



**EARLY
CHILDHOOD**

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL FAMILY HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Early Childhood Center
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CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

By providing high quality educational opportunities, emotional support, and social development, Centennial School District prepares learners for excellence in their future.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Centennial School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability in its programs and activities.

Centennial Community Education Mission

Making connections within the community to provide learners of all ages with accessible and enriching opportunities.

Centennial Early Childhood Mission

Our mission is to provide quality learning opportunities to parents and their children from birth to kindergarten entry.

CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

At the Early Childhood Center, 575 Birch Street, Lino Lakes, 55014

Sara Ison, Early Childhood Family Education and Centennial Preschool Coordinator
763-792-6122 sison@isd12.org

Deb Klausung, Early Childhood Lead Administrative Assistant
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Lynn Dierks, Early Childhood Specialist
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Kelly Marquard, Early Childhood Specialist for Screening and Intervention
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At the Community Education Office, 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, 55014

Cori Sendle, Director of Community Education
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Stephanie Thorstad, Pre-K Kids Club Administrative Assistant
763-792-6193 kidsclub@isd12.org

CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM STAFF BY LOCATION

All early childhood teachers and parent educators are approved by the Minnesota Department of Education to teach in preschool classrooms. Assisting in the children's classrooms are site managers, assistant site managers, and paraprofessionals. Continuing education is provided throughout the year.

Staff lists are subject to change. Last updated March 2025

Blue Heron, room C106

Diane Plagens, teacher	Full-Day	763-792-6283
Bell Bronson, site manager		dplagens@isd12.org
Marni Bland, site manager		

Centennial, room 1

Julie Heiden, teacher	Full-Day	763-792-5324
Alena Plagens, site manager		jheiden@isd12.org
Mackenzie Carpenter, assistant site manager		

Centerville, room 107

Nicole Anderson, teacher	Full-Day	763-792-5840
Jayita Sarkar, paraprofessional		nlanderson@isd12.org
Christina Hamman, paraprofessional		

Centerville, room 108

Maria Reisdorf, teacher	Full-Day	763-792-5841
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Tanya Lemon, assistant site manager		

Centerville, room 109

Shelley Bealka, teacher	Full-Day	763-792-5842
Cecilia Bierbrauer, paraprofessional		sbealka@isd12.org
Hannah Laiho, paraprofessional		

Early Childhood Center, room 113

Molly Wrobel, teacher	Part-Day	763-792-6118
Cindy Singer, paraprofessional		mwrobel@isd12.org
Amanda Baumann, parent educator	763-792-6137	abaumann@isd12.org

Early Childhood Center, room 114

Kelly Thurmes, teacher	Part-Day	763-792-6135
Amber Turner, paraprofessional		kthurmes@isd12.org
Leanne Stoeckel, paraprofessional	763-792-6137	abaumann@isd12.org
Amanda Baumann, parent educator		

Golden Lake, room 200C
Maria Schommer, teacher
Lisa Anderson, site manager
Patrice Gierdal, site manager

Full-Day

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Rice Lake, room B102
Samantha Rice, teacher
Suzy Benford, site manager
Zoey Hansen, assistant site manager

Full-Day

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Rice Lake, room B103
Ann Kelling, teacher
Brogan DeBlieck, site manager
Amy Soppeland, site manager

Full-Day

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Rice Lake, room B130
Anika Bolos, teacher
Jane McKoskey, paraprofessional
Stacie Brown, paraprofessional

Full-Day

763-792-5745
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WELCOME

Early Childhood Programs in Centennial School District

Early Childhood in the Centennial School District encompasses Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Early Childhood Screening (ECS), and Centennial Preschool. Early Childhood is a division of the Community Education department, which also oversees Pre-K Kids Club before/after school care.

Centennial Preschool

Centennial Preschool offers a high-quality preschool experience for children who are three and four years of age. The goal is to help preschoolers enter kindergarten with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful learners. The concept of “school readiness” includes both academic skills such as literacy, math, science, and art, and social/emotional skills such as listening, following directions, sharing, and problem solving. Centennial Preschool prioritizes parents’ involvement in their child’s education, as research has shown that programs involving both parent and child are more effective than those that focus only on the child.

Centennial Preschool is self-supporting, operated with participant fees and adheres to the policies and procedures set forth by the Centennial School Board. All classes are taught by early childhood teachers using play-based curriculum and assessment tools approved by the State of Minnesota.

Pre-K Kids Club

Full-day classes may be combined with before and/or after school and non-school day care through Pre-K Kids Club right in your student’s preschool classroom, in most cases. Students have an opportunity to learn and play within small groups with preschool staff. Activities might include creative arts, choice time, group games, music and movement, outside play, and much more. Care is contracted on a consistent basis.

