

CONGRATULATIONS

**It's time for
kindergarten!**

**YOUR GUIDE TO
KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**



Rochester
Public Schools

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Contact Information

Office of Registration and Records

Edison Administration Building
615 7th Street SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507.328.4200
8:00am - 4:45pm Monday - Friday



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WELCOME TO ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our records show that you have a child who will be eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2017. As the parent or guardian of a student in our schools, you are our most important and valued partner in our work to help your child achieve academic excellence.

Rochester Public Schools offers several different programming options for your kindergartener. This book will introduce you to all of the options within Rochester Public Schools, as well as information about kindergarten preparation, school tours, transportation, and more.

Kindergarten Enrollment Timeline

November 3, 2016

Kick Off to Kindergarten

Mayo High School Cafeteria | 4:30 – 7 PM

Learn about Rochester Public Schools and everything you need to know for fall 2017.

Late December 2016

Registration and Records will mail kindergarten registration forms (including district-wide school forms) to all incoming kindergarteners.

January 9, 2017

District-wide school applications are due to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent. See page 7 for information on the district-wide application.

Students accepted into a district-wide school via random selection process are notified by the Department of the Assistant Superintendent during the week of January 9.

January 3-31, 2017

Kindergarten Registration opens at the Edison Administration Building (615 7th St SW) Office of Registration and Records | 507.328.4200 Monday-Friday | 8:00am-4:45 pm

Spring 2017

Kindergarten Prep Preview events at all sites. Look for additional communication from your school.

May 2017

Approved/Denied Exception to Attendance & District-wide Acceptance copies are mailed to parents/guardians.

Parents should contact District Gifted Services by May 1, 2017 at 507.328.4275 to make initial request for early entrance to kindergarten.

Late August 2017

Transportation routing information mailed to those that qualify for busing.

Elementary classroom assignment day – Meet the Teacher and select a scheduled time for first experience at school (determined by sites).

Individual/small group experience for parents/guardians and child at kindergarten site.

What you should know.

Kindergarten registration packets will be mailed to families in late December 2016. If you have not received a registration packet by January 3, 2017, please stop by the Department of Registration and Records at the Edison Administration Building to enroll.

Please bring the following records with you when you register your child for kindergarten:

- Certified copy of the child's birth certificate, or we can photocopy the original for you.
- A copy of your child's latest immunization records. We realize that many children will not have all their immunizations needed until their 5th birthday.

Mandatory Early Childhood Screening

The State of Minnesota requires that all children check in for a development screening before entering a public kindergarten program. Rochester Public Schools provides a comprehensive early childhood check-in screening for any child three years of age and older at no charge. During an Early Childhood Screening our staff will check your child's vision, hearing, growth, immunizations status, skills in thinking, communication and language, large and small muscle control, and social and emotional development.

The best time to schedule your child's screening is when he or she turns 3-years-old. The tasks your child will be asked to complete are age appropriate so just as your child grows and changes with age, so will the tasks he or she will complete at the screening. Early detection and intervention make a difference in the lives of young children. Getting your child screened at age 3 will help you identify developmental needs your child may have. Even if you have no concerns about your child's development, you are still required by law to have a childhood screening summary and an immunization record before he or she can start school.

Appointments are scheduled at a variety of days and times. Screenings are completed by Registered Nurses and Early Childhood Professionals. A parent or guardian must attend the screening with the child. An interpreter is provided if needed. If your child receives special education services from Rochester Public Schools, speak with your child's teacher regarding the screening.

How to make an appointment:

Call 507.328.4004

Early Childhood Screenings take place at Northrop Community Education Center (201 8th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901)

TO-DO LIST



1 As soon as my child turns 3, schedule an Early Childhood Screening by calling 507.328.4020.

Location of Screening:

Northrop

Date of Screening:

Time of Screening:

2 Register my child for kindergarten in January at Registration & Records in the Edison Building.

615 7th Street SW

Day that I am going to register my child:

Papers to bring to registration:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records

3 Learn which school my child will attend.

Name of School:

School Phone Number:

Principal Name:

School Website:

4 Plan how my child will get to and from school - walk, bus, other.

From home to school:

From school to home:

Before & after school child care arrangements:

5 Figure out my child's Kindergarten schedule for the fall.

School start & end times:

Start: _____ End: _____

Breakfast/lunch programs are provided.

