

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE

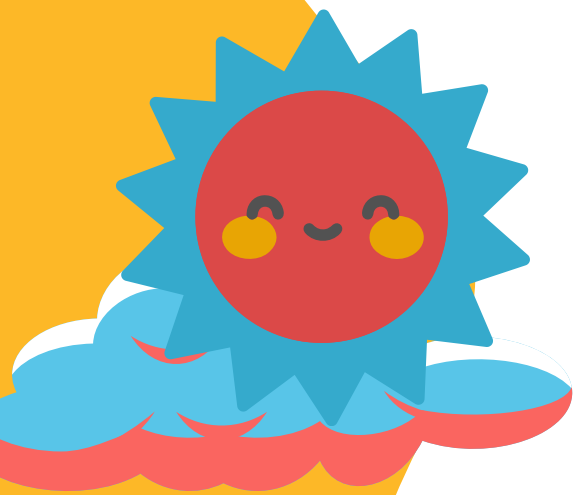


4K Preschool Family Handbook 2020-2021

Dream.Believe.Achieve

(608)789-7006 

preschool@lacrossesd.org 





Welcome To 4K PreSchool

We are so excited for your child to join the
School District of La Crosse for the 2026-2027 school year!

Our Learning Approach

In 4K, children learn by playing and engaging in hands-on activities. Whether your child is at one of our schools or a community based site, they will have fun and grow every day!

We believe:

- Play is essential. It's the best way for young children to learn.
- Support is customized. Our teachers use tools like the HighScope Curriculum and the Wisconsin Early Learning Standards to support your child's individual needs.
- Social-Emotional growth is key. We focus heavily on helping children make friends and manage their feelings, guided by the Pyramid Model.
- Partnering with you! You are your child's first and best teacher. We can't wait to partner with you to make 4K Preschool a great first school experience!

Next Steps:

This packet has helpful tips and answers to common 4K questions. If you have any questions, please reach out!

As we approach the new year, your child's teacher will send more details about their classroom and invite you to our orientation and the school's open house.

We can't wait to learn and grow with your child this year!

Dr. Aaron Engel, Superintendent of Schools • aengel@lacrossesd.org
Shelley Shirel, Director of Elementary Education • sshirel@lacrossesd.org
Heidi Bennie, 4K Preschool Administrative Assistant • hbennie@lacrossesd.org

4K Preschool Site Info

All Day 4K School-Based Locations

School Hours:
Monday-Friday 7:45 AM-2:20 PM

School Based locations follow the
School District of La Crosse Calendar.

- ★ **Coulee Montessori**
1611 Kane Street • (608) 789-7970
- ★ **Emerson Elementary School**
2101 Campbell Road • (608) 789-7990
- ★ **Hamilton/Sota I School**
1111 7th Street South • (608) 789-7695
- ★ **Hintgen Elementary School**
3505 28th Street South • (608) 789-7767
- ★ **Northside Elementary School**
1611 Kane Street • (608) 791-5400
- ★ **North Woods International School**
N2541 Sablewood Road • (608) 789-7000
- ★ **Spence Elementary School**
2150 Bennett Street • (608) 789-7773
- ★ **Southern Bluffs Elementary School**
4010 Sunnyside Drive • (608) 789-7020
- ★ **State Road Elementary School**
3900 Pammel Creek Road • (608) 789-7690
- ★ **Summit Environmental School**
1800 Lakeshore Drive • (608) 789-8816

Community-Based Locations with optional childcare

School Hours:
Contact each site for hours
Optional childcare is provided for a fee.

Each Community-Based location may
follow their own calendar for dates
closed/school breaks.

- ★ **Coulee Children's Center**
2935 East Avenue South • (608) 787-5572
- ★ **Gundersen Childcare Center**
700 Bennora Lee Court • (608) 775-4714
- ★ **UWL Campus Child Center**
1600 Farwell Street • (608) 785-8813

If you have questions about
wrap-care please call the 4K
Preschool office and we can
share the options available.

**More time to play.
More time to learn.
More time to grow.**



Welcome to School!



Orientation Activities

Stay tuned! All schools plan their own back to school events and will be reaching out mid summer with dates and times for orientation and our Welcome Back events.

