

2006-07 Parents' Guide to **Kindergarten**



Registration Information for Kindergarten & Kindergarten Plus

A Publication of Elementary Education & Community Education



Independent School District 196

www.district196.org

Educating our students to reach their full potential



Our Kindergarten Philosophy

The goal of education is to encourage the development of children who are happy, compassionate, self-initiating, creative, inquisitive and eager to learn. Kindergarten lays the foundation for learning experiences by providing appropriate opportunities for these qualities to develop.

Welcome, Parents!

We are pleased to share with you this information about kindergarten in District 196.

If this is your first child to attend school, you probably have several questions. We hope to answer many of those here. Even if this is not your first experience with kindergarten, we hope that you will find this information useful and interesting.

New things are always happening in education, and kindergarten is no exception. Most recently, we added an option for kindergarten students to stay all day with their kindergarten teacher, in a program called Kindergarten Plus. See pages 11-15.

As always, our top notch half-day program remains available at all elementary schools, for those families who prefer this experience.

We are happy to answer your questions and supply the information you need. Please see the back cover for contacts regarding any questions you have.

We look forward to welcoming your child to kindergarten in September 2006.



Timeline

Before
Your Child's
4th Birthday

Complete
early childhood
screening

January 2006

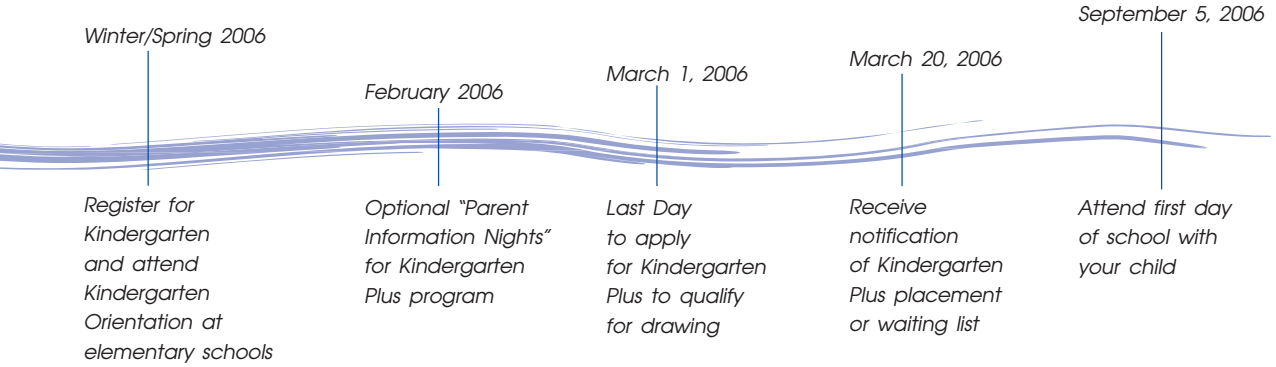
Kindergarten info
mailed and on
district web site
www.district196.org

Our Kindergarten Mission

The District 196 kindergarten program provides an environment where each child is respected as a unique individual. It responds to differences, special needs, interests, temperaments and learning styles. The atmosphere in the classroom is nurturing and inviting.

Kindergarten instruction encourages the growth of problem solving, decision making and communication skills, and supports cooperative learning, socialization, healthy self-esteem and creativity. Growth occurs as children actively participate in concrete, hands-on activities each day. Teachers determine the activities based on the children in their classroom and curriculum frameworks. Children have opportunities to assume increasing responsibilities for self-care and independence.

The kindergarten program fosters the important connections between home, school and the community. This is most effective when families and teachers work cooperatively to encourage and support children as they learn and strive to reach their full potential.



Kindergarten Options

Kindergarten

Parents have a choice regarding kindergarten in School District 196. Traditional kindergarten is offered at every district elementary school and operates for 2.5 hours each school day. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1, 2006, has the right to participate in this standard program.

Kindergarten Plus

A new option called Kindergarten Plus was developed in 2003 and offers children the opportunity to remain at school, with their kindergarten teacher for the remainder of the school day. Kindergarten Plus is not yet offered at every elementary school, and the number of available spots in the program is limited. Please read over these options for full details.