Early Childhood Education Philosophy

Early Childhood Education Goals Are For Students To:

- Develop a positive, lifelong love of learning and school
- Build a strong foundation of academic and social-emotional skills for success in school
- Learn to understand and express their emotions in healthy ways
- Build positive relationships with peers and other adults
- Practice school routines and transitions between activities

Learning Through Play

ECFE and Centennial Preschool integrate a learning-through-play philosophy into each class. Because students learn best by doing, we emphasize the creative process more than the final product. Meaningful learning happens when children are given space, materials, and time to play. Students experience the following play and learning activities in the preschool classroom:

Expressive Activities	Students express their creativity with art materials and manipulatives by working in small groups or with a partner.
Imaginative Play	Dolls, blocks, puppets, transportation toys, dress-up clothes, and pretend play all help children use their imagination with role-playing activities.
Large Muscle Activities	Running, jumping, hopping, catching, throwing, etc. are all activities that encourage large muscle coordination.
Small Muscle Activities	Activities such as cutting, gluing, holding a pencil, painting, coloring, lacing, buttoning, zipping, kneading play dough, and fitting puzzles together provide students with practice in developing hand-eye coordination and small muscle development.
Social and Emotional Skills	Students develop their social and emotional skills by playing with other students and learning from adults which increases student-to-student conversations and collaboration.
Academic Activities	Vocabulary, shapes, colors, sizes, letters, and numbers are the basis of cognitive (thinking) activities. Teachers use books, music, stories, educational games, and puzzles to help students develop problem-solving abilities and acquire school readiness skills.

Curriculum/Assessment Tools

Centennial Preschool uses state-approved curriculum and assessment tools. We encourage parents to reach out to their child's teacher with any questions on the curriculum resources used in class.

Our Preschool curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling students to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. Our curriculum utilizes multi-week studies (rather than weekly themes) which include in-depth investigation of meaningful topics students are interested in.

- Students raise questions, solve problems, and find answers.
- Students get first-hand experience in and around the school building.
- The curriculum is age-appropriate and relevant.
- Learning is extended over a period of time (4 weeks) depending on interest levels of students.
- Families and community volunteers may be involved.
- Classroom centers are connected to how students learn, inquire and explore.
- The curriculum is designed to challenge all students at their level.

Preschool assesses the whole student within 5 developmental domains:

- Approaches to Learning—Self-Regulation
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy Development
- Cognition, including Math and Science
- Physical Development—Health

Measures are evaluated on a growth continuum. More information about assessment will be coming from your child's teacher.

Pyramid Model

As part of the district's Multi-Tiered Student Support (MTSS) system, we implement the Pyramid Model framework to support social-emotional learning. The Pyramid Model isn't a curriculum or activity—it's a whole way of thinking about and planning the day-to-day structure of the classroom to better support students' learning. Like Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs at the elementary school level, the Pyramid Model is a framework that offers a strong foundation for all students and provides targeted support for those who need additional assistance.

Research has shown that a child's social, emotional, and friendship skills are the best predictor of a child's 3rd grade reading level, and we know that when students have social/emotional skills like self-regulation and problem-solving, they are better prepared to learn important academic skills like math, reading, and writing!

Pyramid Model information and family resources are available on our [website](#).

Classroom Expectations: Behavior Procedure

At Centennial Preschool, we believe in helping all students feel good about themselves, build confidence, and learn emotional regulation skills. Our goal is to support each child in growing their social-emotional abilities and independence.

Our key principles:

- **Safety First:** The safety of all children is our top priority. Teachers closely supervise all students, both inside and outside the classroom. Children are required to stay in their designated learning spaces.
- **Engaging, Structured Environment:** Our classroom is designed with various activities and materials that allow children to explore in a structured and predictable daily schedule. The schedule includes both small and large group activities, along with planned transitions. When conflicts arise, staff will guide children by offering choices, taking turns, or using a timer.
- **Cooperative and Independent Play:** We encourage children to play both cooperatively and independently, building social skills and self-reliance.
- **Emotional Growth:** It's important for children to recognize and understand their feelings. Our staff help children express emotions in healthy ways and supports them as they develop emotional regulation.
- **Positive Guidance:** We focus on highlighting positive behaviors and setting clear expectations in a supportive, age-appropriate manner. This helps children learn responsibility, self-control, and respect for others.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** We value each child's unique cultural and linguistic background, ensuring activities help build a positive self-image.

When challenges arise:

- **Clear Guidance:** If behavior needs improvement, staff will gently explain what the child should do and why, while teaching important social-emotional skills.
- **Redirection and Choices:** Children may be redirected to a new activity or offered choices to help them get back on track.
- **Time for Reflection:** In some cases, a child may be briefly taken to a quiet space to reflect and regain focus before returning to the group.
- **Supportive Conversations:** Staff will guide children in understanding the appropriate behavior, helping them rejoin the group positively.
- **Partnering with Parents:** If challenges continue, we will work closely with parents to find helpful strategies and support for the child.
- **Solutions Team:** If needed, the child may be referred to our Solutions Team, where staff and parents collaborate on creating a tailored plan for successful learning. This team consists of teachers, a psychologist, and other specialists with the goal to create intervention plans for classroom support. Interventions could include breaks, visuals, or modified preschool schedules. Communication is important between staff and parents, and staff will seek parent involvement in this process. We take a team approach and work together to help students thrive in the classroom.
- **Ongoing Support:** We monitor progress through data collection and meetings to evaluate how well the intervention plan is working.