Family Engagement

We are excited to offer two family engagement evenings throughout the year as we continue building strong partnerships between home, school, and community. We truly believe that family engagement is the key to student success!

Our first event will take place on **November 11, 2026, from 5:30–7:00 PM** at the Children's Museum. Families are invited to enjoy an exclusive, private evening at the La Crosse Children's Museum — completely free of charge. Get ready to rediscover the magic of play as you and your child enjoy a night filled with laughter, learning, and local community spirit.

Our second family engagement evening will be held on **April 29, 2027, from 5:30–7:00 PM** at the library. Families will enjoy a special story time, participate in a family craft activity, and learn about the many FREE resources available through the library for young learners and families.

Pizza will be served at both events. To help ensure a comfortable experience for everyone, we ask that any siblings attending be age 8 or younger.

Sign-Up sheets will be available online closer to the events.

What Families Say about 4K Preschool

- ✓ The teachers really care.
- ✓ My child LOVES school
- ✓ They have learned so much!
- ✓ School is fun!
- ✓ So many hands-on activities.
- ✓ I enjoy volunteering in the classroom.
- ✓ The full day program has made my schedule so much easier!



A play-based approach to learning

What to Expect in 4K Preschool

Your child's daily schedule will be unique depending on their location, but you can always expect that your child will experience hands-on, playful learning opportunities during their time with us. The 4K Preschool classroom is set up to be engaging and fun with a variety of learning centers such as blocks, books, dress-up/dolls, outside play, cars and kitchen area. There will be singing, dancing, laughing and learning together.

School Communication

You will receive a communication from your school approximately 4-6 weeks before your child's 4K Preschool start date. It will have information about open house, school supplies, snacks, etc. Throughout the year, your child's teacher will give you progress reports updating you on how your child is learning and growing. You will also be offered 2 Parent-Teacher conferences, one in the fall and one in the spring to talk more about your child's strengths and progress.

Building a Strong Start in 4K

- ✓ Develops social-emotional skills like confidence, cooperation, independence, and problem-solving
- ✓ Builds strong early literacy, language, and math foundations
- ✓ Prepares children for a successful transition into Kindergarten
- ✓ Encourages creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning through play-based experiences
- ✓ Creates opportunities for children to build friendships and learn with same-age peers



Big Kid Bathroom Confidence Guide

Helping Your 4K Child Feel Ready for School Bathrooms!

Moving from home bathrooms to busy school bathrooms is a BIG step. A little practice can help your child feel calm, confident, and independent!

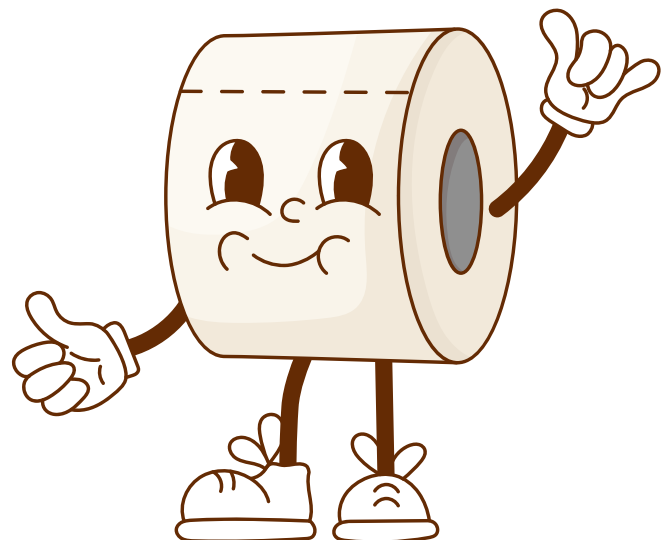
Public Bathroom Practice & Clothing Independence

School bathrooms can feel loud and unfamiliar. Practice helps!

Teachers usually cannot help inside the stall.

- Practice using stalls away from home
 - Visit library, park, or store bathrooms
 - Choose elastic waist pants
- Practice hearing flushing toilets and dryers
 - Avoid belts, buttons, snaps, overalls
- Practice pulling pants & underwear up together
 - Cover auto-flush sensors with sticky notes
 - Hold shirts up while sitting
- Teach kids to cover ears for loud dryers

If pants take too long to pull down, they may be too complicated for school.