Kindergarten

(standard, 2.5 hours/day)

Fee: None

In District 196, all kindergarten students participate in at least 2.5 hours per day of instruction. In this program, licensed kindergarten teachers select developmentally appropriate activities to achieve curricular goals in the following areas:

<i>Art</i>	<i>Guidance</i>	<i>Health</i>
<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Music</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	

Students in traditional kindergarten participate in either a morning or afternoon session. This typically depends on the neighborhood in which you live and the school bus routes that serve your school's attendance areas. If you have questions about whether your child would attend morning or afternoon kindergarten, please contact your school. (See map on pages 22 and 23.)

The district receives general education funding from the State of Minnesota for each student. These funds support the traditional kindergarten program, so there is no fee for this program.

If you have questions about the traditional kindergarten program, please call your elementary school or the Elementary Education Department at 651-423-7782.

Kindergarten Registration & Orientation

Parents of all kindergarten students should attend both **Kindergarten Registration** and **Kindergarten Orientation**, held at your elementary school in the winter or spring before your child begins kindergarten.

Your elementary school mails kindergarten registration information to all families known to have a child age-eligible for kindergarten the following fall. If you do not receive your information by the week prior to your registration date (see list), please call your elementary school to request it.

This mailing includes important information specific to your school and its process for kindergarten registration and orientation.

*Note: Application for Kindergarten Plus does **not** replace the regular kindergarten registration process.*



Kindergarten Orientation Dates

Your kindergarten registration information will include the date and time for kindergarten orientation at your school. In some cases, this occurs on the same date as kindergarten registration. Children are welcome at some events. Please note this as you read your school's information.

Kindergarten Registration Dates

For families with a child entering kindergarten in September 2006

School	Dates	Times
Cedar Park	April 5 & 6	8 am – 8 pm
Deerwood	March 14	7 am – 7 pm
Diamond Path	April 5 & 6	8 am – 8 pm
Echo Park	March 21 & 22	8 am – 7 pm
Glacier Hills	March 20, 21, 22 March 23	8 am – 4 pm 8 am – 8 pm
Greenleaf	March 9	8 am – 7:30 pm
Highland	February 23	7:30 am – 7:30 pm
Northview	March 14	4 pm – 7 pm
Oak Ridge	March 27 & 28	7:30 am – 7:30 pm
Parkview	February 28 & March 2	8 am – 8 pm
Pinewood	March 28	6:30 pm – 8 pm
Red Pine	April 5 & 6	8 am – 8 pm
Rosemount	March 9	A-L 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm M-Z 7 pm – 8 pm
Shannon Park	March 6 & 7	8 am – 8 pm
Southview	April 3 & 4 April 5	8 am – 4 pm 8 am – 7 pm
Thomas Lake	March 13 March 14	8 am – 7 pm 8 am – 5 pm
Westview	March 2	7:30 am – 7:30 pm
Woodland	March 7	8 am – 7 pm



Kindergarten Plus

(optional, additional 3.75 hours/day)

Fee: \$3,132 (\$348 monthly)

Kindergarten Plus is an optional, extended-day program that complements traditional kindergarten. The full day is a collaboration between Elementary Education, which oversees the kindergarten program, and Community Education, which administers the Kindergarten Plus extended-day program.

Kindergarten Plus offers students the opportunity for expanded experiences in many areas including, but not limited to the traditional kindergarten curriculum. Instructors use developmentally appropriate extensions of the regular curriculum and enrichment activities to expand the experience.

Students who participate in Kindergarten Plus begin their day with traditional kindergarten. They stay through lunch and recess with an adult supervisor and then return to their classroom for the afternoon of Kindergarten Plus. The same licensed kindergarten teacher instructs kindergarten and Kindergarten Plus, providing a cohesive, all-day experience.

Kindergarten Plus is now available at most of the district's 18 elementary schools; however, space is limited in the Kindergarten Plus program. A drawing among applications submitted by March 1 determines placement and waiting lists for the following school year. (See Terms & Conditions on pages 14-15 for full details.)

