

2017-18 Preschool Registration

Please read below to learn about the new procedures regarding preschool registration for the 2017-18 school year. Please note, registration will not take place until March 1, 2017.

WHAT DOES THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

Our curriculum offers a balance of individual, small group, and large group activities with an emphasis on learning centers and child self-selection. The classrooms are planned to stimulate aspects of development by acknowledging each child's individual development, age-related development, and cultural background. Your child will learn by doing, imitating, observing, exploring, examining, experimenting, and questioning in activities and experiences planned according to his or her interests and home experiences. Language and literacy experiences, storytelling and story sharing, creative dramatics, and music are integrated throughout the program as well as numbers, science, and outdoor activities. We also focus on social emotional learning with an emphasis placed upon sharing, belonging to a group, and forming friendships with other children and adults.

HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

For the 3 year old preschool, your child must be three by September 15th, 2017.

For the 4 year old preschool, your child must be four by September 15th, 2017.

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

The preschool registration window is open between **March 1st and March 18th, 2017**. Registration will still be available after March 18th, but we cannot guarantee a slot for your child. Please note: for the 3 year old program only, limited spots are available and a random drawing will be used for placement.

WHICH SCHOOL BUILDINGS OFFER PRESCHOOL CLASSES?

Heritage Elementary in Grimes, The Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings), and Kids Korner in Dallas Center will be the preschool locations for 4 year olds.

Heritage Elementary will be the only location for the 3 year old program.

WHICH BUILDING WILL MY CHILD WILL BE IN?

Grimes students will mostly be placed at Heritage Elementary. A few will be placed at the Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings) along with the students who attend daycare there. Dallas Center students will be placed at Kids Korner in Dallas Center. Once the building and section decisions are finalized, families will be contacted by email, letter or phone regarding their assigned location and time.

IF I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE DC-G SCHOOL DISTRICT, CAN I STILL REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Resident students of the Dallas Center-Grimes School District and siblings of current open-enrolled students will be considered first for enrollment into the preschool program. If there is room available when school starts, then we may fill the slots with out of district students. Please call the North Ridge office in the meantime to be put on a waiting list, but please do not register online.

WHEN ARE PRESCHOOL CLASSES HELD?

4 days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Morning Class (AM) – 8:10-11:10 AM (3 year olds and a couple of 4 year old sections)

Afternoon Class (PM) – 12:15-3:15 PM (4 year olds)

The preschool calendar runs on the same schedule as the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School district calendar regarding vacation days, early outs, and snow days. However, preschoolers will start school one week later than K-12 students. Home visits by the preschool teachers will be conducted during the week prior to their first day. Teachers will contact you to set up a time and/or there will be a sign up sheet at the open house prior to school starting.

CAN I CHOOSE WHICH SECTION MY CHILD WILL BE IN (AM/PM)?

Since we always have more interest for the morning sections, and we need to balance the classes, you are not able to choose a preference at this time. Students attending the major daycare centers such as First Steps, Imagine Learning Center, Tender Years, Traditions, Learning Tree, Tender Hearts, etc. will automatically be placed in the afternoon session.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Please refer to the Registration Webpage and follow the process for either an existing family or a new family to the district.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD IF I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER OR HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

There will be registration kiosks available at South Prairie, North Ridge, Dallas Center Elementary, Middle School, Meadows, and DC-G High School. Please come between 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM starting on March 1, 2017.

I HAVE OLDER CHILDREN ALREADY ENROLLED AT DC-G SCHOOLS. CAN I REGISTER THEM ALL AT ONCE WITH MY PRESCHOOLER?

Yes! Please refer to the Registration Webpage and follow the process for an existing family. Just be sure to add your preschool-aged child to the list of students you're registering for the upcoming school year.

WHAT PAPERWORK SHOULD I HAVE READY BEFORE REGISTERING MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Existing families with Parent Portal accounts will need a digital copy of your child's **birth certificate** and your child's **immunization record**. (We are hoping this step will be available and ready March 1)

New families will need the paperwork listed above and additionally will need a digital copy showing **proof of residence** (ex: a scanned copy of a utility bill with your name and address.)

WHAT IS THE COST FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

The current cost for the 3 year old program is \$175/month plus a \$25 one-time registration fee. However, these amounts could be subject to change.

At this time, the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds our district's 4 year old program, and the only cost to parents is the \$25 one-time registration fee. We are unable to fully guarantee this funding for next year.

WHEN WILL I KNOW THE LOCATION AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR MY PRESCHOOLER?

Due to increasing enrollment within our district, you will not find out until mid July at the earliest. You will receive an email, letter, or a phone call once the decisions have been made.

IS MY CHILD GUARANTEED A PRESCHOOL SLOT IF I REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 18TH?

As long as you register online before the deadline, you should be fine for the 4 year old classes. If we have more registrations than anticipated, however, we will create a wait list that will allow us to fill the spots when available. The 3 year old classes are filled by a random drawing system only, so your child is not guaranteed a slot.

I JUST REGISTERED MY PRESCHOOLER. WHY DON'T I SEE THEM IN MY PARENT PORTAL?

Your preschooler will not be visible in your Parent Portal until the 2017-18 school year, which starts July 1, 2017. This is the same reason you cannot pay registration fees for them until July 1, 2017.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please contact April Heitland or Deanna Sandegren at the North Ridge office (515-986-5674) if you have any further questions regarding our preschool program.