Bathroom Communication

Pack: “Just-in-Case” Bag

Accidents are a normal part of learning!

Extra shirt

Extra pants

Underwear

Socks

Labeled Ziploc bag



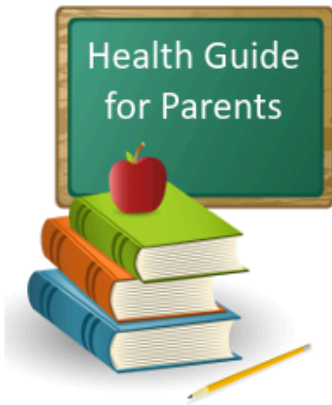
Tell your child: “If you have an accident, it’s okay. Just tell the teacher, and they will help you change.”

Quick Prep Checklist

- ☐ Pull pants down & up independently
- ☐ Wipe independently
- ☐ Wash hands thoroughly
- ☐ Lock & unlock a stall door
- ☐ Ask a teacher for bathroom help
- ☐ Feel comfortable using public bathrooms

If you need toilet training tips to use over the summer, reach out to the 4K Preschool Office!





Elementary Schools:

Emerson: 608-789-7990
Hintgen: 608-789-7767
Northside/MONT: 608-789-7970
Spence: 608-789-7773
State Road: 608-789-7690

Hamilton/SOTA I: 608-789-7695
North Woods International: 608-789-7000
Southern Bluffs: 608-789-7020
Summit Environmental: 608-789-7980

Middle Schools:

Logan Middle/SOTA II: 608-789-7740
Longfellow: 608-789-7672
Polytechnic: 608-789-8940

High Schools:

Central: 608-789-7900
Logan High: 608-789-7700
Polytechnic: 608-789-8940

When should your child stay home because of illness?

FEVER: greater than 100.4 degrees

VOMITING: return 24 hours after vomiting

DIARRHEA: return 24 hours after diarrhea

RASH: rash that is open and draining or a rash with a fever

STREP THROAT, IMPETIGO: return after 24 hours of treatment with antibiotic

SCABIES, RINGWORM: must be treated before returning to school

CHICKEN POX: child may return to school 5-7 days after onset of rash, with all sores dry and scabbed over



☎ Please contact your child's school if you have any questions regarding the above.

☎ Please notify your child's school if your child is absent due to illness or injury.

If your child has a serious illness or injury that affects school participation, please notify your school principal or school nurse so a plan can be implemented to meet your child's needs.

ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL: Students who become ill or injured at school will be seen in the health room by trained staff. If you child is unable to return to class, a parent will be contacted. **For your child's comfort, please make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible.**

MEDICATIONS

Please give medications at home whenever possible. If medication is needed during the school day, the following is necessary.

Prescription Medication:

- 1) A doctor's signature with written instruction.
- 2) Written consent from the parent for the school to give the medication.
- 3) Medication is in a properly labeled prescription bottle.

*School Medication/
Procedure Forms are
available at your
school office, school
website or local clinic.*

Non-prescription Medication:

- 1) Written consent from the parent with instructions for the school to give the medication.
- 2) Medication must be in the original container.

- ✓ **Students may not carry medication at school with the exception of prescription inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors with a doctor's written permission.**
- ✓ **Parents/guardians are requested to please deliver medication to the school office.**



REMINDER:

**A new medication form is needed each time the medication is changed.
A new medication form is needed for each school year.**

4K Preschool Transportation Guidelines

Key Deadlines & Sign-Up

- **Submission Deadline:** Transportation requests must be submitted before **August 3, 2026** to guarantee service for the first day of school.
- **How to Sign Up:** Use the online form to sign up, it is posted on the School District Website and you can access it through the QR Codes



Community Based Sites
Congregational Preschool
Coulee Children's Center
Gundersen
UWL



School Building Sites
Emerson, Coulee Montessori,
Hamilton/SOTA I, Hintgen,
Northside, North Woods,
Southern Bluffs, Spence,
State Road Summit

Eligibility & Policies

Policy Review: 4K Preschool transportation guidelines differ from grades K-12. Please review the 4K Preschool Transportation Policy listed on the back of this sheet to determine if your child is eligible.