Breakfast: _____

Lunch: _____

6 Attend events at my child's elementary school such as Meet the Teacher Day, an open house, or play at the playground during the weekends.

Dates for Events:

7 Share information about my child with the kindergarten teacher.

Ways to share:

- Meet or talk with the kindergarten teacher.
- Meet the Teacher Day is in August. See if there is a Kinder Calendar.
- Visit the classroom with my child.
- Provide written information to the kindergarten teacher about my child's strengths and needs.

8 Find out if there are resources at the elementary school that may help my child and our family.

For example, translation services, speech therapy, transition resources, VIE, PTSA, etc.

Notes:

9 Do fun things with my child at home to help he/she get ready for kindergarten.

Examples of things you can do:

- Play on the playground
- Work on letter recognition
- Read with your child
- Play counting games
- Visit the library
- Have your child practice writing his/her name

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

What you need to know.

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Our Department of Student Health Services is a key component to meeting this daily goal.

If your child has special considerations (such as food allergies, diabetes, asthma, seizures, etc.) we need to know about this before he or she can begin kindergarten. Please visit our Student Health Services website, download and complete the appropriate forms before your child's first day of kindergarten.

Find us at: www.rochester.k12.mn.us/studenthealth

Are Your Kids Ready? Minnesota's Immunization Law

Immunization Requirements Use this chart as a guide to determine which vaccines are required to enroll in child care, early childhood programs, and school (public or private). Find the child's age/grade level and look to see if your child had the number of shots shown by the check-marks under each vaccine. Children birth to 2 years of age may not have received all doses.

BIRTH THROUGH 4 YEARS Early childhood programs & child care	AGE: 5 THROUGH 6 YRS ¹ For Kindergarten	AGE: 7 THROUGH 11 YRS For 1st through 6th grade	AGE: 12 YEARS AND OLDER For 7th through 12th grade
Hepatitis A (Hep A) ✓✓			
Hepatitis B (Hep B) ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B (Hep B) ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B (Hep B) ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B (Hep B) ✓✓✓ ⁶
DTaP/DT ✓✓✓✓	DTaP/DT ✓✓✓✓ ⁴	Tetanus and diphtheria containing doses ✓✓✓	Tdap (at 7th grade) ✓ ⁷
Polio ✓✓✓	Polio ✓✓✓✓ ⁵	Polio ✓✓✓	Polio ✓✓✓
MMR ✓	MMR ✓✓	MMR ✓✓	MMR ✓✓
Hib ✓			Meningococcal ✓ at 7th grade & ✓ age 16 ⁸
Pneumococcal ✓✓✓✓ ²			
Varicella ✓ ³	Varicella ✓✓ ³	Varicella ✓✓ ³	Varicella ✓✓

Immunizations recommended but not required:

Influenza Annually for all children age 6 months and older
Rotavirus For infants
Human papillomavirus At age 11-12 years

- First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.
- Not required after 24 months.
- If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form.
- Fifth shot of DTaP not needed if 4th was after age 4. Final dose of DTaP on or after age 4.
- Fourth shot of polio not needed if 3rd was after age 4. Final dose of polio on or after age 4.
- An alternate 2-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.
- Proof of at least three doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccination needed. If a child received Tdap at age 7-10 years another dose is not needed for 7th grade. However, if it was only a Td, a Tdap for 7th grade is needed.
- One dose is required for 7th grade, a second dose at age 16 years (10th/11th grade).

Exemptions

To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've had these immunizations or file a legal exemption with the school. Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

Looking for Records?

For copies of your child's vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

Quality Neighborhood Schools

Rochester Public Schools takes tremendous pride in a safe and welcoming learning environment for all of our students. Our quality neighborhood schools offer child-centered curriculum that include age-appropriate teaching methods and materials. Teaching and support staff work to develop all areas of a child (social, emotional, physical, academic, and creative). We promote independence and decision-making, problem-solving, and social skills in each child.