The state does not fund this optional, extended-day program. Therefore, participating families pay \$3,132 per year, payable in nine monthly installments of \$348 during the school year. Limited financial assistance is available to those who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

If you have questions about the Kindergarten Plus program, please contact Community Education at 651-423-7933 or k-plus@district196.org.



Kindergarten Plus Schools

Kindergarten Plus for 2006-07 will be available at the following schools. Space is limited; a drawing among applications submitted by March 1 determines placement and waiting lists for the following school year.

<i>Cedar Park</i>	<i>Deerwood</i>	<i>Diamond Path</i>
<i>Echo Park</i>	<i>Glacier Hills</i>	<i>Greenleaf</i>
<i>Highland</i>	<i>Northview</i>	<i>Oak Ridge</i>
<i>Parkview</i>	<i>Pinewood</i>	<i>Rosemount</i>
<i>Shannon Park</i>	<i>Southview</i>	<i>Thomas Lake</i>
<i>Westview</i>	<i>Woodland</i>	

Please note: A section of Kindergarten Plus for Red Pine students will be offered at Pinewood Elementary. Transportation from Red Pine to Pinewood and back will be provided.

Kindergarten Plus Registration

*For your child to be eligible for the drawing for available spaces, your completed Kindergarten Plus Agreement form is due by **4:30 pm on March 1, 2006.***

Send this to:

*Community Education, Attn: Kindergarten Plus
15180 Canada Avenue, Rosemount, MN, 55068*

Kindergarten Plus Agreement forms are available at elementary schools, on the district's web site www.district196.org, at the Kindergarten Plus office at the address above and by mail, fax or e-mail (call 651-423-7933 to request).

*Note: Your registration for Kindergarten Plus does **not** replace the regular kindergarten registration process. Please be sure to complete your school's registration and orientation process as directed.*

Kindergarten Plus Terms & Conditions

- ◆ *Children must attend Kindergarten and Kindergarten Plus at the same school, with the same licensed kindergarten teacher.*
- ◆ *For your child to be eligible for the drawing for available spaces, your completed Kindergarten Plus Agreement is due by 4:30 pm on March 1, 2006, to Community Education, Attn: Kindergarten Plus, 15180 Canada Avenue, Rosemount, MN, 55068.*
- ◆ *Priority placement for available spaces in Kindergarten Plus occurs in this order: (1) residents of a school's attendance area, (2) District 196 residents of a different school's attendance area, including intra-district transfers, (3) non-residents of District 196, including those open enrolled. Within these categories, names are drawn at random from those applications in by the March 1 deadline.*
- ◆ *School bus transportation is provided to students who live or attend daycare more than one-half mile from their school, along approved district bus routes within the school's attendance area. Transportation from Red Pine to Pinewood and back for Kindergarten Plus will be provided. In all other cases, parents are responsible for transportation.*
- ◆ *Cost is \$18 per school day, whether or not your child is in attendance. The total of \$3,132 is payable in nine equal payments of \$348 during the school year. Limited financial assistance is available. Formal instructions for payment will be provided to participating families.*
- ◆ *A \$15 fee will be assessed for any checks returned for Non-Sufficient Funds.*
- ◆ *A \$10 late fee will be assessed every two weeks on all past due accounts. Past due accounts can result in termination of the Kindergarten Plus agreement and removal from the program. If your child leaves the program for this reason, you are responsible for any outstanding account balance, prorated to the termination date.*

- ◆ *Parents may voluntarily terminate the Kindergarten Plus agreement and remove their child from the program. However, no withdrawals will be accepted after the first day of school until the child has completed at least twenty (20) school days in the program. If your child leaves the program for this reason, you are responsible for any outstanding account balance, prorated to the termination date.*
- ◆ *Persistent behavior problems on the part of the child can result in termination of the Kindergarten Plus agreement and removal from the program. If your child leaves the program for this reason, you are responsible for any outstanding account balance, prorated to the termination date.*
- ◆ *Special Education services are not available during this optional, Community Education program. These services are available to qualifying students during the standard kindergarten portion of the day.*

Kindergarten Plus Parent Information Nights

Three optional Parent Information Nights are available for those parents considering the Kindergarten Plus program. You may attend any one of these meetings, regardless of the school your child will attend. Note: Parents should attend without children.