Contact & Changes: preschool@lacrosse.org (608)789-7006



4K Preschool Transportation Policy

4K students are eligible for transportation under the following guidelines:

1. Eligibility:

Transportation will be provided to and from the 4K program within the student's resident school boundary or the boundary of their childcare provider (if different from their residence).

This transportation policy applies for the 4K year only. Once a student begins Kindergarten, the student will follow the School District of La Crosse transportation guidelines.

2. Pick-Up & Drop-Off Locations:

Only Child: If the 4K student is the only child in the household attending the school, they will receive door-to-door transportation before and after 4K programming.

Sibling Transportation: If the 4K student has an older sibling attending the same school, the student will be picked up or dropped off at the older child's assigned bus stop (within a few blocks of home) and will walk with their sibling.

3. Mid-Day Transportation:

Due to full-day 4K programming in all of our school sites, mid-day transportation will only be considered if a student is enrolled in a half-day program at one of our partner community child-care sites. Transportation is provided to the child-care site that is closest to the child's home and would be door-to-door to ensure safe travel between school childcare.

4. Additional Considerations:

Families are responsible for ensuring a designated adult is present at drop-off for door-to-door transportation. A student will not be dropped off if an adult is not present and will be returned to school and it will be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick their child up.

Bus routes and stop assignments will be determined based on efficiency and student safety.

This policy ensures safe and accessible transportation for our youngest learners while maintaining consistency with district transportation guidelines.

Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts!

We believe every day in 4K is an opportunity for students to learn, grow, build relationships, and discover something new. Consistent attendance plays an important role in helping children develop routines, confidence, and the foundational skills that support long-term success in school. We love seeing our students arrive each day ready to learn and be part of their classroom community.

At the same time, we understand that illnesses, emergencies, and unexpected situations do occur. If your child will be absent, please contact the main office by 7:45 AM to report the absence.

We are committed to partnering with families to support regular attendance and help students get the most out of their 4K experience. If challenges or barriers arise that may impact attendance, we encourage families to communicate with their child's teacher or school office so we can work together to provide support whenever possible.

Because 4K enrollment demand is high and many programs maintain active waitlists, regular participation is expected in order to maintain enrollment in the program. In situations involving ongoing or excessive absences without communication or engagement with the school, the district may need to review continued enrollment in order to offer the opportunity to another family awaiting placement.





Field Trips

Field trips and special events will be announced by your child's teacher. In addition, your child's 4K Preschool teacher may have opportunities to connect on social media and other fun activities and events throughout the year. Stay tuned for specific information at your child's 4K Preschool site.

Parent Volunteers

We love parent volunteers! If your child is enrolled in a 4K Preschool site within one of our elementary schools, you will be asked to complete an online form before volunteering in the building; your building administrative assistant will share this with you. Please allow 2 weeks for a background check to be completed. If your child is attending Community-based site, please connect with the Center Director or 4K Preschool teacher for more information on how to volunteer.





Can My Child Repeat 4K Preschool?

Our 4K Preschool Program is designed as a one-year experience that supports children in building the foundational skills needed for a successful transition into 5-Year-Old Kindergarten. As a district, we believe students benefit socially, emotionally, and academically from progressing alongside their same-age peers.

We also recognize that every child develops at their own pace. Kindergarten readiness does not mean that a child must have mastered every skill before entering school. Our schools are committed to meeting students where they are at, supporting individual growth, and providing the instruction and interventions needed to help all learners succeed.

Throughout the 4K year, our teachers work closely with students and families to nurture confidence, independence, and foundational academic and social-emotional skills so children are prepared to continue their learning journey in Kindergarten with their peers.

