



KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

District Administration

- Ben Mainka, Superintendent
- Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
- Laura Bidlack, Director of Elementary Education
- Cathy Farris, Supervisor of Medical Services
- Spencer Riley, Director of English Language Development, State & Federal Programs

Special Welcome to Board of Education Treasurer, Mrs. Jamie Kliebert.



INTRODUCTIONS

K-4 Elementary Administration

Orchard Hills

Joi Danforth, Principal & Scott Schuitema, Dean

Village Oaks

Katy Dinkelman, Principal & Phelan Smith, Dean

Deerfield

Ryan Francis, Principal & Katie Whitty, Dean

Novi Woods

Alice Kazee, Principal & Megan Haapala, Dean

Parkview

Jennifer Murphy, Principal & Ashley Kurtz, Dean

Novi Virtual

Amber Loney, Kindergarten Content Area Leader



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

- Approximately 6700 students and 600 staff members
- **Diverse and Robust Programs**
 - Early Childhood Center
 - Five neighborhood K-4 buildings
 - Novi Meadows, 5-6
 - Novi Middle School, 7-8
 - Novi High School, 9-12
 - Novi Virtual, K-12
 - Career Prep High School / Adult Education
 - Novi Adult Transition Center (NATC) + Novi4ALL Center
 - Adult ESL (English as a Second Language)
 - Strong Community Education



DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

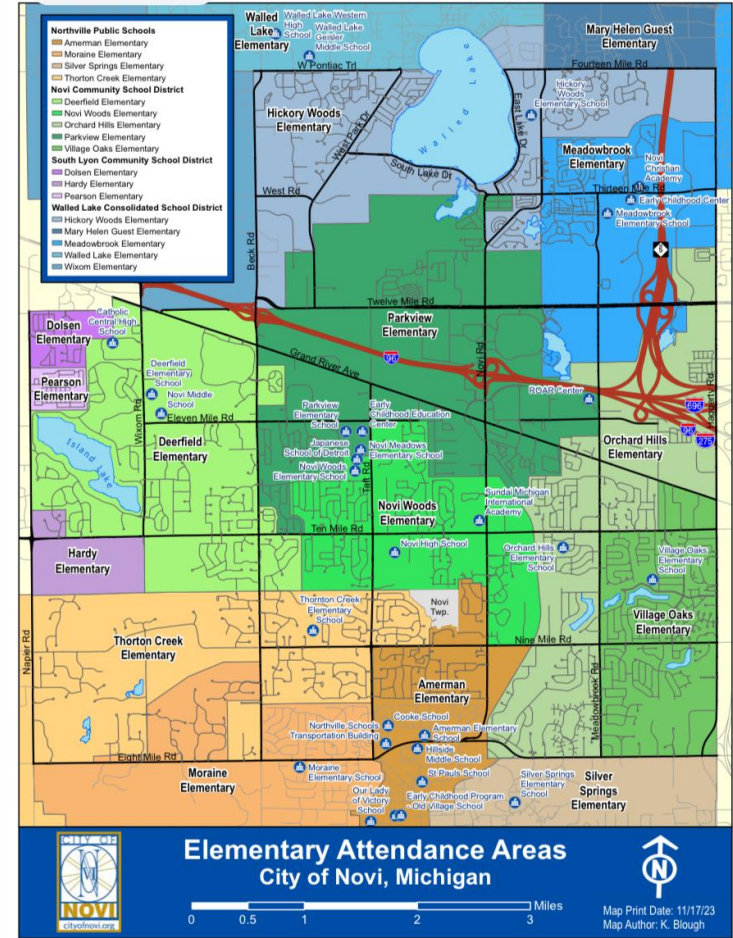
K-4 students must attend their “Home School” based on established boundaries.