In exceptional cases, if a child is still struggling to be successful despite our efforts, we may recommend adjustments to their schedule or enrollment to support their needs better. This may also include a referral to our Early Childhood Special Education team.

Code of Conduct

Centennial Preschool has adopted the following parent/guardian code of conduct to ensure a supportive and safe environment for all children, families, and staff.

- I will speak respectfully and calmly with all Centennial Preschool staff and office staff.
- I am aware that Centennial Preschool staff are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and/or neglect under Minnesota State Law and are required to report suspected cases of abuse.
- I will refrain from using harsh or threatening verbal or physical forms of discipline with my child while in the program space. I will not attempt to discipline children other than my own. I understand that staff will address these issues.
- I will communicate my concerns through the proper channels in a respectful manner. I will have discussions about concerns or situations with staff in a private area, away from children. When staff are unavailable during class time, I know they are available for a scheduled conference.
- I am aware that staff will request that another individual pick up the child/ren if they observe that I am impaired due to the use of drugs and/or alcohol. In the event that the choice is made to drive from the site with the child after staff makes this request, the police will be contacted.
- I understand that staff are instructed to disengage from interaction when they feel threatened and verbal or physical harassment is being experienced. Verbal harassment may include: disrespect of staff, any harsh or threatening language being used such as swearing or yelling.
- I understand if I engage in sexual advances towards staff, such as comments about their personal appearance, lewd comments or any kind, or inappropriate physical contact with staff, it could lead up to and/or may include immediate contract termination.
- I know that staff are unable to disclose information about other children or their families due to the data privacy policy.

Any violations of the above code of conduct may result in a requirement that someone else participate in/pick-up/drop-off my child/ren or may lead to immediate contract termination.

CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL CLASS FORMAT

Arrival

Please refer to your child's welcome information for site-specific information about drop-off and pick-up procedures.

A grab-and-go breakfast option is available for all full-day students.

Morning Meeting

Students are asked by the teacher to gather on the classroom rug. Morning meeting can include a greeting, songs, stories, and concepts to build communication and listening skills. Students review the calendar, weather, and the plan for the day. The duration of this morning meeting will slowly increase as students become ready to participate for longer amounts of time.

Discovery Time

Because preschoolers learn through play, "learning centers" are a key component of our preschool classrooms. Learning centers focus on different aspects of your child's learning and give them the opportunity to investigate new concepts, ideas, and experiences. During discovery time, students explore these centers with their classmates. What is available at each center changes throughout the year to provide new experiences for students. Learning centers also relate to our curriculum and what we're learning about at the time (for example: clothing, balls, buildings, etc.)

Through their hands-on play at each center, students will learn a variety of academic and social-emotional skills:

Learning Center	Examples of Materials	What skills are children learning?
Science	• magnifying glasses or microscopes • magnets • scales • plants • binoculars • non-fiction books	• observation skills • planning, prediction, and comparison skills • testing ideas • learning how things work • cause and effect
Math	• counters • pattern cards and blocks • puzzles • estimation jars • games with dice and spinners • rulers	• classify, sort and compare • counting • recognize shapes and patterns • estimate • increase cognitive and language skills • measurement

Learning Center	Examples of Materials	What skills are children learning?
Sensory	• cotton balls • water • sand • rice • dried beans	• experimentation, discovery, and observation • develop fine motor skills • enjoy hands-on materials • cause and effect
Literacy	• age-appropriate books • class-made books • pencils, crayons and pens • dry-erase markers and boards • journals • games	• practice letter, and sound recognition • develop an appreciation for books • reading & writing skills • develop conversation and vocabulary skills • create and write stories
Art	• paint • glue • paper • scissors • collage materials • crayons and markers • stickers	• explore self-expression • creativity and imagination • fine motor/gross motor skills • hand-eye coordination • colors, shapes, texture
Dramatic Play	• dress-up clothing and costumes • play kitchen (including play food and dishes) • dolls, and other themed playthings	• communication skills • creativity and imagination • role-playing • socialization skills • expressing feelings and emotions • problem solving
Building	• blocks • magnet tiles • manipulatives • transportation materials • Legos • action figures/animals	• fine motor skills • hand-eye coordination • cognitive skills • cooperative and sharing skills • shapes • balance

Outdoor Play

Whenever possible based on weather conditions, classes will go outside for playtime/large motor time. Families should provide proper clothing for the season, labeled with their child's name. In inclement weather, staff will lead students in activities in the classroom. Students are supervised at all times by staff.

Lunch (full-day classes only)

Students eat lunch in the elementary lunchroom while supervised by preschool staff. Lunch times and duration vary among buildings. Lunches may be brought from home or students can get lunch free of charge from the cafeteria. See [Nutrition Services](#) on the district website for more information on a la carte prices, how to apply for additional educational benefits, and monthly menus.

Rest Time/Personal Time (full-day classes only)

Preschool students, even those who no longer take naps at home, need a quiet period to relax and refocus. Students may bring a small blanket or beach towel, pillow, and/or stuffed animal from home to ease their transition from active to rest time. During the rest period, students are expected to rest quietly but are not required to sleep. A “busy bag” or books may be offered to those who are not sleeping.