February 1	6:30-8 pm	Diamond Path Elementary 14455 Diamond Path, Apple Valley
February 2	6:30-8 pm	Pinewood Elementary 4300 Dodd Road, Eagan
February 7	6:30-8 pm	Deerwood Elementary 1480 Deerwood Drive, Eagan



Eligibility & Services

Kindergarten & Kindergarten Plus Eligibility

A child is eligible to enter kindergarten if he or she will be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the year he or she will begin school. A birth certificate confirming your child's date of birth is required. In addition, proof of proper immunizations and early childhood screening are required.

Early Entrance

In rare instances, children are allowed to start kindergarten before the September 1 cut-off date. Early entrance qualification testing is available to those born between September 2 and October 31 (fee charged; limited financial assistance available). Only a small number of children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. For more information, please call Elementary Education at 651-423-7782.

Transportation

School bus transportation is provided to students in both the traditional kindergarten program and the Kindergarten Plus program, who live or attend daycare more than one-half mile from their school, along approved district bus routes within the school's attendance area. Please call Transportation Services at 651-423-7685 with any questions.

School Lunch

School lunch is available for a fee for those students who participate in the Kindergarten Plus extended-day program. Students may also bring lunch from home. An adult is present during lunch to supervise and assist Kindergarten Plus participants.

Families who need assistance with school lunch fees may qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school meals program. Ask your child's school or call Food and Nutrition Services at 651-683-6958 for an application.

Preparing For Kindergarten

Information Needed to Register for Kindergarten

- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Early Childhood Screening
- ✓ Immunization Records

Early Childhood Screening

The State of Minnesota requires that all children complete a free health and developmental screening to detect any health and/or developmental concerns before they may enter school. Screening typically occurs between the ages of three-and-a-half and four years old. This allows time for a pre-school experience or other social/educational opportunities to benefit the child.

Screening includes the following: A vision and hearing check, a growth evaluation, a review of immunizations, a check on developmental progress using a standardized tool, a family health and a developmental review and information and resources for you and your child.

Proof of screening is required for entrance into kindergarten. If you are a resident of District 196 and have a child who is four years old, and your child has not completed screening, please call 952-431-8330 to schedule an appointment.

Immunizations

Your child may not attend school in Minnesota without proof of proper immunizations or a signed statement of conscientious objection. There is no grace period. Talk with your child's health care provider and/or school nurse about current immunization requirements for entrance to school.

District 196 offers immunizations at the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) for a fee of \$10 per immunization; call the ECLC nurse to make an appointment 952-431-8700. Your child's health care provider can also assist you with completing the required immunizations.

The Dakota County Public Health Department (www.co.dakota.mn.us) also publishes a current list of public immunization clinics.

Helping Your Child Prepare for Kindergarten

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. From the day your child was born, you have been busy teaching him or her skills, language and an understanding of the world.

Children enjoy learning and parents can help foster a love of learning by:

- ◆ *Reading together, then discussing the story and pictures*
- ◆ *Practicing the rules of group discussion (raising hands, listening carefully to others, taking turns to talk, etc.)*
- ◆ *Making up stories, talking about thoughts, needs or questions*
- ◆ *Explaining how things work*
- ◆ *Playing games together*
- ◆ *Singing and learning songs together, providing opportunities to experience all types of music*
- ◆ *Providing a balance of structured and unstructured playtime*
- ◆ *Exposing your child to new places, things and learning opportunities*
- ◆ *Helping your child express their needs and ask for help when they need it*

Parents can also help children build practical skills that support success at school:

- ◆ *Practicing with zippers, snaps, buttons and shoe laces*
- ◆ *Using the toilet, flushing and washing hands*
- ◆ *Using a tissue and covering coughs and sneezes*
- ◆ *Saying first and last name and recognizing name in print*
- ◆ *Using crayons, markers, pencils, glue and scissors*
- ◆ *Helping to put things away after using them*

Summer Bridge to School

Summer Bridge to School is a Community Education preschool program designed to ease a child's transition to kindergarten, by providing him/her with experiences very similar to kindergarten. Teachers focus on helping your child participate in group settings, follow rules and routine, and become familiar with their elementary school. Children are eligible for the program if they will begin kindergarten in the fall, but need support to make a successful transition.

