



November, 2011

Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

2012-Kindergarten Registration Information

To: Parents/Guardians of 2012 Kindergarten Students:

Welcome to the Rochester Public Schools! Our records show that you have a child who will be eligible to enter kindergarten in the Rochester Public Schools in September 2012. 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.

Our goal is to offer the best possible preparation for children entering kindergarten. To meet this goal, we provide a half-day program every day in all schools with additional programs at Title I sites: Bamber Valley, Elton Hills, Gage, Franklin, Jefferson, Longfellow, Riverside and Sunset Terrace.

Most likely you have questions about this important step in your child's life. How do we register for kindergarten? When do we need to do this? How do we arrange bus transportation? What will my child's classroom look like? What should we be doing to help our child get ready for kindergarten?

In this newsletter you will find the necessary information to help answer these important questions. Our schools have scheduled tours or informational meetings already established for parents, guardians and incoming kindergarten students. This is an exciting new adventure for both you and your child. We want to work with you to make this a positive experience.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Kindergarten Registration Dates and Location

Registration Dates:

Jan. 3 - Jan. 31, 2012

7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Wednesdays

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

January 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				

Registration will take place at:

Edison Building

615 7th Street SW

Rochester, MN 55902

Phone:

(507) 328-4200

Please place these important dates on your calendar!

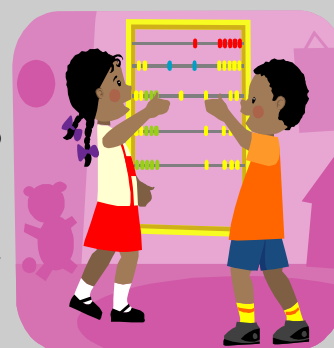
Neighborhood School Information

Your child will be attending the school that is assigned to your neighborhood area. For additional information about any of the neighborhood school programs, please contact the school principal at the number listed below or visit the website at www.rochester.k12.mn.us

<u>School</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bamber Valley	2001 Bamber Valley Rd SW	Becky Gerdes	328-3030
Bishop	406 36 Ave NW	Jacque Peterson	328-3100
Churchill	2240 7 Ave NE	Joyce Dammer	328-3150
Elton Hills	1421 Elton Hills Dr NW	Paul Ehling	328-3200
Folwell	603 15 Ave SW	Todd Kieffer	328-3220
Franklin	1801 9 Ave SE	Jean Murphy	328-3300
Gage	1300 40 St NW	Kim McDonald	328-3400
Gibbs	5525 56 Street NW	Chad Schroeder	328-4100
Jefferson	1201 10 Ave NE	Brenda Wichmann	328-3500
Pinewood	1900 Pinewood Rd SE	Roxanne Nauman	328-3630
Riverside	506 5 Ave SE	Christine Smith	328-3700
Sunset Terrace	1707 19 Ave NW	Jody Goldstein	328-3770

Neighborhood School Programs:

Each program at neighborhood schools is comprised of a half-day program (two and one-half hours per day) with morning and afternoon options. All day kindergarten is available at Riverside and Longfellow for students that reside in the Riverside attendance area and those selected to attend Longfellow 45/15 Choice school. Rochester Public Schools offers a child-centered curriculum that includes age-appropriate teaching methods and materials such as learning centers, hands-on math, literature-based reading, and thematic units. The teaching and support staff works to develop all areas of a child (social, emotional, physical, academic, and creative). They 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 more details, please refer to the *Kindergarten Course of Study Brochure*, which will be provided during kindergarten tour sessions at each building.



Title I Schools: In addition, Extended Day opportunities are available for kindergarten students attending Bamber Valley, Elton Hills, Franklin, Gage, Jefferson, and Sunset Terrace. They are given a broad-based assessment prior to the start of school. The results of the assessment will aid the school staff in determining admission into the extended-day (all-day) kindergarten program. Students in the extended-day program receive additional focused instruction in basic skills using different teaching strategies. The extended-day program also gives students more opportunities for social development.



Choice Schools and Program Information

There are several choice programs for elementary-age students listed below. Students must apply at the school for these choice programs. There is no tuition cost for attending a choice program. Transportation to these four sites will be provided for students eligible for transportation.

Lincoln K-8 Choice School (K-8) The philosophy of Lincoln's community can be summarized by the acronym SMART. Staff and volunteers work to help students maintain positive Self esteem, use Multiple intelligences, achieve high Academic goals, demonstrate Respect and Responsibility, and learn to use Technology in an increasingly complex world. The mission is to educate the whole child in a family-partnered, nurturing, respectful environment that cultivates creativity, independent thinking, and personal diversity. Goal-setting, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills are developed and used throughout the students' learning careers. District and state standards are met through an integrated thematic approach; integration of subject matter provides the foundation for understanding concepts in learning the fundamentals of the Spanish language. Lincoln is the only elementary school offering Spanish and an in-depth technology program starting in kindergarten. Students are grouped in multi-age classrooms based on their social, emotional, cognitive, and personal needs.