Parent Education (part-day classes only)

Most part-day classes include a required parent education day once a week. The goal of parent education is to strengthen the parent-child relationship by providing relevant, effective education and support. Parent education is an opportunity for parents to discuss ideas and concerns ranging from child development to family relationships. Parent education opportunities include weekly discussions while students are in class. A licensed parent educator leads the discussion and provides information based on research and knowledge of child development and family education. Parents are encouraged to share their experiences and observations with the group.

Parent-Child Interaction Guidelines

Parents are a child's first teachers. Activities during parent-child interaction time promote healthy family relationships and offer parent teaching opportunities. The following guidelines will help you and your child experience a successful interaction time:

- Engage in activities with your child — get on their level, talk with them about what you are experiencing, and follow their lead
- Include other parents and children in your interactions and activities
- If an activity is full, encourage your child to try something else and come back. Waiting is a good skill to practice!
- Cellphone use is not permitted during classroom time

Please keep adult interaction to a minimum during Parent-Child Interaction. There are two good clues to know that it is time to end a conversation with an adult:

- Your child shows that they want your attention or moves onto another activity without you
- You become aware you have not noticed your child for the last few minutes

Parent Education Group Guidelines

Parent education is a time for you to share your joys and challenges of being a parent. Please remember:

- This is your group and much of what you get out of it depends on what you put into it
- There are many good ways to be a parent, so listen with an open mind
- Please silence your cellphones during class time and refrain from using cellphones for non-emergency calls and texts
- It is all right to share ideas from your discussions outside of the group, but please do not share names
- Please be respectful when someone is speaking and limit side conversations
- It is important that all parents return to the preschool classroom at the same time. Students may become upset if they don't see their parent when other parents arrive

Snack (full-day and 2-1/2 hour part-day classes only)

During class time, students will help serve healthy snacks family style. Family-donated prepackaged snack items, as well as fruit, cheese, and other items from the school lunchroom are offered. Students learn conversation skills, turn-taking, and asking for help during this time.

Families are asked to note their child's allergies or food sensitivities with their Infinite Campus registration. See "Infinite Campus" for more information. Any changes should be brought to the teacher's attention as soon as possible. If you have any concerns about what is being served at snack time, please contact your child's teacher.

Departure

Please refer to your child's welcome information for site-specific information about drop-off and pick-up procedures. (See also "Late Pick-Up Procedure".)

CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL FROM A TO Z

Absences

Report your child's absence via your Parent Portal account at least one hour prior to the start of class. You may also use this tool to report late arrivals or early pick-ups. Instructions for using the Campus Attendance system can be found on the [website](#). Please submit absence reports by 8:30 am to ensure they are seen by your child's teacher.

Attendance by a parent/caregiver is required for most part-day classes. If a family illness or emergency prevents you from attending a parent attendance day with your child, another adult family member or caregiver can accompany your child to class. Please ask them to check in at the office.

If your child needs to take an extended absence from school (greater than two weeks), please contact the office to discuss.

Accidents

Parents/guardians will be informed of accidents involving their child while attending Centennial Preschool. Children are encouraged to tell a staff member immediately if they are hurt or experiencing discomfort. If a student incurs a minor injury, staff will bring the child to the school nurse for evaluation. In an emergency when immediate medical attention is needed, or an incident is perceived by staff to be life-threatening, staff will call 911, inform the school nurse, and then immediately contact the parent/guardian. When the ambulance arrives, emergency personnel will determine the appropriate course of action.

- Centennial Preschool staff will take whatever emergency measures are deemed necessary for the care and protection of all students while under their supervision. In a life-threatening emergency, 911 will be called first. Any expenses incurred as a result will be the responsibility of the student's family.
- Centennial Preschool does not carry accident or health insurance for the students. Parents are responsible for the insurance and health coverage of their children.

Arrival

We appreciate your efforts to be on time for class, as learning begins the moment your child walks in the door. Late arrivals must check in at the office.

Bathroom Needs

Preschool students must be toilet trained and able to use bathroom facilities independently. However, we understand that accidents may happen, especially when routines are unfamiliar at the beginning of the year.

Students must be able to:

- Pull pants up and down (staff can assist with buttons/zippers)
- Wipe on their own (staff CANNOT assist with wiping)
- Wash their hands after using the bathroom
- Change their clothing and underwear if an accident occurs, and clean themselves if needed (staff will assist with bagging soiled clothing)

If a student has an IEP with bathroom accommodations, please consult with your child's case manager to develop a bathroom plan.

All students should bring a labeled Ziploc bag containing a change of clothing (including underwear and socks). A family may be called for an early pickup if a student is unable to adequately clean themselves.

Celebrations

Birthdays will be recognized on or as close to a student's birthday as possible. Each classroom may celebrate birthdays in their own way. We ask families not to bring in a birthday treat. Instead, families may join our classroom by being a "special guest reader," or providing that day's healthy snack. Speak with your child's teacher for more information.

Centennial Preschool also recognizes that our families may celebrate different holidays throughout the year. Preschool classrooms love to learn about all our students and families celebratory traditions at home. We invite you to share this information with your child's teacher!