A balance of whole group, small group, and individual learning opportunities, along with a wealth of classroom materials and resources are used to create the best learning environment possible for your child.

Your child will be attending the school assigned to your neighborhood area. For additional information, visit www.rochester.k12.mn.us/neighborhood.



SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL	PHONE
Bamber Valley	2001 Bamber Valley Rd SW	Brenda Wichmann	507.328.3030
Bishop	406 36th Ave NW	Kate Palmquist	507.328.3100
Churchill	2240 7th Ave NE	Ryan Eversman	507.328.3150
Elton Hills	1421 Elton Hills Dr NW	Brant Goetz	507.328.3200
Folwell	603 15th Ave SW	Wendy Moritz	507.328.3220
Franklin	1801 9th Ave SE	George Nemanich	507.328.3300
Gage	1300 40th St NW	Jared Groehler	507.328.3400
Gibbs	5525 56th St NW	Michelle Schrantz	507.328.4100
Jefferson	1201 10th Ave NE	Chris Lingen	507.328.3500
Pinewood	1900 Pinewood Rd SE	Paul Ehling	507.328.3630
Riverside	506 5th Ave SE	Matt Ruzek	507.328.3700
Sunset Terrace	1707 19th Ave NW	Heather Hogen	507.328.3770

GET TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS

What is a district-wide school/program?

District-wide schools/programs are schools or programs located within Rochester Public Schools that may deliver the curriculum in a different manner than neighborhood schools. District-wide schools and programs are tuition free to students. Transportation is provided to eligible students that are enrolled in a district-wide school or program.

How do I enroll my child into a district-wide school/program?

To enroll, you must fill out and submit an application to the Department of the Assistant Superintendent. There are various ways in which you can do this.

1. Visit www.rochester.k12.mn.us/districtwide and follow the instructions. Fill out the form online, and press submit.
2. Print the PDF form and mail or drop it off at the Department of the Assistant Superintendent, Edison Administration Building, Second Floor, 615 7th Street SW, Rochester, MN, 55902.
3. Fill out the form either online or in person at the Edison Administration Building.

Why do I need to apply?

Students are automatically assigned to their neighborhood school and the application process allows us to learn about a family's interest in attending a district-wide school/program. At particular grade levels we may have a waiting pool due to a greater demand than the number of spots available.

What if my child has a sibling already enrolled in a district-wide school/program?

Siblings of students currently attending a district-wide school will have preference in the selection process. However, you will still need to use the same application process listed above. Be sure to indicate on the form that your child has a sibling currently enrolled in a district-wide school/program.

What is the time frame for 2016-2017 Applications?

Applications are available online and at the Department of the Assistant Superintendent. The deadline for the initial selection period is Monday, January 9, 2017 at 4:45pm with the random selection taking place on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Any additional random selections will be based on vacancies. Parents will be notified by phone during the week of January 9 if their child is selected. Applicants MUST reapply every year if not selected, including siblings.



What are the district-wide schools/programs?

Rochester Public Schools offer five district-wide elementary schools/programs.

Gage Spanish Immersion District-Wide Program

Hola! Gage offers the Spanish Immersion district-wide program in Rochester Public Schools. Our Spanish Immersion program follows a 90-10 model, meaning 90% of the day is in Spanish and 10% of the day is in English. Our teachers are licensed elementary teachers proficient in both Spanish and English. The Spanish Immersion program covers the same curriculum and is held to the same standards for success as our traditional kindergarten programs.

To arrange a tour, call 507.328.3400.
Principal: Jared Groehler

Lincoln K-8 District-Wide School

The mission of Lincoln is to educate and empower our children in a family-oriented and creative community by cultivating excellence. Staff use a thematic approach to deliver curriculum which support the individual learning styles of the whole child. Our innovative science curriculum supports academic excellence and is fostering the next generation of talented and creative scientists. We are a creative community that incorporates visual arts, music and class productions in grades K-8.