City of Novi Interactive Map

- Search by home address to see K-4 building assignment

Attendance Area Map

- See school districts within Novi



PROGRAMS OVERVIEW





Novi Early Years Program Comparison

Preschool

Early Childhood Center

Wildcat Launch KDG

All K-4 Buildings

Kindergarten

All K-4 Buildings

1st Grade

All K-4 Buildings

Age

Children must turn 3 or 4 years old by December 1 of the year in which they are registering.

Children must turn 5 years old between September 2 and December 1 of the registration year.

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the registration year.

Children are typically 6 years old on or before September 1 of the year in which they are registering.

Daily Schedule

Half & Full Day Options

Full Day
9:00 am-3:52 pm

Full Day
9:00 am-3:52 pm

Full Day
9:00 am-3:52 pm

Description

Students learn social/emotional skills through purposeful play and exploration.

Develop academic skills, independence, and self-regulation. Intentional focus on social/emotional development.

Focus on mastery of Kindergarten skills and curriculum standards.

Focus on mastery of 1st grade skills/standards.

Builds a strong foundation for future success by focusing on essential skills/concepts at an age-appropriate pace.

Become confident communicators and build social skills. Lower maximum class size.

Students learn skills for success. Greater emphasis on academic goals.

Students develop greater independence. Longer engagement expected during lessons.

Curriculum

Uses Creative Curriculum. Supports learning through hands-on activities. Aligned to Michigan Early Childhood Standards. Lesson plans focus on social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development.

Kindergarten curriculum aligned to Michigan standards. Focus on exposure to topics/skills. Uses high-interest themes and play-based learning to engage curiosity.

Michigan Kindergarten standards: Mastery focus. Uses hands-on learning and gradual release of responsibility.

Michigan 1st Grade standards: Mastery focus. Includes whole/small group learning and increased independence.



Novi Early Years Program Comparison

Transportation

Preschool Early Childhood Center

Busing not available

3 year old:

- New families register on Feb. 12, 2026 at 8 am online at <http://novi.arux.app>

4 year old:

- Begins January 5, 2026
- Enrollment starts via Oakland Schools at <https://www.miecc.org>, as you complete the process select Novi ECEC. Info will then be sent to NCSD.
- Families are admitted into available spots based on the prioritization guidelines set forth by the county

Wildcat Launch KDG All K-4 Buildings

Busing available outside the 1-mile walk zone for your home school.

Begins February 2, 2026

Must be completed by May 1, 2026 for home building placement priority

New-to-Novti Student:

- Complete pre-registration form at www.novi.k12.mi.us under enrollment
- Wait for an email from PowerSchool@novik12.org, then create an account
- Complete the enrollment paperwork via the PowerSchool Parent Portal

Kindergarten All K-4 Buildings

Busing available outside the 1-mile walk zone for your home school.

Begins February 2, 2026 Must be completed by May 1, 2026 for home building placement priority

New-to-Novti Student:

- Complete pre-registration form at www.novi.k12.mi.us under enrollment
- Wait for an email from PowerSchool@novik12.org, then create an account
- Complete the enrollment paperwork via the PowerSchool Parent Portal

1st Grade All K-4 Buildings

Busing available outside the 1-mile walk zone for your home school.

Begins April 1, 2026

New-to-Novti Student:

- Complete pre-registration form at www.novi.k12.mi.us under enrollment
- Wait for an email from PowerSchool@novik12.org, then create an account
- Complete the enrollment paperwork via the PowerSchool Parent Portal

Not applicable for 1st grade families, contact building principal for specific questions

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Registration

District Parent Info Night

February 4, 2026
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Novi Meadows Cafeteria

January 20, 2026
6-7 pm
Novi High School

January 20, 2026
6-7 pm
Novi High School

Building Orientation Night

August 2026
Dates & times will be communicated in your child's placement letter sent in May

May 2026
Please register for further information and building date details

May 2026
Please register for further information and building date details

KINDERGARTEN EXPERIENCE

- Full day experience, 9:00 a.m. to 3:52 p.m. (Novi Virtual 8:00-2:52 p.m.)
- No daily nap/rest time.
- Kindergartners eat in the cafeteria. They can either bring a lunch from home or order a school lunch.
- Daily snack time, brought from home and water bottle.
- 20-minute recess before lunch and an additional “teacher recess.”
- Students will go to a “special” class each day (art, music, media, physical education).