Participation in classroom celebrations is optional for all families. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to opt-out, or if you have any concerns about classroom celebrations.

Classroom Cleaning Procedures

We clean tables, toys, and equipment with a disinfectant regularly. Our clean-up procedure of bodily fluids follows school district guidelines.

Clothing

Dress your child in washable, comfortable clothes so they will be free to participate in all activities, including messy ones. Athletic shoes/sneakers allow your child to play and climb! Remember to bring shoes in the winter when your child wears boots to school. Any items that may be taken off during the day (coats, shoes, winter gear) should be labeled with your child's full name. If you need help securing winter or play clothes for your child, please contact our office.

Communication from the Program

Centennial Preschool uses a variety of methods to communicate with families:

Communication Folder

Each student will have a communication folder. This folder travels from the classroom to home and back again. Student work will be sent home each day, along with any messages from the teacher or notices from the program. Parents can send messages to the teacher or other items back to school. Communication folders will be checked by staff each day.

Email

Email will be the primary route of direct communication from the program office to families. Information about your contract, invoices, payments, can be expected by email from the Eleyo system. Be sure that the email address associated with your Eleyo account is up to date and checked regularly. Any questions may be directed to earlychildhood@isd12.org for a prompt response.

Newsletter

The program office will send a monthly newsletter via email. Review this newsletter carefully as it will contain important information and reminders of upcoming events. If receiving the newsletter via email is not possible for you, please contact your child's teacher to have a physical copy sent home in your child's communication folder.

Seesaw

Preschool teachers use the smartphone app Seesaw to share pictures from class and communicate information to program families. Pictures on Seesaw are subject to the photo opt-out policy. (See "Photos".) Let your child's teacher know if you are not able to access Seesaw; they will make sure to share Seesaw information with you by sending a notice home in your child's communication folder. Flexible Learning Day information is also shared on Seesaw. (See "Flexible Learning Days".)

Communication from the District

Centennial Schools relies on contact information from Infinite Campus for both regular district news (by email) and emergency communications (by phone, text, and/or email). After contract approval, each child's family must complete an online Infinite Campus enrollment for the school district. (See "Infinite Campus".) Please be sure to provide accurate information on your enrollment. Note that changes to your contact information in Eleyo are not automatically updated in Infinite Campus, so let the office know if there are changes to your contact information.

Conferences

Conferences are held twice a year (fall and spring) for full-day classes and by parent request for part-day classes. Dates and times of conferences will vary by classroom. At conferences, your child's teacher will discuss the progress your child has made, what skills they are working on, and how you can continue to support learning at home.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is a free check of a child's height, weight, immunizations, health, vision, and development. Screening can identify health and developmental concerns that may be addressed before a child enters kindergarten. State law requires that all Centennial Preschool students must be screened within 90 days of beginning school. Teachers may suggest to parents that a student be rescreened if concerns arise during the school year. To schedule an appointment, please go online via [Eleyo](#), email ecscreening@isd12.org or call the office at 763-792-6120.

Eleyo

[Eleyo](#) is the online system Early Childhood uses to manage registration and billing for the ECFE and Centennial Preschool programs. The system is also used by Community Education, Kids Club, and Early Childhood Screening. Each preschool family should establish an Eleyo account, even if tuition payments are made in person or tuition is covered by a scholarship or an IEP.

Please note that Eleyo is not the same as Infinite Campus. See "Infinite Campus" for more information.

Field Trips

Preschool classes may take field trips to off-site locations during the school year. Permission slips and any associated fees must be returned to the teacher prior to the field trip. More information about field trips will come from the teacher.

All classes may take "walking field trips" to locations on and near school grounds without prior notice. In these instances, staff will notify the school office of their destination and carry a communication device.

Flexible Learning Days

When there are non-scheduled days off, such as for inclement weather, Centennial Schools may elect to hold Flexible Learning days. On these days, preschool students will be given optional activities via Seesaw to complete at home. See "Communication from the Program" for information on Seesaw.

Guests

Children: Only children who are registered will be allowed to participate in class. Any exception must be approved in advance by the teacher. Classes with parent attendance may use drop-in sibling care for a fee with advance notice if space is available. (See “Sibling Care”.)

Adults: Parent volunteers are welcome in the classroom, but must be approved by the teacher in advance. For classes with parent attendance we ask that you notify the teacher in advance before bringing a second adult on parent attendance days.

Handwashing

Staff, parents, and students are encouraged to wash their hands before they enter the classroom. Students are expected to wash their hands during the day as needed — after using the toilet, after blowing their nose, before snack/lunch, and after playtime. Hand sanitizer may also be used.

Health Information

All preschool students must have immunization records or a notarized exemption on file prior to beginning school. Students may be excluded from school if records are not complete. (See “Immunizations”.)

Medications

Unless approved by the nurse due to special circumstances, no prescribed medication may be transported by students. Medication should always be administered at home, if possible. If a student must receive medication administration during the school day, please see [Health Services](#) and connect with the school nurse at your child’s preschool site. Medication will be disposed of in accordance with the medication policy.