Contact: Jim Sonju (328-3550)

Longfellow 45/15 Elementary School (K-5) Longfellow Choice Elementary School follows a 45/15 instructional calendar with school beginning the last week of July following a six-week summer vacation. Students attend school each of the four instructional quarters for approximately 45 days followed by 15 days of vacation. During each 15 day intersession break students are provided the opportunity to attend targeted math and/or reading intervention classes in the morning for one week in October, two weeks in January and one week in March. These classes are taught by Longfellow Staff where student/teacher ratio is low to provide as much individual help as possible. SACC (School Age Child Care) and 21st Century offer enrichment activities during the remainder of the break. 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. Longfellow has an all-day, every day kindergarten program. Students in our kindergarten receive art, music and media as specials, with physical education classes every other day. Longfellow staff is highly creative with the infusion of research based differentiation models to meet the needs of its learners. Longfellow is currently implementing more technology into its instructional processes across all grade levels as a result of collaborative efforts. A one hour block of time is set aside for reading instruction each day with additional support staff in each kindergarten and first grade classroom as a result of newly revised flexible grouping models. With this support we are able to provide small group instruction and more individualized instruction for students demonstrating needs for intervention, as well as enrichment. Longfellow is a choice school and is open to any student within or outside the Rochester School District. Applications are available at the school or on the Longfellow website at www.rochester.k12.mn.us. A tour of the school is required of all new applicants (K-5). Students are selected by a computerized drawing after the application to choice school deadline in early January. **Contact: Kris Davidson (328-3600)**



Montessori Program at Franklin (K-5)

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. The approach to language emphasizes spoken language as the foundation for building precise vocabulary and language patterns. Written language includes the introduction of the 26 letters and their sounds, along with other natural exposures to writing and written materials. 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. Parent/guardian involvement is an important part of the Montessori program.

Contact: Jean Murphy (328-3300)

Washington Elementary School (K-5)

Washington is a choice school that 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. The school is based on the 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. Our single-grade classrooms use the same reading textbook program as the neighborhood schools, and supplement the reading instruction with classic literature recommended in the Core Knowledge Sequence. Math instruction uses the Harcourt Math textbooks to help students master basic math facts, computation skills, concepts, and problem solving. Teachers use a variety of instructional methods to help students learn content and skills. Our character education program, which is integrated throughout the school day, helps provide a learning environment that is orderly, respectful, and productive. Regular homework and parent involvement are also features of the school. Extracurricular activities include drama club and foreign language clubs. **Contact: Rob Scripture (328-3800)**

For more information about a choice school, please check out the website at www.rochester.k12.mn.us. If you would like to receive an application for a choice program, please contact the school at the phone number provided above.

Kindergarten Tour Dates

2011-2012 Kindergarten Tour Schedule:

Each of our schools have scheduled tours or informational meetings for parents/guardians and incoming kindergarten students. In addition to seeing the classrooms and meeting our staff, you will be given information regarding the kindergarten program. The tours provide more flexibility for parents and greater opportunity to see what kindergarten is all about.

