



EARLY CHILDHOOD HUB



Early Childhood Hub Family Newsletter

September 2024

A Note from Supervisor Deanna Spanjers

Thank you for choosing the Districtwide Early Childhood Hub for your child! It's hard to believe that we're already four weeks into Pre-K! We've seen so much growth and change just in these first few weeks. As I spend time in classrooms, I see kids showing independence with classroom routines, building relationships with staff and peers, and practicing all sorts of important skills like waiting, turn-taking, and cleaning up after play.

The family newsletter will be sent out monthly and will include school news, upcoming events and important dates, and other fun information!

Families are always welcome to reach out to me with questions or concerns. I look forward to connecting with all of you throughout the year!

Deanna Spanjers, EC Hub Supervisor

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651-744-3345

Families are invited to Fall Family Day on Friday, October 11 at 2:30 at the Early Childhood Hub. Families will do an activity in the classroom with their child and then have the opportunity to hear about some of the resources that the Hub has available to support children and families. Families are welcome to take their child(ren) home after the event. More information about Fall Family Day was sent home in folders this week.

YOU'RE
INVITED

Food and Celebrations at School

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) works to promote student health and wellness. At the Early Childhood Hub, we ask families to do the following:

- Send a LABELED water bottle to school with your child each day
- If you send a lunch with your child, send healthy and individual-sized portions (not large bags)
- Please do not send the following food items with your child: candy, soda, sports drinks, or nut butters (for allergy reasons)

Holidays and Birthdays:

SPPS serves students and families with rich and diverse beliefs/backgrounds. Therefore, SPPS schools do not celebrate holidays at school. As a school, we will have fun celebrations throughout the year that are not holiday-related. **Please do not send holiday treats/bags/cards to school with your child; students cannot pass or receive treats for holidays.**

We love to celebrate student birthdays at the Hub, but we focus on fun instead of food. Bringing food to celebrate birthdays may exclude students with cultural restrictions, allergies, or medical conditions. We also don't want to put a burden on families to buy treats for the classroom. **Please do not send food treats to school for your child's birthday.** We will celebrate your child in other ways that do not involve food!



Staff Spotlight: Ms. Amaya, School Counselor

Hello Families!

My name is Vanessa Amaya and I am the School Counselor at the Districtwide Early Childhood Hub. This is my eleventh year in the district and my first year at the Hub. I am excited to be a part of such an amazing learning community.

As the school counselor, I provide services to support the academic success, personal/social well being and career development of all students at our school. So what does this look like in early childhood? I will be doing this by supporting during *Daily Meeting* time (reading books, teaching

different skills), doing an activity during *Guided Group* time, and engaging with students during *Active Learning* time. I use guidelines and frameworks developed by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) to inform the work that I do. I also work closely with the social worker to make sure that all students are receiving the support that they need to be successful.

I look forward to being a part of the awesome learning that happens every day at the Hub! I am always happy to talk with families about the work that I do or any concerns that come up. I frequently check voicemail/email and will typically respond within 24 hours.

In partnership,

Vanessa Amaya

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Friendly Reminders for Arrival and Dismissal

If you drop your child off at school in the mornings:

- Bring children to the door that faces Hamline Ave. (not the front door of the school on Charles Ave.) between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. We do not have supervision for students prior to 9:15.
- If you arrive after 9:30, come to the front door of the school and sign in your child at the office.
- As we move into the second month of the school year, we're encouraging families to support their child's growing independence by saying a quick good-bye at the door and then giving their child the chance to walk in the building independently and join their class.

If you pick your child up in the afternoons:

- Please be at the door that faces Hamline Ave between 3:50 and 4:00. We do not have supervision for students after 4:00.
- Please have your ID ready. Our regular staff at family pick-up know most families by now, but you may be asked for your ID if different staff are supervising the door.
- People who are picking up your child must be on the contact list in Campus (our student information system) so if someone new is picking up your child, please notify the office beforehand.
- Please communicate any changes to the pick-up plan before 3:30 by calling the office (651-293-5200).

If your child rides the bus:

- Be at the bus stop five minutes early in the morning and afternoon.
- An adult must be at the stop to meet your child in the afternoon. Drivers will not let Pre-K students off the bus unless an adult is present.
- Families can call the school with transportation questions, but families can also contact the district's Transportation Department directly at 651-696-9600.

Important Dates!

October 3: No School

October 4: Pajama Day!

October 11: Fall Family Day at the Hub

October 16: Picture Day

October 17-18: No School

October 25: No school

October 30: Field trip to Tamarack Nature Center (Ms. Amy, Ms. Sally, Ms. Angela, and Ms. Stacy's classes)

November 13: Field trip to Tamarack Nature Center (Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jo, and Ms. Helen's classes)



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Early Childhood Hub: 651-293-5200



Deanna Spanjers

Deanna is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters