese Dual Language Immersion Option
2805 9th St N, St. Cloud, 7:30 - 2:00

OAK HILL

2600 County Road 136, St. Cloud, 7:30 - 2:00

TALAH

Somali Dual Language Immersion Option
1321 University Drive SE, St. Cloud, 7:35 - 2:05

WESTWOOD

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Option
5800 Ridgewood Road, St. Cloud, 7:30 - 2:00

School start and dismissal times listed are for the 2023-24 school year. Times subject to change for 2024-25.

CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN DISTRICT 742 PRESCHOOL?

Look for information to come regarding Kindergarten Express enrollment!



For a map of school boundaries visit www.isd742.org/overview.

Language Immersion

District 742 offers dual language immersion programs in Spanish and Chinese, and beginning in the fall of 2023, a program for kindergartners in Somali as well. These programs immerse children in a second language allowing them to become bilingual at an early age.

Over 30 years of research indicates that language immersion is the most effective type of foreign language instruction. Dual Language Immersion is an excellent way for students to learn academic content while acquiring another language at the same time. Students receive instruction in a partner language (Chinese, Spanish, Somali) as well as English. The three core goals are academic achievement, bilingualism/biliteracy and sociocultural competence. Our language immersion programs.

CHINESE

Madison Elementary School (Available for students in all attendance areas and out of district)

SPANISH

Clearview Elementary School (Available for Northside students and out of district)

Westwood Elementary School (Available for Southside students and out of district)

SOMALI

Talahi Community School (Available for students in the Lincoln & Talahi attendance areas)

Discovery Community School (Available for students in the Oak Hill & Discovery attendance areas)

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION VS. FULL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

In a dual language immersion program, or two-way immersion, the goal is for students to receive instruction at least half the day in the partner language and up to half the day in English.

In a full language immersion program, students are immersed in a second language while they learn math, reading, writing, social studies, science, health and other subjects.

WHY BEGIN A SECOND LANGUAGE IN KINDERGARTEN?

A young child's brain is developmentally ready to learn a new language. A child's brain has twice as many synapses (connections) in the brain as an adult.

A young brain must use these connections or lose them. When children wait until high school to start studying a foreign language, the task can be more difficult.

BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Enhances a child's mental development and intellectual growth
- Develops flexibility in thinking, sensitivity to languages and a better ear for listening
- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
- Gives a child the ability to communicate with people he or she would otherwise not have the chance to know
- Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries
- Increases career opportunities

LEARN MORE!

Go to www.isd742.org/immersion



How Will My Child Grow?

District 742 offers several programming options for your child to learn and develop within a safe and caring environment. We focus on each child's success in school and learning. Our outstanding teachers and staff look forward to partnering with you as your child experiences a wide variety of learning opportunities.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Develops positive, constructive relationships

- Builds self-confidence, self-respect and respect for others
- Learns to cooperate, negotiate, follow directions and problem-solve
- Sees themselves as part of a diverse community

PHYSICAL GROWTH

Develops small and large motor skills

Develops independence and self-help skills

INTELLECTUAL GROWTH

English Language Arts

- Reading, writing, rhyming, sight vocabulary, sequencing and retelling, alphabet and sounds

Math

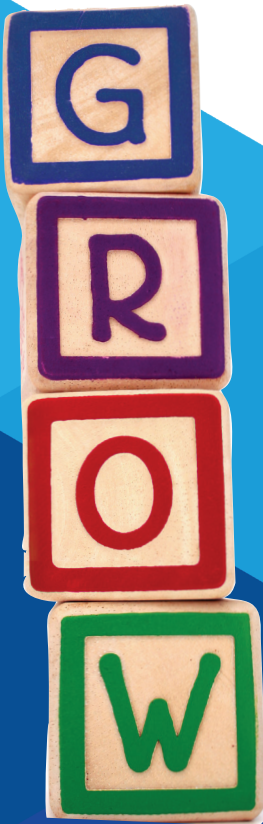
- Numbers, counting, graphs, measuring, patterns, estimation, addition, subtraction, shapes, classification, money and telling time

Social Studies/ Science/ Health

- Community helpers, careers, maps and globes, family, diversity, seasons, weather, environment and healthy eating habits

Fine Arts/Computers

- Art, music, dance, physical education, creative drama and computer lab



What is Kindergarten Like?

In some ways, kindergarten is much like preschool and daycare. Kindergarten also involves:

INTERACTING WITH MORE PEOPLE

Kindergarten is usually part of a larger school. So, your child may interact with more teachers, school staff and children.

NEW SETTINGS & ACTIVITIES

For the first time in his or her life, your child may:

- Use a school library
- Play in a gym
- Eat in a cafeteria
- Ride a school bus

MORE STRUCTURE

Kindergarten classrooms have a daily routine. For example, they might use the library and play-ground only at set times.

MORE CHILDREN

Your child may be in a class with 20 or more children. This may mean less individual attention, but it also means a chance to:

- Develop independent work habits
- Learn to work and play with a group
- Learn from the diversity of classmates

MORE FOCUS ON LEARNING

Compared to preschool or daycare, your child may spend more time doing:

- Science and math activities
- Reading and writing activities
- Pencil and paper exercises

Changes like these can help your child grow in many ways. Talk about them in a positive way.



School Services

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Nutritional services proudly prepares healthy meals for our students and staff that taste great. Menus are planned to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA). Meals are planned to include low fat foods, whole grains, fruits and vegetables and are designed to meet the calorie needs of active students. More information can be found at www.isd742.org/nutritionalservices.

NURSING SERVICES

Nursing services works with schools and families to promote health education and ensure a safe and healthy environment. Licensed school nurses provide:

- Vision screening for grades one, three and five.
- Hearing screening for grades one and three.
- Scoliosis screening for girls in grades five and six.
- Medication management
- Development and implementation of healthcare plans
- First-aid and illness management

SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE

BEFORE SCHOOL

Kids' Connection is designed to serve children enrolled in elementary schools that have later start times. The program provides a safe, enriching, educational and stimulating environment for students before the school day. Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. Early registration is encouraged. More information can be found at www.isd742.org/youthcare or by calling 320-370-8200.

AFTER SCHOOL

KIDSTOP, a program through the Boys & Girls Club, offers after-school childcare in each of our elementary schools. Activities include homework help, outdoor games, arts and crafts, gym activities and computer access. More information can be found at www.bgcmn.org/kidstop or by calling 320-252-7616.

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TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for kindergarten students is provided to families who reside in a school's attendance area and live farther than one mile from that school. Students who are enrolled in Language Immersion programs and live within District 742's boundaries are eligible to receive transportation to the host schools. Transportation registration forms and information can be found at www.isd742.org/transportationservices or by calling 320-370-6940.

TRANSLATION SERVICES

If you need help translating these materials please call:

320-370-8116 (English)

320-370-8117 (Spanish)

320-370-8118 (Somali)



Si necesita ayuda para traducir estas materias, por favor llama 320-370-8117.

Haddaab u baahan tahay in lagaaga caawiyo tarjumaada ku saabsan waxyaabahan, fadlan soo wac telfoonkan 320-370-8118.