To register, your child must be referred by a teacher, principal or early childhood screener, or you must indicate the concern you have for your child's transition to kindergarten. Registration information for this program will be included in the kindergarten registration information provided to you by your school. Tuition is determined by family income.

This program occurs each July for three weeks, five mornings each week. Call 952-431-8334 if you have additional questions about Summer Bridge to School.

Other Early Learning Opportunities

District 196 offers many learning and enrichment opportunities for pre-kindergarten children and their families through Community Education. Call the Learning Services Center 651-423-7920 or Early Childhood Family Services 952-431-8340 for more information.

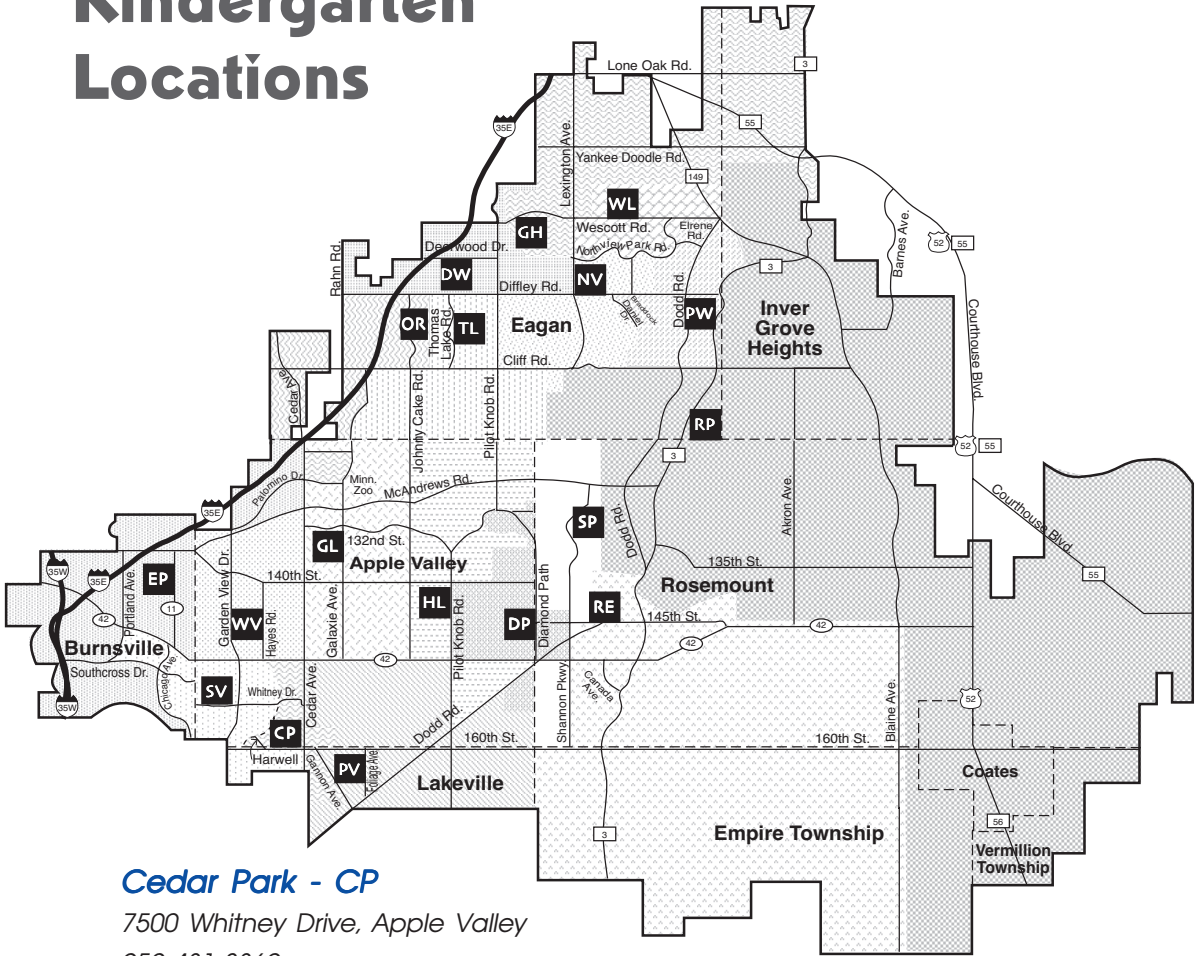
District 196 does not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation or age. The School District attorney, 14445 Diamond Path West, Rosemount, MN 55068, 651-423-7883, has been designated to respond to inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, including inquiries under Title IX.