TRANSPORTATION AND WALK ZONES



One mile or under is considered the "walk zone" for elementary schools.

If your student requires bus transportation and you live outside the walk zone, **please register as soon as possible in your parent portal.** You will find this in the registration area under "Forms" and then "Transportation."

Bus assignments will be posted the weekend before school begins. This will include:

- bus letter (ex. Bus R, Bus M, etc)
- bus stop locations
- approximate pickup and dropoff times



NOVI COMMUNITY EDUCATION'S CARE PROGRAM

- State-licensed before- and after-school program.
- Offered at all five elementary schools, Novi Meadows (fifth and sixth grade), and the Early Childhood Education Center for preschoolers.
- **Registration and scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year begins May 13, 2026. Some building programs will fill that day.**
- Contracts are all pending until approved by the CARE team via our online provider [ARUX](#).
- For more information please visit our website [CARE Program](#).



SAFETY AND SECURITY



- Background checks required for all volunteers each year including grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Not able to do last-minute checks.
- Cameras around entire facility
- Visitors must wear a badge (Raptor).
- Secured entrances at each building.
- Classroom doors locked.
- ALICE protocols–emails to all parents after safety drills.
- 2 District School Resource Officers.
- Supervisor of Safety and Security.

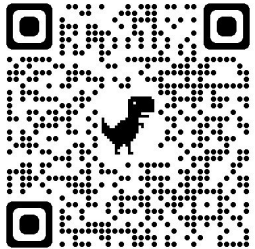
LUNCH/FOOD SERVICE

- 20 minutes to play & 20 minutes to eat (practice!) Eating with new friends is different than eating with a family
- School provided lunch or bring your own
- 2025-2026 School year: Free breakfast and lunch for all
 - This year, the legislature appropriated funding. We will know more about next school year with the next budget cycle.
- Set-up & monitor account through [Meal Magic Family Portal](#)
- School Meals for Free/Reduced Lunch: for those who may qualify, please fill out the [application](#). Those who qualify may also be eligible for other supports throughout the school year, even if breakfast and lunch are free.



HEALTH AND MEDICATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

- If your child has a medical need, please indicate that as you register. Please also contact the school office so that we can work together to support your child.
- Forms are available on the district website. Some of these forms need to be signed by a physician.
- Students may not self-possess any medication without documentation from a medical provider.



STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN

All immunizations must be up to date, or a current waiver from the health department must be on file. Your child may be excluded if either requirement is not met. Immunizations can be done free of charge at the health department.

Students must have a vision, hearing and dental screening before starting. There are many opportunities through the health department and information is on our school website under Enrollment -

<https://www.novi.k12.mi.us/district1/enrollment>

The expectation is that all students are independently potty trained without the use of pull-ups.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- There are over 75 languages spoken and over 60 countries represented!
- Students who **speak** or **hear** a **language other than English** at home will take the WIDA Screener English test (Listening and Speaking only).
 - Students who score **4.9 or below** in either Speaking or Listening are identified as English Learners and become eligible for ELD support (scores range from 1.0 - 6.0).
 - Students who score **5.0 or higher** in both Speaking and Listening are monitored until December/January, when they will take Reading and Writing.
- ELD teachers work in the **classroom**, in **small groups**, and **one-on-one** with English Learners to help them develop **academic English skills**.
- For questions about services for English Learners or the WIDA Screener, contact Spencer Riley, Director of ELD and State & Federal Programs.
spencer.riley@novik12.org



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Novi has six liaisons who help international families connect with the school community. You may have met them when you enrolled. Whatever language you speak, these liaisons can help answer questions about school and American culture.