To arrange a tour, call 507.328.3550.
Principal: Jim Sonju

Longfellow 45/15 District-Wide Elementary School

Longfellow follows a 45/15 instructional calendar with school beginning the last week of July after a six-week summer vacation. Students attend school each of the four instructional quarters for approximately 45 days followed by 15 days of vacation. Benefits of the 45/15 schedule include greater student retention and less re-teaching due to the strategically placed breaks, consistent teaching time, and positive school culture. Our staff is highly creative with the infusion of research based differentiation models to meet the needs of our learners.

To arrange a tour, call 507.328.3600.
Principal: Kris Davidson

Montessori at Franklin District-Wide Elementary School

The Montessori approach to education embraces individualized instruction for children, mixed-age groupings, a structured curriculum, and a prepared environment using specialized Montessori teaching materials. The Montessori classrooms allow children to move, touch, manipulate, and explore the specifically designed learning materials with both direct and indirect teaching to foster their journey from the concrete to the abstract. Since Montessori education is based on the inner motivation of the child, it is the teacher's role to work with this motivation in ways that will enhance each child's learning experience.

To arrange a tour, call 507.328.3300.
Principal: George Nemanich

Washington Core Knowledge District-Wide Elementary School

Washington uses a curriculum based on the Core Knowledge Sequence, a rich and rigorous body of information in American and world history, geography, science, literature, music and art. It is our belief that the most effective elementary education balances high expectations for mastery of basic reading, math, writing, and technology skills with a solid foundation of factual information in the content areas. The area of reading stresses systematic phonics instruction in the primary grades and builds vocabulary, comprehension and reading fluency throughout the grades and reading instruction is supplemented with classic literature recommended in the Core Knowledge Sequence. Math instruction uses a traditional style focused on the MN state standards with an emphasis on mastery of basic math facts, computation skills, concepts, and problem solving.

To arrange a tour, call 507.328.3800.
Principal: Chad Schroeder

TOUR DATES

You are welcome to visit your neighborhood school or a district-wide school. Please visit us during any of the following dates, or make an appointment by calling the school's reception desk.

BAMBER VALLEY 12.13.2016 10:00 a.m. 12.13.2016 4:00 p.m. 01.31.2017 10:00 a.m. 01.31.2017 4:00 p.m. 03.14.2017 10:00 a.m.	FRANKLIN 05.26.2016 5:30 p.m. MONTESSORI AT FRANKLIN 11.21.2016 10:00 a.m. 12.01.2016 6:30 p.m. 12.06.2016 1:30 p.m.	LINCOLN K-8 10.11.2016 9:30 a.m. 10.27.2016 1:30 p.m. 11.10.2016 7:00 p.m. 11.17.2016 9:30 a.m. 12.02.2016 1:30 p.m. 12.12.2016 7:00 p.m.	SUNSET TERRACE 12.07.2016 10:30 a.m. 01.18.2017 4:00 p.m. 02.16.2017 10:30 a.m. 03.22.2017 4:00 p.m.
BISHOP 12.02.2016 10:00 a.m. 02.03.2017 2:30 p.m. 05.10.2017 2:30 p.m.	GAGE 11.07.2016 2:00 p.m. 11.22.2016 10:00 a.m.	LONGFELLOW 11.08.2016 10:30 a.m. 11.10.2016 10:30 a.m. 11.17.2016 2:30 p.m. 12.06.2016 10:30 a.m. 12.08.2016 10:30 a.m. 12.14.2016 2:30 p.m.	WASHINGTON 09.19.2016 10:30 a.m. 09.19.2016 1:30 p.m. 10.03.2016 10:30 a.m. 10.17.2016 10:30 a.m. 10.17.2016 1:30 p.m.
CHURCHILL 01.10.2017 1:00 p.m. 02.16.2017 10:30 a.m. 03.16.2017 1:30 p.m. 04.20.2017 10:30 a.m.	GIBBS 12.06.2016 2:00 p.m. 01.19.2017 10:00 a.m.	PINEWOOD 12.08.2016 10:30 a.m. 02.09.2017 2:00 p.m. 03.07.2017 5:00 p.m.	10.17.2016 1:30 p.m. 11.07.2016 10:30 a.m. 11.07.2016 1:30 p.m. 11.21.2016 10:30 a.m. 11.21.2016 1:30 p.m. 12.12.2016 10:30 a.m. 12.12.2016 1:30 p.m. 01.09.2017 10:30 a.m. 01.09.2017 1:30 p.m. 02.13.2017 10:30 a.m. 02.13.2017 1:30 p.m.
ELTON HILLS 01.13.2017 10:30 a.m. 03.09.2017 2:00 p.m. 05.09.2017 10:30 a.m.	JEFFERSON 11.07.2016 10:00 a.m. 02.07.2017 4:00 p.m.	RIVERSIDE 12.14.2016 10:00 a.m. 01.12.2017 1:00 p.m. 03.13.2017 1:30 p.m.	03.13.2017 10:30 a.m. 03.13.2017 1:30 p.m.
FOLWELL 01.19.2017 10:30 a.m. 02.16.2017 1:00 p.m. 03.16.2017 4:00 p.m.	02.16.2017 4:30 p.m.		