First Day of School

*Mark your calendar now! You will have the opportunity to attend a shortened first day of school with your child on **Tuesday, September 5, 2006**, to help you both become acquainted with your child's teacher, classroom, school building, activities and other aspects of kindergarten. Typically, Kindergarten Plus participants and their parents stay longer than those in the traditional kindergarten program, in order to view the cafeteria and experience other aspects of the extended day. Your child's school will contact you during the summer to inform you about the first day of school.*

Kindergarten Locations



Cedar Park - CP

7500 Whitney Drive, Apple Valley

952-431-8360

Marge Gruenes, Principal

Deerwood - DW

1480 Deerwood Drive, Egan

651-683-6801

Miles Haugen, Principal

Echo Park - EP

14100 County Road 11, Burnsville

952-431-8390

Sally Soliday, Principal

Diamond Path - DP

14455 Diamond Path, Apple Valley

952-423-7695

Lynn Hernandez, Principal

Glacier Hills - GH

3825 Glacier Drive, Egan

651-683-8570

Jeff Holten, Principal

Greenleaf - GL

13333 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley
952-431-8270
Kevin Samsel, Principal

Highland - HL

14001 Pilot Knob Road, Apple Valley
952-423-7595
Chad Ryburn, Principal

Northview - NV

965 Diffley Road, Eagan
651-683-6820
Kathy Carl, Principal

Oak Ridge - OR

4350 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Eagan
651-683-6970
Lisa Hannon, Principal

Parkview - PV

6795 Gerline Path, Rosemount
952-431-8350
Pamela Haldeman, Principal

Pinewood - PW

4300 Dodd Road, Eagan
651-683-6980
Cris Town, Principal

Red Pine - RP

530 Red Pine Lane, Eagan
651-423-7870
Gary Anger, Principal

Rosemount - RE

3155 – 144th Street West, Rosemount
651-423-7690
Tom Idstrom, Principal

Shannon Park - SP

13501 Shannon Parkway, Rosemount
651-423-7670
Michael Guthrie, Principal

Southview - SV

1025 Whitney Drive, Apple Valley
952-431-8370
Rhonda Smith, Principal

Thomas Lake - TL

4350 Thomas Lake Road, Eagan
651-683-6890
Mary Jelinek, Principal

Westview - WV

225 Garden View Drive, Apple Valley
952-431-8380
Karen Toomey, Principal

Woodland - WL

945 Wescott Road, Eagan
651-683-6990
Terry Langager, Principal

Not sure which school attendance area you live in? Call 651-423-7940

or check out the School Boundary Locator on the District 196 web site

www.district196.org/boundary_search.cfm



Independent School District 196

14445 Diamond Path West, Rosemount, MN 55068
www.district196.org

Key Contacts

Traditional Kindergarten

Your Elementary School
or Elementary Education
651-423-7782

Kindergarten Plus

Community Education
651-423-7933
k-plus@district196.org

School Board

Joel Albright
Rob Duchscher
Bruce Endler
Jackie Magnuson
Mike Roseen
Kevin Sampers
Bob Schutte

District Staff

John D. Currie, Superintendent
Ram R. Singh,
Director of Community Education
Dr. Julie Olson,
Director of Elementary Education
Amy Eich, Learning Services
Manager (Kindergarten Plus)



Independent School District 196

14445 Diamond Path West
Rosemount, MN 55068