Radhika
Kalyana-Krishnan

India



Soyoung
Kang

Korea



Virginia 'Vicky'
Rodriguez

Spanish Speakers,
Africa, Middle East



Patricia 'Paty'
Tacaoca

Brazil, Europe, Other
Asian Countries



Tomoko
Takashima

Japan

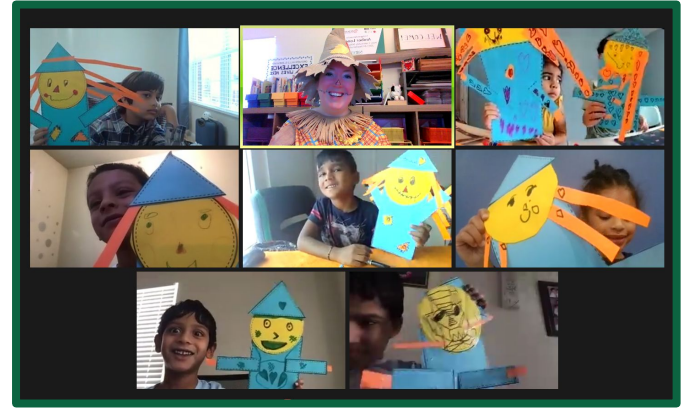


Ying
Tang

China

NOVI VIRTUAL

- K-12 flexible option with Novi teachers and curriculum
- Ideal for:
 - Families who travel internationally for an extended time
 - Students with extenuating health needs
 - Elite athletes and performers with rigorous schedules



Parent Partnerships & Volunteerism

We welcome you!

- Many opportunities to volunteer and be involved!
- Research shows parent involvement increases student performance, improves behavior, supports high self-esteem, stronger social skills, and a greater sense of belonging for students.



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

WILDCAT LAUNCH

- **Turning 5 years old Sept. 2-Dec. 1st**
- Places greater emphasis on developmentally appropriate pacing
- Smaller class sizes
- Emphasis placed on exploration and growth, rather than mastery of all kindergarten skills
- Typically move to the next Kindergarten program after this year

