



The *best start* possible

Welcome to
kindergarten in
Mounds View
Public Schools!

We're **Paws the Panther**
from Pike Lake Education Center
and **Shelly the Snail** from Snail Lake
Education Center. We hope this guidebook
helps your family understand what to expect
in kindergarten and how to best prepare when
joining our school communities. **See you soon!**



Mounds View

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Para asistencia en traducciones ó ayuda como intérprete, por favor llama
651-724-2854.

Yog xa tau kev pab thiab hais ua lus Hmoob thov hu rau 651-724-0396.

Haddi aad ubaahantahay faahfaahin dheerad ah ama turjumaad, fadlan
kala 651-724-4577.

Registration requirements



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Age

Children must be five years old on or before September 1 to register for kindergarten. Registration for the following school year begins in January and continues throughout the year.

Screening

State law requires that students entering kindergarten must have completed an Early Childhood Screening prior to the start of kindergarten. Early Childhood Screening is a quick and simple check of how your child is growing and developing. Between the ages of three and four, screening can detect possible health or learning concerns so that children can get help before they start kindergarten.



At the screening appointment, a licensed teacher checks vision, hearing, height, weight, immunization status, large and small muscle development, thinking, language and communication skills and social and emotional development. Visit mvpschools.org/ECscreening to learn more and to schedule your child's free screening.



Registration

All families must register their students for kindergarten. Call or email for registration information.

- Pike Lake: 651-621-7400 • pikelake@mvpschools.org
- Snail Lake: 651-621-8000 • snailake@mvpschools.org

Proof of residency, birth certificate and immunizations

Submit proof of residence within the school attendance area (driver's license, utility bill, rental/lease/purchase agreement) and a copy of a birth certificate. Before the start of kindergarten, a record of immunization or a signed waiver must be submitted.



Kindergarten checklist



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Quick checklist

The items below need to be completed and/or provided before the first day of school:

- ☐ Early Childhood screening
- ☐ Registration for kindergarten
- ☐ Proof of residency
- ☐ Birth certificate
- ☐ Immunizations
- ☐ Emergency contact information

☐ Early January: Register for kindergarten

Registration information will be mailed to your residence. If you don't receive this, contact your school.

☐ January/February: Get to know your school

During the registration process, you will learn more about your kindergarten center and the programming.

☐ Summer: Enjoy Popsicles on the Playground

Dates and times to be determined

☐ August: Watch a video of "A day in the life of kindergarten"



☐ August: Take a 360° virtual tour of your school building mvpschools.org/virtual-tours

☐ Week before school starts: "Meet Your Teacher" conferences

Parents tell us these conferences make going to school on the first day easier for their children. Your child will get to know their new teacher, spend some time in the classroom and be all set to start the year off right. Information will be sent to families about how to sign up in mid-August.

A work in progress



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Children learn and grow at different rates. Here are some things students work on during kindergarten:

- **Language and literacy:** Children learn to identify letters and their sounds. They read short words and storybooks, and they write letters and their names. Children also expand their vocabulary and learn to distinguish between consonants and vowels.
- **Math:** Children learn to count to 30, recognize shapes and solve simple addition problems. They also learn basic math concepts through games, puzzles and real-life applications.
- **Social and emotional skills:** Children learn to get along with others, recognize and express their emotions and manage their feelings and behavior.
- **Science:** Children learn about the natural world through experiments and discussions about plants, animals and the environment.
- **Art:** Children learn to identify lines, colors, shapes, visual art styles and various mediums to be creative and express themselves.
- **Music:** Children learn about various instruments (including voice) and the use of rhythm, pitch, expression and performance.
- **Physical development:** Children develop large and small motor skills through physical activity, puzzles, writing, drawing and building with materials.
- **Self-care skills:** Children are developing independence in using the bathroom, packing their backpack, buckling a seat belt and getting dressed. This includes putting on outside winter clothes (i.e., snow pants, boots, jacket, hat and gloves).



Transition tips



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Parents, guardians or 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.
- Monitor/limit the use of television, videos and computers.
- Help your child explore and learn about your neighborhood and community.
- Encourage your child to try new things and solve problems.
- 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.
- Play with your child as much as you can. It supports learning and builds your relationship.

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.