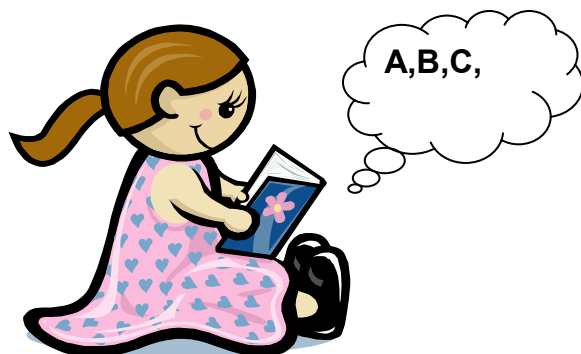
Bamber Valley	Nov. 29 @ 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.; Feb.13 @ 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.; Apr. 17 @ 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.
Bishop	Dec. 15 @ 2:00 p.m.; Jan. 12 @ 10:00 a.m.; Mar. 15 @ 2:00 p.m.
Churchill	Dec. 5 @ 2:00 p.m.; Jan. 10 @ 11:15 a.m.; Feb.13 @ 1:00 p.m.; Mar. 12 @ 2:00 p.m.
Elton Hills	Jan. 13 @ 10:00 a.m.; Mar. 8 @ 2:00 p.m.; May 15 @ 10:00 a.m.
Folwell	Jan. 18 @ 11:00 a.m.; Feb. 15 @ 2:00 p.m.; Mar. 21 @ 11:00 a.m.
Franklin Montessori	Dec. 1 @ 7:30 p.m. (followed by an informational discussion-No registration necessary.) This is an opportunity to learn about Montessori at Franklin and have your questions answered by teachers, parents and students. Please call 328-3300 to register for one of the following tours listed below: Dec. 5 @ 10:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.; Dec. 13 @ 10:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 19 @ 1:30 p.m.; Feb. 10 @ 10:00 a.m.; Mar. 6 @ 1:30 p.m.; Apr. 18 @ 10:00 a.m.
Gage	Mar. 26 @ 10:00 a.m.; Apr. 10 @ 1:30 p.m.
Gibbs	Dec. 16 @ 10:00 a.m.; Jan. 19 @ 4:30 p.m.; Feb. 15 @ 1:30 p.m.; Mar. 13 @ 2:00 p.m.
Jefferson	Dec. 7 @ 10:00 a.m.; Jan. 20 @ 10:00 a.m.; Feb. 15 @ 2:00 p.m.; Mar. 20 @ 2:00 p.m. Apr. 24 @ 10:00 a.m.; May 24 @ 10:00 a.m.
Lincoln K-8 Choice	Nov. 16 @ 7:00 a.m.; Dec. 1 @ 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 13 @ 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 6 @ 9:30 a.m.; Mar. 15 @ 1:30 p.m.; Apr. 23 @ 9:30 a.m.; May 16 @ 1:30 p.m.
Longfellow	Nov. 22 @ 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 2 @ 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 9 @ 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 16 @ 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 20 @ 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 27 @ 9:30 a.m.
Pinewood	Dec. 13 @ 1:00 p.m.; Feb. 13 @ 10:30 a.m.; Mar. 15 @ 1:00 p.m.
Riverside	Jan. 26 @ 2:00 p.m.; Mar. 22 @ 10:30 a.m.; May 18 @ 2:30 p.m.
Sunset Terrace	Dec. 6 @ 2:30 p.m.; Jan. 4 @ 4:30 a.m.; Jan. 10 @ 5:30 p.m.; Jan. 19 @3:45 p.m.; Feb. 14 @ 5:30 p.m.; Feb. 23 @ 4:00 p.m.; Mar. 13 @ 5:30 p.m.; Mar. 21 @10:30 a.m.; Apr. 10 @ 5:30 p.m.
Washington	Nov. 21 @ 1:30 p.m.; Dec. 5 @ 9:30 a.m.; Dec. 19 @ 1:30 p.m.

We strongly encourage you to attend one of the scheduled tours or meetings at your child's school. If you are unable to attend at your site then you may attend one at any of the other neighborhood elementary schools. The information that is shared will be the same regardless of the neighborhood school you attend; however, the school layout and classroom arrangement will be different at each site. These tours are for the parents/guardians and the child who will be entering kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening Information

Early detection and intervention making a difference in the lives of young children

Did you know that the State of Minnesota requires that all children participate in a developmental screening before entering public kindergarten programs? The Rochester School District provides a comprehensive Early Childhood Screening for any child three years of age and older at no charge. During an Early Childhood Screening, Early Childhood Screening staff will check your child's: vision, hearing, growth, immunizations, and skills in thinking, communication and language, large and small muscles, and social and emotional development.



There is no cost for the screening and it is funded by the State of Minnesota.

Parents/Guardians must attend the screening with their child. Language interpretation is provided upon request.

**TO SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING APPOINTMENT,
PLEASE CALL EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING AT 328-4004.**

Transportation to School and Daycare

By statute school districts are required to transport students living more than 2 miles from school. In Rochester, students in grades K-5 living more than 1.25 miles from school are transported.

The district will provide transportation to and from a **daycare** as long as the **daycare** address meets the same requirements as your home address. The **daycare** must be in the attendance area of the school attending and meet the distance requirements. Also transportation to and from **daycare** must be consistent, meaning that the pick up and drop off point must be the same every day. If using **daycare**, please complete a Childcare Transportation Request available on the web site or in the Transportation office.

In the spring, an enrollment projection letter is sent by mail. If your enrollment projection stated you were eligible for transportation you will receive routing information by mail in mid -August.

Private pay is available for individuals who don't qualify for bussing because they live too close to the school of attendance. Please watch the web-site for private pay registration dates which will open in August.

Transportation

www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school85/transportation

Phone: 507-328-4260 / Fax: 507-328-4258



Are Your Kids Ready for School?

Minnesota's School Immunization Law

Directions:

- Find the child's age/grade level and read across to the right.
- Look to see whether the child had the number of shots shown by the checkmark(s) under each vaccine.

Note: Each row is meant to be read separately, so don't add up the columns of checkmarks under each vaccine.