TRANSPORTATION

What you need to know.

The Minnesota state statute requires transportation for students residing 2 miles or more from their neighborhood school. However, Rochester Public Schools transports students in grades K-5 who reside more than 1.25 miles from their neighborhood school. You will receive an enrollment letter in the spring. Your letter will state whether or not you are eligible for transportation. If you are eligible, you will receive bus routing information by mail in late August of 2017.

Transportation can be provided to and from your child care location if the following circumstance exist:

- Your child care is in the attendance area of the school your child attends.
- Your child care address is more than 1.25 miles from the school your child attends.
- A child care request form must be completed in its entirety and signed by the parent/guardian(s).
- Requests for transportation from child care will be carried forward each year through 5th grade. Parents must notify the Transportation Office if they wish to cancel. Forms are available at the Transportation Office | Room 122 | Edison Building (615 7th St SW) or online at www.rochester.k12.mn.us under Families > Transportation.

(Countdown to Kindergarten 2017)

Kindergarten is a milestone full of excitement and wonder, but the transition to kindergarten can be challenging, too. Community Education offers an optional class that introduces children to the world of kindergarten in a low-stress, summer experience. Participants work with a kindergarten teacher in classes of about 20 students, and they experience the type of things a kindergartener will experience. This is a great option for those who could use a preview to feel more comfortable with kindergarten.

Classes will be offered summer of 2017—watch for Community Educations' spring brochure for class times, fees, scholarship, and registration information.

Visit www.rochesterce.org for more information.



The goal of our Family and Community Engagement organization is to educate parents and community members about the value of family and community engagement, as well as to provide strategies for these efforts throughout the district.

We encourage you to visit our website which contains tips and information about engagement. You'll learn more about the six different types of proven parent and family outreach practices. They are:

1. Parenting: Help all families establish home environments to support learning.
2. Communicating: Design more effective forms of communication to reach parents.
3. Volunteering: Recruit and organize parent help and support.
4. Learning at Home: Provide ideas to parents on how to help a child at home.
5. Decision Making: Include parents in school decisions and develop parent leaders.
6. Collaborating with the Community: Identify and integrate resources and services from the community.

Meeting Dates

All parents, families and community members are invited to join us at one or all of the following meetings. Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Northrop Building from 9:30-11:00am.

DATE	ROOM	TOPIC
10.11.16	201	Introduction/Volunteering
11.8.16	308	Parenting
12.13.16	201	Learning at Home
1.10.17	201	Decision Making
2.14.17	201	Communicating
3.14.17	201	Collaborating with the Community
4.11.17	201	To Be Determined
5.9.17	201	Review

*Our meeting will be canceled if there is a 2 hour school delay.

For questions, contact us at 507.328.4356 or visit us at

www.rochester.k12.mn.us/families/family_and_community_engagement

Volunteers in Education | ViE

Volunteering can deliver immeasurable rewards.

We encourage parents, guardians, grandparents, and community members to share their time, talents, and knowledge with our students. Volunteers in our schools enrich the educational programs and strengthen our relationships with families, businesses, and the community as a whole.