Health Plans & Chronic Conditions

The health staff at Centennial collaborate with students, guardians, providers, and school staff to support the needs of students with chronic conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes, seizures, and other complex medical conditions. You will note your student’s health conditions and all health management needs as part of your Infinite Campus enrollment. If a school nurse has not reached out to you before the start of school, please connect with them at the Open House or by phone.

Information for at least three emergency contacts is required at the time of registration. (See also “Accidents”.) Parents should be vigilant about keeping such information up to date. Emergency contacts are assumed to be authorized pick-up persons. If you wish to authorize additional people, or if there are persons specifically *not* authorized to pick up your students, contact the office.

Illness

(See also “Absences”.) In order to maintain a healthy environment for students, parents, and staff, please follow this illness procedure. Students may not attend class or sibling care if they are ill or exhibit symptoms of an ongoing illness. See Health Services’ [Should I Send My Child to School](#) page for a list of symptoms/conditions that would exclude a child from attending school. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms while in class or sibling care, they will be taken to the school nurse and you will be called to take them home. We know that children can come down with symptoms very quickly, and your child may have appeared just fine when you left home.

Keep in mind that there are medically fragile students in the program whose well-being relies on those around them being healthy. Use the notes field in the Campus attendance system to inform your child’s teacher as soon as possible if your child receives a diagnosis of a contagious illness and has been in school while symptomatic.

If your child needs fever-reducing medicine before school, he/she is not well enough to be in school. If you are uncertain about sending your child to school, you are welcome to contact your site’s main office to be connected with the school nurse.

Immunizations

Minnesota law requires children enrolled in childcare, early childhood education, or school to be immunized against certain diseases, unless the child is medically or non-medically exempt. If proper documentation is not provided, students will be unable to attend school after November 1st. What you need to do:

- Contact your health care provider and review your child’s immunization status to make sure they are up to date.
- If you missed a required vaccination, make an appointment with a healthcare provider or local clinic as soon as possible.
- Follow up with your child’s school if they have reached out to you regarding your students immunization status.
- Turn in medical (must be signed by health care provider) and non-medical (must be notarized) exemption forms to your child’s school.

Visit the [MDH website](#) for vaccine schedules, exemption forms and more information including where to get free/low cost immunizations. Reach out to your child’s school for any questions.

Inclusion

Centennial Preschool classes are integrated with Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). Some classes have an additional teacher and/or paraprofessional from the ECSE program to provide a greater staff-to-student ratio and ensure the additional support some students may need.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus (Campus) is the student information system used by the school district. After contract approval, families will be asked to complete an online enrollment in the Campus system to create a Campus record for their child (and family) and a Parent Portal account. Parent Portal accounts follow a student through their time with Centennial School District.

Students may not start class until the Campus enrollment is completed.

Because the Campus system is used to generate School Messenger alerts, it is important that families update their account or notify the office if contact information has changed. (See also “School Closings”.)

Late Pick-Up Procedure

Late pick-ups cause anxiety for students and cause staff to lose important prep time or stay beyond their scheduled hours. If you are delayed in picking up your child, please call the office or classroom to let us know you are on your way. Habitual lateness may result in late fees of \$1 per minute (or portion thereof) and ultimately your child’s dismissal from the program.

Mandated Reporting

State law mandates all public school staff to report suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect of children to Anoka County Child Protection Services or the county of the child’s residence. It is our intent to support and provide resources to parents who may be experiencing difficulty in raising children.

Parent Organizations

Preschool parents in the elementary buildings are encouraged to participate in that school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Monthly meetings occur at each building. Yearly building events may include bingo, movie nights, book fairs, and the school carnival. Check in with your school office/classroom for more information.

Parents of students at the Early Childhood Center may join the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). PAC includes both ECFE and part-day preschool parents who plan events such as field trips, gym nights, Winter Wonderland, and Truck Day. PAC meets monthly; child care is provided. New members are always welcome. Call the office at 763-792-6120 for more information.

Photos

There are occasions when representatives of Centennial Preschool, ISD 12, and/or the media photograph or record students while in school or while attending/participating in school-sponsored functions. Parents/guardians not wanting their child(ren) to be photographed or recorded must opt-out of media as part of their Infinite Campus online enrollment.

Picture Day

Each elementary school and the Early Childhood Center has its own picture day. Watch the program newsletter for more information on the date and time for your child's classroom. All students in attendance on picture day will have their photo taken. Purchases are optional. If your child does not attend on the scheduled picture day, you may bring them to the photographer that day or the retake day. Notify your child's teacher if this is your plan so that we can suggest a good time to come in.

Pre-K Kids Club

For full-day students only, preschool may be combined with before and/or after school and non-school day care. This care is offered through [Pre-K Kids Club](#) and is not managed by Centennial Preschool. Contact Stephanie Thorstad, Pre-K Kids Club Administrative Assistant for more information. 763-792-6193 kidsclub@isd12.org.

Families who attend Pre-K Kids Club (6:30-9:15 am and/or 3:15-6 pm) will use a secured door with keypad access to the building before and after preschool. This access code will be emailed out to families before school starts in the fall.

Breakfast is served around 8:30 am. Students can eat at home or school, or families can send a small snack to be eaten at school. All students go to the cafeteria at this time regardless of whether they will be eating breakfast.