Example: A preschooler needs 4 DTaP, then to enter kindergarten he or she needs 1 more DTaP, for a total of 5 (not 9).

	Hep B Hepatitis B	Tdap/DTaP/Td diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)	Polio	MMR measles, mumps, rubella	Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Varicella* (chickenpox)
Preschool (age 3-5)		✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	At least ✓	✓
Kindergarten**	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓ 5 th shot not needed if 4 th was after age 4	✓✓✓✓✓ 4 th polio not needed if 3 rd was after age 4	✓✓		✓✓
Age 7 through 6th grade		At least ✓✓✓	At least ✓✓✓	✓		
7th through 12th grade	✓✓✓ 7 th grade only**	At least ✓✓✓ Plus one more shot at age 11-12 years***	At least ✓✓✓	✓✓		✓✓ 7 th grade only

* Varicella shot(s) not required if a child's doctor signs a form saying the child has already had chickenpox disease.

** First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and Tdap/DTaP/Td schedules for kindergarten.

*** An alternate 2-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.

**** If a child received a Td at age 7-10 years they do not necessarily need another one at age 11-12. However, they must receive another shot of Td or Tdap 10 years after their last one.

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 healthcare provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

Other immunizations recommended for school kids, but not required by the School Immunization Law:

- Influenza (flu) – each year for children age 6 months through 18 years – especially those with risk factors like asthma and diabetes.
- Hib – an additional two to three doses (depending on the product used) is recommended in addition to the one dose at or after 12 months of age required for school.
- Meningococcal for age 11-18.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) for girls age 11-18.
- Hepatitis A

IC# 141-0903 (MDH, 6/20/11)



Immunization Program
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970
www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

Registration Enrollment Packet

Kindergarten Registration Packets will be mailed out to families in late December of 2011. If you have not received a packet by January 3, 2012, please contact Registration and Records at 328-4200.

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

(Please refer to the registration dates and times listed on the front page).

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

Kindergarten Enrollment Timeline

OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2011	Letters sent to parents/guardians regarding mandatory Early Childhood Screening. Call Early Childhood Screening at 328-4004 for an appointment.
DECEMBER, 2011	Kindergarten registration materials mailed to parents/guardians. Contact Registration and Records at 328-4200 if you have not received a packet by January 3, 2012.
JANUARY 6, 2012	Choice school program applications due at all choice schools.
JANUARY 9-20, 2012	Choice schools hold lottery and notify parents/guardians.
JANUARY 23, 2012	Choice schools notify Registration & Records with list of accepted students.
JANUARY 3-31, 2012	Kindergarten Registration at Edison (328-4200) January 3-31, M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays until 5:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 1, 2012	All <u>new</u> Exception to Attendance application forms are due to the Edison Building, 615 7th St SW, Rochester, MN 55902.
MARCH & APRIL, 2012	Exception to Attendance applications reviewed by Office of Elementary & Secondary Education.
APRIL, 2012	Approved/Denied Exception to Attendance & Choice Acceptance copies mailed to parents/guardians.
LATE AUGUST, 2012	Transportation routing information mailed to those that qualify for bussing.
DATE DETERMINED BY ELEMENTARY SITES (LATE AUGUST 2012)	Elementary Classroom Assignment Day-Meet The Teacher, and select a scheduled time for first experience at school.
DATE DETERMINED BY ELEMENTARY SITES (LATE AUGUST 2012)	Individual/small group experience for parents/guardians, and child at kindergarten site.



Frequently Asked Questions

***How can I find out where my attendance area school is located?**

School attendance boundary maps are available at the school website, or you may call Registration and Records at 328-4200.
www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school85/transportation

***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.

***What is the age requirement for 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 years of age on September 1, of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences (120A.20, MN Statutes 2007)

***How do I apply for Free and 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 website.
www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school85/nutrition

***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 at the Edison building or can be accessed on the Curriculum & Instruction website.
www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school85/instructionalservices

***Is there all day kindergarten in Rochester?**

Rochester Public Schools has half-day, every day kindergarten. Extended-day opportunities are available at Bamber Valley, Elton Hills, Franklin, Gage, Jefferson, and Sunset Terrace Elementary Schools. These programs provide additional academic support for students that may need help with basic skills in reading and math. Admission to the extended-day program is based on assessment results. Riverside and Longfellow have all day, every day kindergarten programs.

***Is there childcare at school?**

Rochester Public Schools Community Education administers the School Age Child Care Program. The School Age Child Care Office is located at Northrop Education Center, 201 8th Street NW, (507) 328-4040.

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

A parent/legal guardian may request that a child attend school in the 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 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 district website.

www.rochester.k12.mn.us/se3bin/clientgenie.cgi

***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 would need some assistance during registration. Language translations are available on the website.

www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school85/esol