To volunteer in Rochester Public Schools, visit www.rochester.k12.mn.us/vie where you can complete an application and review frequently asked questions.

(SACC)



School Age Child Care (SACC) provides the highest quality enrichment opportunities in a nurturing and safe environment for more than 1700 children in kindergarten through fifth grade throughout Rochester Public Schools. SACC provides care before and after school on all regular school days, non-school enrichment days (NSEDs), most inclement weather days, and summer. The School Age Child Care program is available at all Rochester public elementary schools where registration numbers support an operating site. Information for SACC is available at Kick Off to Kindergarten, through the SACC office at Northrop Education Center, and online through Rochester Public Schools Community Education. Registration begins in March for the following summer and school year.

For more information visit: www.rochesterce.org/SACC

Where and when will kindergarten registration take place?

Kindergarten registration will take place from 8:00am to 4:45pm, Monday-Friday Jan. 3-31, 2017 at the Edison Building, 615 7th Street SW. Please bring a certified copy of your child's birth certificate. We can photocopy the original for you. We will need a copy of your child's latest immunization records. We realize that many children will not have all immunizations needed until their fifth (5th) birthday.

How can I find out where my neighborhood school is located?

School attendance boundary maps are available on the district website, or you may contact Registration and Records at 507.328.4200.

How do I obtain a copy of my child's birth certificate?

If your child was born in the state of MN, you can purchase a copy at the Olmsted County Courthouse in Rochester. If your child was not born in MN, contact the county of the state in which your child was born. We can photocopy the original for you.

What is the age requirement for entrance to kindergarten?

According to MN State Statute, a person shall not be admitted to a public school as a kindergarten pupil, unless the pupil is at least five (5) years of age on or before September 1, of the calendar year in which the school year commences. (120A.20, MN Statutes, 2007)

Students who demonstrate superior academic readiness will be considered for early entrance to kindergarten if they will be turning five (5) years of age between September 2 and August 31 of their early entrance school year. (120B.5, MN Statutes, 2004) For more information, contact Monica Bowler at 507.328.4275.

All children in Minnesota are required to begin attending school by the age of seven. Children are not required by statute to complete kindergarten before beginning first grade. The district recommends that children attend kindergarten before entering first grade.

How do I apply for 'Free or Reduced' lunch?

Applications for Free or Reduced Priced School Meals are available at your School Office or the Student Nutrition Services Office located at the Edison Building. For more information, please call 507.328.4218, or go to the Student Nutrition Services website.

Is there all-day kindergarten in Rochester?

Rochester Public Schools offers all-day kindergarten at all sites.

How do I learn more about kindergarten curriculum?

"Course of Study" brochures have been developed to show what students are learning at the different grade levels in different subject areas. Brochures are available on the district website www.rochester.k12.mn.us > Departments > Curriculum and Instruction.

Is there childcare at school?

Rochester Public Schools Community Education administers the School Age Child Care (SACC) Program. The School Age Child Care Office is located at Northrop Education Center, 201 8th Street NW, 507.328.4040. Information regarding the SACC program can be found on the Community Education website.

What if my daycare is in another attendance area other than where I live?

A parent/legal guardian may request that a child attend school in the neighborhood school serving the area in which the childcare provider resides. This is granted provided building capacity/class size will accommodate the request; agreed-upon plan will continue for the entire year; transportation is provided by the District only if the address is within the attendance area of the receiving school and meets the distance requirements for the transportation; and the student maintains acceptable attendance and behavior as determined by the building administrator. An Exception to Attendance Form for this request can be found on the Office of the Assistant Superintendent website or at any neighborhood school site.



What do I do if I need to have an interpreter help me during the registration process?

The district can assist families that may need a language interpreter during the registration process. Please let us know if you will need some assistance during registration by calling 507.328.4237.

How can I volunteer at my child's school and become involved in my child's education?

Visit the District website under Families > Family & Community Engagement and find out how you can volunteer at your child's school and how you can become involved and attend parent involvement meetings.

