Welcome to KINDERGARTEN

Now Enrolling for the 2027-28 School Year



Guaranteed Placement!

No lotteries. No waitlists. Just peace of mind.

Enroll in kindergarten knowing your school choice and Adventure Club plans are set.

stillwaterschools.org

EXPERIENCE
Stillwater Area Public Schools



Where curiosity begins and confidence grows.

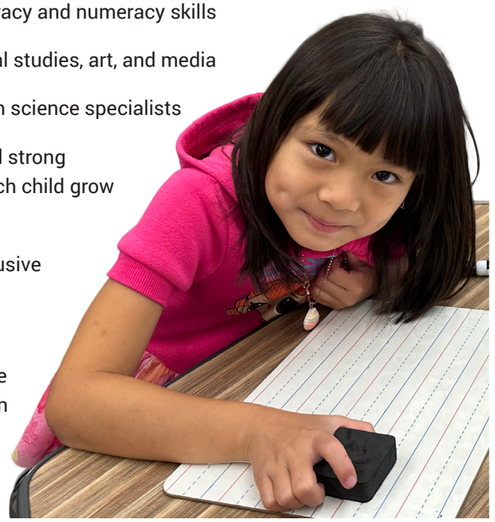
Kindergarten is an exciting first step in your child's educational journey – a time filled with wonder, discovery, and growth. At Stillwater Area Public Schools, we want every family to feel welcome. With two exceptional kindergarten options and guaranteed placement, we're making it easier to choose the school that's right for your child.

Traditional Kindergarten

Our traditional kindergarten classrooms nurture creativity, confidence, and a love of learning. Children explore reading, writing, math, science, and social skills in a caring environment where they can thrive academically and socially.

- Strong focus on early literacy and numeracy skills
- Engaging lessons in social studies, art, and media
- Hands-on instruction from science specialists
- Caring teachers who build strong relationships and help each child grow at their own pace
- Safe, supportive, and inclusive classrooms

Your child will build a solid academic foundation and the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.





Spanish Immersion Kindergarten

Amigos Unidos (Friends United) is the district's dual language Spanish Immersion program, housed at Lake Elmo Elementary. It offers students the opportunity to learn in two languages – English and Spanish – from day one. Our elementary program follows the same curriculum and model as traditional English classrooms, but core subjects are taught in Spanish by native and fluent-speaking teachers.

Our program brings together native Spanish-speaking and native English-speaking students to learn side by side. This dual-language model benefits all learners by:

- Strengthening both English and Spanish language skills
- Promoting cross-cultural friendships and mutual respect
- Developing bilingual and biliterate skills
- Enhancing problem-solving, creativity, and cultural understanding

Amigos Unidos students continue their immersion education at Oak-Land Middle School in grades 6-8. Advanced-level Spanish courses are also offered for immersion students at Stillwater Area High School.



"It has been an incredible experience to watch the language development in our kids and see their excitement for learning about other cultures. We are fortunate to have some of the best teachers and staff in this program who are committed to helping our kids to succeed."

- Alicia Arnal, parent

No lottery. No waitlist. Your child has a place in Amigos Unidos!

Placement in Spanish Immersion is guaranteed! Just select Lake Elmo (Spanish Immersion) when enrolling. Transportation is provided within the Lake Elmo attendance area, with hub bus stops available for families outside the boundary.

Interested in Learning More?

Discover Amigos Unidos Spanish Immersion and learn how it might benefit your child.

Amigos Unidos Information Night
Dec. 9, 2026 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Lake Elmo Elementary

Important Things to Know

NEW! Guaranteed School Age Care for 2027-28

We know reliable childcare matters when choosing a school. That's why we're guaranteeing Adventure Club placement for all kindergarten students who register by April 15. Plan for school and childcare with confidence!

Adventure Club is an optional, fee-based before and after school program for students in preschool through grade 5. It offers fun activities, homework support, and opportunities to make friends. All-day care is also offered on non-school days and in the summer at select sites.

Register at *stillwaterschools.org/ac*.



School Meals



All schools offer students a FREE nutritious breakfast and lunch every day. Students have a variety of options to choose from to help them develop healthy, lifetime eating habits. If students choose to bring a meal from home they may purchase milk.

Families can set up a School Café account to view daily menus, see nutrition and allergen information, or pay for additional items.

Learn more about our meals program at *stillwaterschools.org/meals.*

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for families to help pay for many school-related activities (field trips, activities, instruments and more). Families are encouraged to fill out an Educational Benefits Form (available in July) to determine if they qualify. Your application could help not just your family, but kids across the district in many ways. Just one form ensures continued funding to support ALL kids in our schools. Learn more at *stillwaterschools.org/benefits.*

Transportation

Transportation is provided to elementary students who live greater than half a mile from their neighborhood school. Families who choose to alternately enroll their children in a District 834 school other than their neighborhood school are responsible for providing their own transportation. For more information, visit *stillwaterschools.org/bus* or call 651-351-8377.

Health Office

Health offices at each school are staffed by health care professionals committed to keeping students well. We will work with you to address any special medical needs your child may have. For more information, visit *stillwaterschools.org/nurse* or call the district nurse at 651-351-8653.

Immunizations

For the safety of all children, Minnesota law requires every student enrolled in school to be immunized against certain diseases or file a legal medical or non-medical exemption. Before a child can begin kindergarten, they will need to submit these records to their school's health office. Learn more about required immunizations at *stillwaterschools.org/health.*



Special Education

Stillwater Area Public Schools provides a variety of specialized services for students who qualify, including interventions and support for academic, social, behavioral and physical obstacles to learning. If you suspect your child has a disability, please visit *stillwaterschools.org/SPED* or call the district's Student Support Services Office at 651-351-8605.