Pre-K Kids Club care takes place in a preschool classroom with preschool staff. Before 7 am and after 5 pm preschool students will be located with the K-5 students.

Each school has a designated location (usually the cafeteria or gymnasium) for student drop-off and pick-up.

School Closings

Centennial Preschool follows the Centennial School District's procedure for school closings. An overview of school closures and delays can be found [here](#). If the District starts school late due to bad weather, morning classes will be canceled and full-day preschool will start at 11:15am. For information on closings or late starts, check the district [website](#), call the district office at 763-792-6000 or listen to local television or radio broadcasts. See also "Communication from the District".

Security

All visitors to any Centennial Preschool site must check in at the security kiosk and receive a visitor badge prior to entering the building. All exterior doors remain locked during the school year. Centennial School District follows safety protocols that may require us to close a building to visitors for a period of time. More information can be found on the district [website](#). We appreciate your understanding and support for keeping our students safe.

Sibling Care

Sibling care is available only for part-day preschool parent attendance days. An additional fee for this care is charged monthly, and space is limited. The purpose of sibling care is to provide a safe, supervised environment staffed by paraprofessionals for children 3 months to 5 years while parents are attending with their preschool student. Parents with babies up to 3 months old can keep their babies with them in class. Because preschool classrooms are not baby-proofed, we request that you enroll your baby in sibling care when your baby turns 3 months. This will also allow you to give your full attention to your preschooler.

Sibling Care Guidelines

These guidelines will make your child's stay in sibling care more enjoyable. If you have any questions, please ask.

- All siblings should arrive toileted and with dry diapers. Parents will be asked to change their own child's diaper if necessary.
- Feed your child before coming to sibling care. You may provide a bottle or snack, but be sure to label everything with your child's name.
- Bring along a blanket, pacifier, or any other comfort item your child uses at home. Be sure to label all items with your child's name.
- If your child is having a difficult time separating, you may be asked to return to sibling care to comfort your child.
- Pick up your child immediately after class. Children may become frightened if they don't see their parent when other parents arrive.
- The sibling care room will not be staffed until five minutes before the start of class. Give the sibling care workers time to prepare the room for your child.
- Children will not be allowed to stay if they are showing any signs of illness. See also "Illness".

Solicitations

Teachers will monitor soliciting of products or services by parents in the class so that other parents do not feel an obligation to buy. Early Childhood staff are prohibited from selling products or services during class time. Flyers for Scholastic Books may be sent home with students regularly; purchases are not necessary.

Student Belongings

While there are cubbies or lockers for students to store their backpacks, outdoor clothing, and other items, a single cubby/locker may be used by multiple students. Therefore, unless otherwise noted, all student belongings must be brought from and returned to home each class day.

Supplies

All classrooms ask for students to come to preschool with tennis shoes and a backpack. Supply lists are available on the Centennial Preschool [website](#).

Toys

Keep all toys, including violent toys such as guns, swords, action figures, etc. at home.

Some classrooms may have sharing and/or letter bags sent home each week. Students may bring items from home to share with other students within this framework.

Tuition

Each month's preschool tuition is invoiced in advance. Invoices are sent on the 1st working day of the month and are due on the 15th of the month for the following month's tuition. (For example, September tuition will be invoiced on the first working day of August, and due on August 15th.) Auto-payments via Eleyo are recommended to avoid late fees; online payments may be made by credit card or electronic bank transfer. Payments by cash, check, or credit card may be made in the Early Childhood office. Change is not available for cash payments; overpayments will be applied to future invoices.

An automatic late fee is applied to all overdue accounts on the 17th of the month. If payment is not made by the end of the month, your child's contract will be suspended. After your account balance has been paid, the coordinator will confirm your child's return date.

If your financial circumstances change and paying your preschool tuition becomes difficult, please contact Sara Ison. (See "Centennial Preschool Administrative Staff".) Limited tuition assistance and scholarships may be available to help make this program affordable for your family.

Failure to make your tuition payments may result in contract termination. Please contact the office with concerns; we are happy to work with families as needed when difficulties making payments arise.

Volunteers

Early Childhood has volunteer opportunities. If you have talents you would like to share, please talk to your teacher, parent educator, or office staff. (See also "Parent Organizations".)

- Volunteers working in a classroom must be under the supervision of a member of Centennial Preschool staff.
- Volunteers may not use cellphones or take pictures in the course of their work with students.
- Volunteers will be asked to leave if their behavior does not meet Centennial Preschool standards for student safety. (See also "Code of Conduct".)

Weapons

Weapons are not allowed on school district property.

CENTENNIAL OUTDOOR EXPLORERS PRESCHOOL

Introduction

Centennial Outdoor Explorers Preschool (COEP) provides a new format in which to deliver the same high-quality, curriculum-based, and assessment-informed preschool experience. Many children who struggle in a more traditionally-structured preschool classroom can thrive when the classroom is moved outdoors. The [Minnesota Department of Education](#) offers good information about nature-based preschool programs if you are interested in learning more.