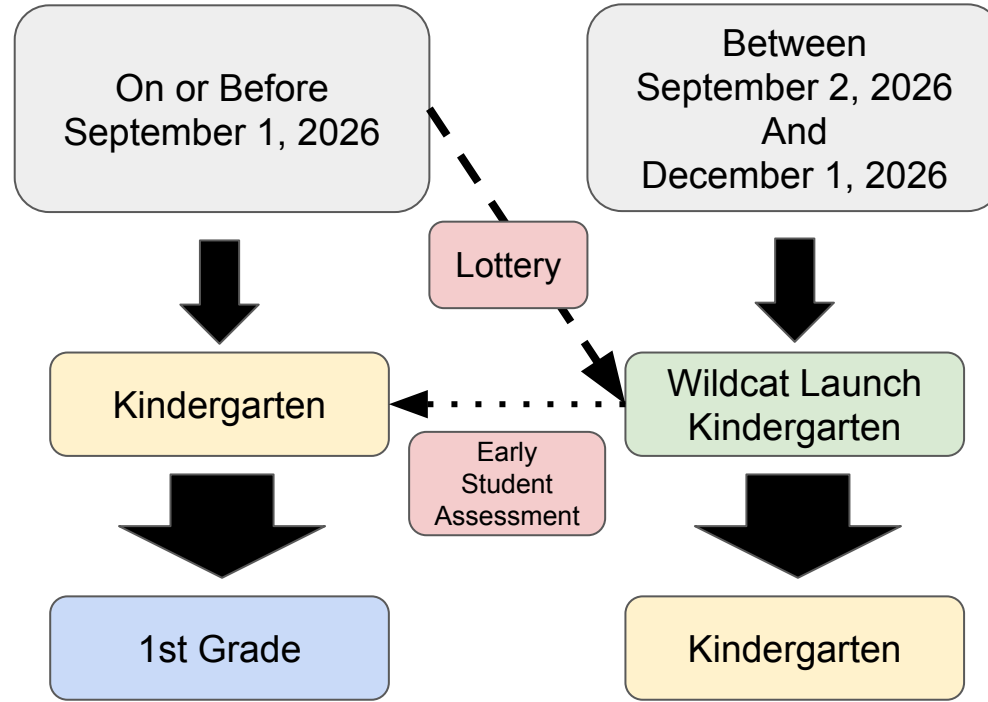
KINDERGARTEN

- **Turning 5 years old by Sept. 1st**
- Places greater emphasis on successful mastery of all kindergarten skills
- Typically move to 1st after this year



KINDERGARTEN PATHWAYS

When does your child turn 5?



Lottery Process

Kindergarten Placement Wanting Launch Placement

We register by birth date. If your child's birthday is **on or before September 1st**, they will be placed in **Kindergarten**.

If you WANT Wildcat Launch, for the two-year experience:

- Register for Kindergarten by May 1st, 2026
- Look for an email in early June to submit a form to share that you would like to be considered for Wildcat Launch, if available.
- Placement will be confirmed in early August, based on availability. This may not be your homeschool location.

EARLY ASSESSMENT PERIOD

- We register and place students by birth date.
- All parents of a child with a birthdate Sept. 2 - December 1st need to sign a waiver. The waiver is to come to school and is required by the State of Michigan. The waiver is NOT to move from Wildcat Launch to Kindergarten.
- We conduct an early assessment period for all students. This is approximately a 5-week period during the end of August through September.
 - After this assessment period, if the educators suggest any change in placement (from Wildcat Launch to KDG or from KDG to Wildcat Launch), families will be contacted around the end of September.
 - This 5-week period allows for an assessment of all social-emotional development, language skills and problem solving, peer interaction skills, independent skills, and academic skills. Data is used to drive any recommended changes in placement.

INTRO WEEK

- Students will be flexibly grouped prior to the start of school and will engage with multiple teachers and student groups.
- Teachers will utilize observation data to inform classroom placement decisions.
- You will know who your child's teacher is by the end of the first week.

CALENDAR:

Typically, the First Week of School:

Monday - Wednesday Full Days

Thursday - No school for Wildcat Launch and Kindergarten (ONLY).



How Can I Get Ready for Kindergarten?

Ways to practice now for a smooth Kindergarten transition!

- Be responsible for personal belongings (backpack, coats, shoes, lunch boxes, library books, daily take home folder)
- Get dressed independently, including zippers and shoes
- Independent toileting
- Easily separate from parent/guardian
- Lunch - opening containers and eating within 20 minutes
- Work, play and interact appropriately within a large group
- Taking turns
- Delaying immediate needs, intentional practice for “Please, wait.”



READY TO REGISTER? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:

- Birth Certificate or Passport if born outside of the U.S.
- Proofs of Residency
 - One of the following is required
 - Mortgage documents
 - Property Tax Statement
 - Closing papers
 - Purchase agreement
 - Current rental agreement with tenants and occupants names
 - Two of the following are required
 - Gas Bill
 - Electric Bill
 - Renters Insurance
 - Bank Statement
- Immunization Records
- Hearing, Vision, and Dental Screenings



REGISTRATION TIMELINE

Register Soon! Registration opens February 2, 2026.

Questions: Central Enrollment Department via email at enrollment@novik12.org

**To ensure home school priority assignment,
registered by May 1, 2026.**



Building-Specific Kindergarten Night

Novi Woods - May 20, 2026

Orchard Hills - May 27, 2026

Parkview - May 28, 2026

Deerfield - May 27, 2026

Village Oaks - May 28, 2026