Preparation for 4K Preschool

Here are some wonderful ways to help them have a successful and joyful 4K experience:

- **Engage Every Day:** Play and read with your child often! Point to pictures in books, take walks to talk about the world around you, and explore new activities together.
- **Prioritize Rest:** A good night's sleep and a consistent daily routine keep your child energized for all the learning fun. An early bedtime helps them stay ready to learn and grow.
- **Spark Conversation:** Talk to your child frequently! Ask questions about their day and share in their excitement for school.
- **Encourage Independence:** Developing bathroom skills is a big step for preschoolers. If your child is still working on potty training, please feel comfortable sharing their progress with their 4K teacher so we can support what works best for them.

Transitioning from 4K to Kindergarten: What You Need to Know

As we look ahead to Kindergarten, we want to help our 4K families prepare for the transition from 4K to Kindergarten!

While our 4K program is "boundaryless" (allowing students to attend at various sites regardless of where they live), Kindergarten assignments are based on your home's neighborhood boundary. This means your child will automatically be assigned to their designated "boundary school" for Kindergarten.

What if I want my child to stay at their current school? We understand that families often form strong bonds with their 4K sites.

If you wish for your student to attend a school outside of your home boundary, you may apply for an Intradistrict Transfer:

- **Application Window:** The transfer application opens in early February and closes at the end of April.
- **The Process:** Transfers are reviewed based on available space in the specific grade level at the requested school. Decisions are communicated in mid May.
- **Important Note:** Please be aware that an application is not a guarantee of placement. Approvals are strictly dependent on staffing and enrollment numbers to ensure manageable class sizes for all students.

We are here to support you through this transition! Please reach out to the district office (608) 789-7006 if you have questions about your specific boundary school.



2026-2027 School Calendar

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	6	7	1	2	3	4
5			8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	1
2					14	8
9	10	11	12	13	21	15
16	17	18	19	20	28	22
23	24	25	26	27		29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	1	2	3	4	5
13	8	9	10	11	12	
20	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	5	6	7	1	2	3
4			8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	6	7	1	2	3	4
13	8	9	10	11	12	
20	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31		

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE**



Start & End

Aug 20 First Day of School
May 28 Last Day of School
Total Student Days: 175

No School August 11-13 New Teacher Induction - No School
School August 17-18 Staff Development - No School

August 19 Teacher Flex Work Day - No School

September 7 Labor Day - No School

September 24 Staff Development - No School

September 25 No School

October 16 Staff Development - No School

October 19 Family Conferences/PD- No School

November 25-27 Fall Break - No School

Dec 23-Jan 1 Winter Break - No School

January 15 Staff Development - No School

January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day- No School

February 12 No School

March 5 Staff Development - No School

March 8 Family Conferences/PD- No School

March 22-26 Spring Break - No School

April 23 Staff Development - No School

May 31 Memorial Day- No School

Semesters/Quarters

Quarter 1: August 20 - October 30 (47 days)

Quarter 2: November 2 - January 14 (43 days)

Quarter 3: January 19 - March 19 (41 days)

Quarter 4: March 29 - May 28 (44 days)

Family/Teacher Conferences

Family/Teacher Conferences are on October 15 and

March 4 from 4:00-7:55 at elementary levels

Family/Teacher Conferences are on October 14 and

March 3 from 4:00-7:55 at middle and high schools

Family/Teacher Conferences are on October 19 and

March 8 from 12:00-7:50 at elementary levels

*Teachers at MS/HS will have PD starting at 12:00

followed by conferences

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	4	5	6	7	14	2
3	11				21	9
10					28	16
17	25	12	13		22	23
24		19	20		29	30
31		26	27			

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	8	9	10	11	12	13
21	15	16	17	18	19	20
28	22	23	24	25	26	27

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	6	7	1	2	3	
4	5		8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		4	5	6		1
2	3			13	7	8
9	10	11	12	20	14	15
16	17	18	19	27	21	22
23	24	25	26		28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6		1	2	3	4	5
13	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30			

Emergency Closing Info

Should more than one school day be lost due to an emergency closing, students and teachers will follow the schedule below:

1st Day Missed = Waived

2nd Day Missed = Waived

After 2 Missed = Minutes will be added to the daily schedule to extend the day at each level

Calendar Key

No School

Staff Development

No School: Family Conferences/PD from 12:00-7:50 pm

First & Last Day

Family/Teacher

Conferences from 4:00-7:55 pm