COEP will have the same “learning through play” philosophy as our standard preschool (as described in “Early Childhood Education Philosophy”) but activities will take place outside and focus on the natural environment.

Expressive Activities	Painting on an outdoor easel, making art from natural materials
Imaginative Play	Making a construction site out of a dirt pile, houses out of branches, mud soup from water and pine cones
Large Muscle Activities	Walking to and from the forest, climbing over and moving logs, digging with shovels, raking leaves
Small Muscle Activities	Holding insects, picking berries, drawing in sand, planting seeds, writing in an observation journal, dressing for winter weather
Social and Emotional Skills	Working together to build a fort, sharing binoculars, asking a friend for help over a branch, working with a partner on a scavenger hunt
Academic Activities	Counting steps, sorting leaves by color or size, collecting items by letter, exploring/experimenting with our outside world, watching seasons change

COEP will use the same Creative Curriculum unit studies and assessment tools as the standard preschool classes.

Class Format

See pages 11-14 to review the standard preschool class format. The following describes only instances in which COEP will be significantly different.

Morning Meeting

Students will gather in a designated COEP area outside the Early Childhood Center for their morning meeting, at which the day's activities will be reviewed, needed materials retrieved/set up, and attendance taken.

Discovery Time

Learning centers may be set up in the classroom, the COEP area, or the class will travel by foot to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes regional park for learning activities. Staff will keep a communication device on them at all times.

Snack

Students will visit the restroom to use the toilet and wash their hands prior to having a snack. The snack may be eaten in the classroom or outside.

Clothing/Supplies

All students will need clothing that is appropriate for spending up to 2½ hours outdoors. If purchasing these items would be a hardship, please contact the office for assistance.

- Fall: rain jacket* with hood or hat, rubber boots, warm jacket, light gloves/mittens, sunhat, extra pair of socks
 - Winter: snowsuit or jacket/snow pants, snow boots, scarf/gaiter, waterproof gloves/mittens, hat, wool-blend socks, long underwear/base layer, 2 extra pair of socks, indoor shoes
 - Spring: rain jacket* with hood or hat, rubber boots, warm jacket, light gloves/mittens, sunhat, extra pair of socks
- *no umbrellas*

Layering is key to student comfort. See layering guides [here](#) or [here](#) for recommendations of fabrics and styles.

Children will have access to a cubby at the Early Childhood Center to leave dry indoor and outdoor clothing and extra footwear, if needed.

Sunscreen and/or insect repellent may be needed based on the season. Staff will not be able to apply these items, so families should be sure to apply anything needed prior to the start of class. Please do not send these items in the student's backpack.

All students will need a backpack and a small set of school supplies, which will be shared. Please see the list of supplies for the Early Childhood classrooms on our [website](#).

Drop-Off/Pick-Up

Students will meet their teacher/paraprofessional in the entryway of the Early Childhood Center. The class will then walk to the CEOP area. Please be sure students have used the toilet at home and are already wearing the appropriate clothing for the day's weather, as we may not be going to the classroom until later in the day.

At the end of class, students will be brought to the main entrance of the Early Childhood Center, whether they are coming from the classroom or outside. Staff will connect each student with their authorized pick-up person.

Empowering Outdoor Play

Outdoor or messy play is important for a child's development:

- Children practice using their 5 senses (touch, taste, smell, sound and sight)
- Allows for exploration of different materials and textures
- Develops creativity, cognitive and regulation skills
- Improves motor skills, muscle strength, balance and eye-hand coordination

Outdoor learning requires some reframing of our expectations. We want to encourage exploration and appropriate risk-taking. Parents/caregivers should plan on their children coming home dirty and tired each day. Even our words matter:

Instead of...	Try
Be careful.	Notice how...
Don't get wet.	We're not wearing the right gear for water play today, but next time we'll bring it
You might hurt someone.	What could happen to them if you do that?
How did you get so dirty?!	You look like you had fun!
I thought it wasn't supposed to rain!	Nature needed a drink. Let's get our rain gear and play!
That's not for climbing on.	Let's go explore and find something different to climb on.
Don't throw sand/rocks!	Is there a place you can throw those where they won't hit anyone?
Keep your shoes on.	Let's look together to see if it's safe to be barefoot.

Wargo Wednesdays

On select Wednesdays, COEP will be held at **Wargo Nature Center** (7701 Main Street, Lino Lakes, 55038) and co-taught by our teacher and a Wargo naturalist. A parent/caregiver will drive their student to Wargo and stay with their student the entire class time. Parents will spend approximately 1 hour in a parent education discussion inside the nature center and the rest of the class time outside with their student. Sibling care will be available indoors at Wargo for those who contract for that care.

2025-2026 Wargo Dates

September 17
October 15 & 29
November 12 & 19
December 10
January 7 & 21
February 4 & 18
March 25
April 8 & 22
May 6 & 20
June 3

A Wargo naturalist will also visit the class at the Early Childhood Center several times throughout the school year to support consistency of learning between the two sites.

Weather

Time spent outdoors is a defining feature of COEP. Students should be prepared to spend most of the class time outdoors, weather permitting.

Refunds will not be issued for children who are unable to attend the outdoor program as scheduled.