Multilingual Learner (ML) Services

We help ML students develop communication skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing, which enables them to be successful within the academic mainstream classroom. The program also assists students through their cultural adjustment. We help them develop an understanding of American culture, while encouraging them to share their cultural backgrounds and realize the importance of their role in a multicultural society. For more information visit *stillwaterschools.org/ML* or call 651-351-8611.

Enrichment Opportunities

Keep the learning going after school! Community Education offers fun, engaging classes year round - even on weekends and school breaks. From art and robotics to sports and theatre, there's something for everyone. And the best part is many of the classes are held right at your school! See all they have to offer at *stillwaterschools.org/ce.*

Kindergarten: What to Expect



A Typical Day in Kindergarten

ARRIVE - Students may choose to eat free breakfast before school begins. As they head to their classroom they will be warmly welcomed by their teacher, say hi to their friends and prepare for the day.

MORNING MEETING - Students greet one another and take part in a fun activity to build community within the classroom.

LESSONS - Students engage in small-group or whole group lessons in language arts and math. They'll have lots of opportunities throughout the week to practice their new skills.

TIME TO PLAY! Students go outside for recess in the morning, before lunch, and in the afternoon to enjoy some fresh air and exercise as they play with friends.

SPECIALISTS - Depending on the day, students attend music, physical education, or science classes.

LUNCH TIME - Students eat free lunch in the cafeteria with their classmates.

LESSONS - Students participate in hands-on art and media lessons or learn about the world around them in social studies.

SNACK TIME - Students have the opportunity to bring a snack to enjoy in the afternoon.

CLOSING ACTIVITY - At the end of the day, students gather on the rug for closing time and a recap of the day.

TIME TO GO HOME - Kids gather their belongings and are escorted to the bus, car pool or Adventure Club area.

Here are things your child will be working on as they enter kindergarten:

- Write their first name
- Identify and name colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown)
- Identify and name numbers 0-5
- Identify and name uppercase letters
- Identify and name lowercase letters
- Name sounds for letters they recognize
- Count to 31
- Regulate emotions and behaviors
- Separate from caregivers
- Follow directions
- Transition between activities
- Interact with peers
- Share and take turns
- Solve social problems

Next Step: Kindergarten!

Parents and other caregivers can provide important activities and experiences for children as they transition from the preschool years to kindergarten. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child be successful in kindergarten.



Emotional Development:

- Respond to your child's emotional and physical needs in kind and nurturing ways.
- Establish predictable family/life routines, but be flexible when necessary.
- Help your child identify and talk about their own feelings and the feelings of others.
- Model the use of appropriate words and actions when dealing with conflict and/or anger.

Approaches to Learning:

- Plan activities and experiences that provide time for you and your child to learn together.
- Help your child explore and learn about your neighborhood and community.
- Encourage your child to try new things and solve problems.
- Monitor/limit the use of television, videos and computers.
- Talk to children every day about the things they see, hear and do.



Social Competence:

- Listen carefully to your child. Encourage them to listen to others.
- Have regular conversations with your child and keep conversations going back and forth.
- Help your child identify and appreciate similarities and differences among people in your family and community.
- Model positive and appropriate ways to interact with children and adults.
- Use peaceful ways to resolve conflict with others.
- Encourage your child to help others in your family, neighborhood and community.

Physical Development:

- Provide opportunities and time for outdoor large motor play.
- Provide opportunities for play with puzzles, blocks, beads, etc.
- Model and provide opportunities for writing and drawing at home.
- Serve healthy foods, eat regular meals and provide time for rest and relaxation.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of exercise and physical activity.
- Encourage your child to be independent when dressing, toileting, washing hands, eating, etc.
- Encourage your child to ask for help and be available to help when needed.

Our Schools

Your family is welcome here! With guaranteed placement and no waitlists, we're making it easier to choose the Stillwater school that's right for your child.



Elementary Schools

Afton-Lakeland Elementary
475 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-351-6500
stillwaterschools.org/aftonlakeland

Bayport Elementary
1003 Fifth Avenue North
Bayport, MN 55003
651-351-6600
stillwaterschools.org/bayport

Brookview Elementary
11099 Brookview Road
Woodbury, MN 55129
651-275-2500
stillwaterschools.org/brookview

Lake Elmo Elementary
Amigo Unidos Spanish Immersion
10928 10th Street North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-351-6700
stillwaterschools.org/lakeelmo

Lily Lake Elementary
2003 West Willard Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-6800
stillwaterschools.org/lilylake

Rutherford Elementary
115 Rutherford Road
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-6400
stillwaterschools.org/rutherford

Stonebridge Elementary
900 North Owens Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-8700
stillwaterschools.org/stonebridge

We're All Ponies

Stillwater Area Public Schools stretches from Marine on St. Croix to Afton. We serve more than 8,000 students in 18 different communities including Lake Elmo and Woodbury. The district is made up of seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, an alternative learning center, and a special education transition program for ages 18-22.

Our elementary schools serve students in preschool-grade 5. And while each school has its own personality, all use the same high-quality curriculum and innovative teaching methods to nurture your child's curiosity.

We're making it easier than ever to become a Pony!

With no priority deadlines, waitlists, or lotteries, you have a place here whether you live in the district or not. You get guaranteed placement in:

- Any Stillwater school (even outside your boundary area)
- Amigos Unidos Spanish Immersion
- Adventure Club before- and after-school care

Families simply provide their own out-of-boundary transportation. No matter what school you attend, you'll be glad you chose Stillwater Area Public Schools!

The best way to learn what makes our schools great is by experiencing them for yourself!

Sign up for a tour and meet the principal.

stillwaterschools.org/tours

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