A typical day



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- Upon arrival, students can enjoy a free breakfast.
- Students go to their classroom and prepare for the day. They will be warmly welcomed by their teacher, make lunch choices and say hello to their friends.
- The day begins with a morning meeting. Students will greet one another and take part in a fun activity to build community within the classroom.
- Students will engage in whole group and small group lessons in literacy and math. There are many opportunities throughout the week to practice their skills.
- Lunch time! Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria with their classmates.
- Recess! Students will go outside for recess to enjoy some fresh air and exercise as they play with friends.
- Depending on the day, students will attend art, music, science or physical education classes or make a trip to the library.
- Snack time! Students will have the opportunity to have a snack in the afternoon or morning. It is also important for them to bring a water bottle to school.
- At the end of the day, students will gather on the rug for a closing activity and recap of the day.
- Time to go home! Kids will gather their belongings and be escorted to the bus, parent pickup or Y Care area.

Watch “A day in the life of kindergarten”



mvpschools.org/pikelake



mvpschools.org/snailake





Get involved



Parent involvement in a child's learning has been shown to significantly impact achievement, attendance and engagement. In fact, the earlier parent involvement begins, the more powerful the effects. Here are several ways to be involved:

- **Join the parent organization**

Getting involved with Parent Teacher Organization/ Parent Teacher Association is a great way to connect with other parents and stay up-to-date with what's happening at your school.

- **Attend school events**

Schools will have optional family events throughout the year for students and families to enjoy.

- **Eat lunch at school with your child**

Check in at the front office and come to the lunch room for lunch time.

- **Volunteer**

There are one-time and ongoing ways to volunteer. Check with your school. All volunteers must have completed a background check.

- **E-News and E-Flyers**

At the beginning of the school year, families will be automatically subscribed to their school and district e-news. Families will also automatically be subscribed to our Peachjar e-flyer distribution system. This is where you can find out about events, activities and programs offered to students by local non-profit organizations.



Looking ahead

Scan to search for
your attendance area.

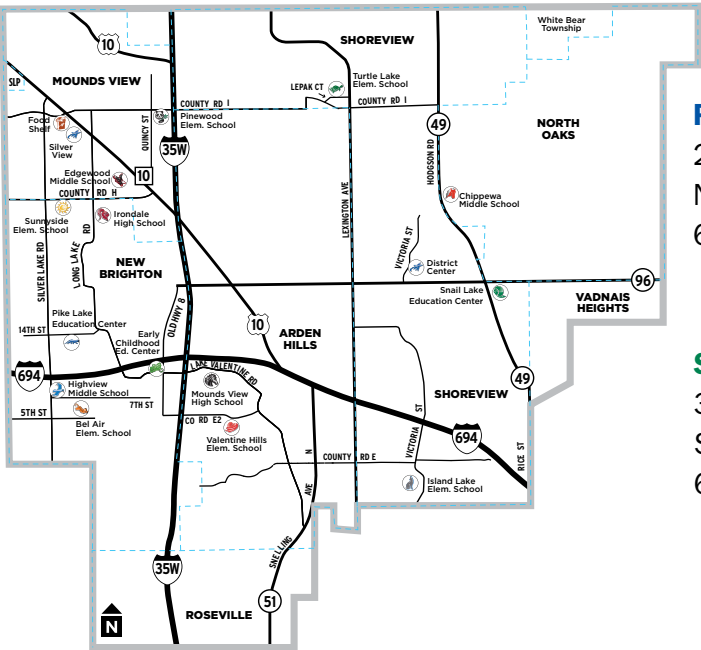


A personalized, full-day kindergarten experience is provided in two buildings – Pike Lake Education Center in New Brighton and Snail Lake Education Center in Shoreview. Both sites are exclusively focused on students in the earliest stages of their educational journey. Students are assigned to schools based on their home address.

The following year, students attend their respective elementary school for grades 1-5.

School Feeder System

Education Center		Elementary School		Middle School		High School
Pike Lake	→ 	Bel Air 1800 NW 5th Street, New Brighton, MN 55112	→	Highview	→	Irondale
Pike Lake	→ 	Pinewood 5500 Quincy St., Mounds View, MN 55112	→	Edgewood	→	Irondale
Pike Lake	→ 	Sunnyside 2070 County Road H, New Brighton, MN 55112	→	Edgewood	→	Irondale
Pike Lake	→ 	Valentine Hills 1770 County Road E2 W, Arden Hills, MN 55112	→	Highview	→	Irondale/Mounds View
Snail Lake	→ 	Island Lake 3555 Victoria Street N, Shoreview, MN 55126	→	Chippewa	→	Mounds View
Snail Lake	→ 	Turtle Lake 1141 Lepak Court, Shoreview, MN 55126	→	Chippewa	→	Mounds View



Pike Lake Education Center
2101 14th Street NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-621-7400

Snail Lake Education Center
300 Highway 96 W
Shoreview, MN 55126
651-621-8000